

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



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24 AUGUST 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Berlin

a. A US convoy outbound from Berlin encountered a procedural delay at the Soviet checkpoint this morning, but two others on their way in had no problems.

b. The Soviets yesterday threatened to put an armed escort on US vehicles touring East Berlin in retaliation against our putting an armed escort on the armored carriers bearing the Soviet War Memorial contingent. However, the US vehicles made their rounds in East Berlin without escort or interference from the East Germans this morning.

2. Laos

At yesterday's cabinet meeting in Vientiane, Souphannouvong did what Souvanna had foretold to Ambassador Unger and agreed to three sites to check on the withdrawal of foreign troops: Vientiane, Nhommarath, and the Plaine des Jarres.

3. Algeria

Ben Bella and his political bureau are drawing a defiant response to their attempts to impose their authority on unruly military leaders. The heads of the Fourth Military District, centered in Algiers, yesterday succeeded in promoting a mass demonstration in the capital to make the point that they expect to have a say in political affairs. Many of the demonstrators were evidently more intent on registering their discontent with the economic situation than in following a direct lead from the military, but the turn-out should, nevertheless, bring home to Ben Bella how tenuous his rule is.

NOTES

A. Soviet Missile Test There are strong indications that an air-to-surface missile--one which is believed to have a range of 100 nautical miles--delivered the nuclear weapon which was detonated in the Novaya Zemlya test area on Wednesday. We think the Soviets may have tried this before, both in 1961 and earlier in the current test series, [redacted]

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B. France [redacted] De Gaulle is just as grandly indifferent about personal security after Wednesday's assassination attempt as he was before. [redacted] little hope of bringing him around on the need for stricter precautions, even though another try by the OAS is a question of when, not whether.

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C. Iraq Iraq is due to begin receiving Soviet surface-to-air missiles before year's end. [redacted]

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE