

# THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

17 AUGUST 1962  
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Congo

a. Fighting has broken out between Congolese and Katangan troops south and west of Albertville, headquarters of the government forces in northern Katanga. Apparently the government troops have been getting the worst of it so far. Fears that the Katangans may advance on Albertville do not appear well founded, but the UN is moving reinforcements into the city just in case.

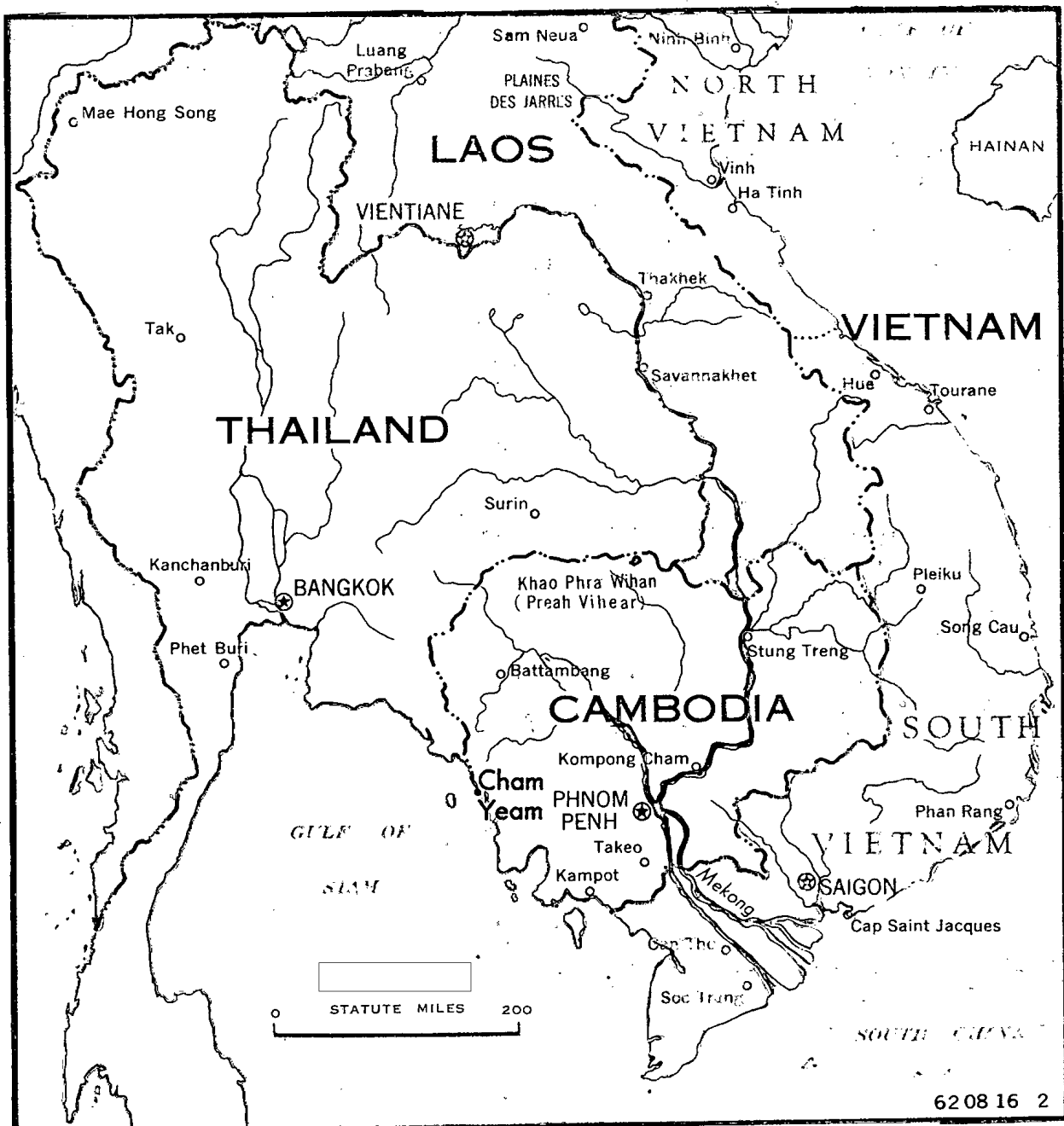
b. The government has some 4,800 troops, such as they are, in the area; the Katangans have little more than half that number, but they are better led.

c. The UN command has ordered the Katangans to cease all further movement. New York has authorized the command to interdict supply lines and troop columns if necessary to back this up.

d. The UN chief in the Congo has asked us to provide transport aircraft immediately. Apparently he envisages a token movement of US transports to intimidate the Katangans, not a full airlift into the province itself. Ambassador Gullion endorses his request.

e. U Thant intends to submit a report to the Security Council on his plans for the Congo. He feels he must attach to his report a copy of our reconciliation plan, plus a paper setting forth Britain's many reservations to it. During a luncheon meeting today, Secretary Rusk will try to dissuade U Thant from making such a report.

f. Tshombé is due in Rhodesia today on his way home from Geneva.



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2. Thailand-Cambodia

In the latest and most serious of recent border incidents, [redacted] Thai marines yesterday took over a town (Cham Yeam, smuggling center) which lies astride the border at the Gulf of Siam. The Cambodians are moving in reinforcements, but have orders not to try to evict the Thais. [redacted]

3. USSR-Berlin

[redacted] East German, Czech, Polish, and Bulgarian officials have been in the USSR since early this month. [redacted] we suspect that discussions by this particular group are centering on a German treaty and the future status of Berlin. [redacted]

4. Spaak's Views of Europe

[redacted] Spaak told the Spanish ambassador in Brussels that, because of "President Kennedy's lack of interest in Europe and NATO," European ideas must be revived. [redacted] Spaak's dream of a supernational Europe is not now possible and that, under the circumstances, the best answer is to be found in his proposal for a political commission similar to the EEC. [redacted]

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- B. Italy's 71-year-old Pietro Nenni is in critical condition following a fall yesterday into a mountain ravine. We think that his successor as leader of the Socialists is most likely to come from his faction of the party which favors continued estrangement from Communism and closer cooperation with Italy's governing Christian Democrats.
- C. As promised by Souphannouvong, five Americans, one Filipino and two Thai prisoners have arrived in Vientiane. All are said to be well except Major Bailey who is in a "weakened condition."
- D. The Cambodian Foreign Ministry last night formally rejected our request for release of US AID officer Chu.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE