

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

11 SEPTEMBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

In its strongest display of verbal support for Cuba to date, the Soviet government declared in Moscow this morning that a US attack on Cuba could lead to a global nuclear war. The declaration said that the Defense Ministry has been ordered "to take all measures to ensure that our armed forces are brought to the highest state of military preparedness," adding the caveat that "however, these are exclusively precautionary measures."

1. Laos

a. The Soviet airlift, after coming to a near standstill late last month, has become active again during the last three days. We are not sure why flights are being resumed--or for that matter why they were reduced in August--but Communist and neutralist forces may well be running low on supplies, particularly in the Plaine des Jarres. Some of the flights could be engaged in the withdrawal of North Vietnamese elements.

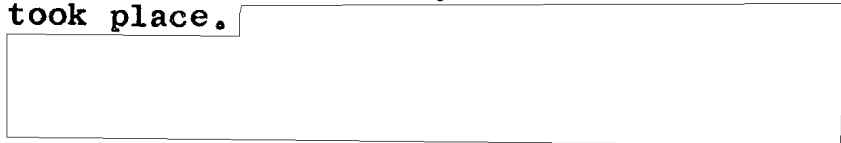
b. There had been no flights into northern or southern Laos since 26 August. On Saturday, two flights were scheduled to Tchepone. They did not fly, but two flew there yesterday and two were scheduled for today. There were three flights to the Muong Sai - Nam Tha area yesterday and two more scheduled for today.

c. As for central Laos, where there had been only seven flights since the 26 August curtailment, there were five airlift flights into the Plaine des Jarres on Saturday, six yesterday, and six scheduled for today.

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2. Cuba

a. Havana radio is charging this morning that two cargo ships outward bound from Cuba, one Cuban and the other British, have been attacked off the northern coast by a "pirate ship." The broadcast does not say when the incident took place.



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b. Our Embassy in Mexico City has been informed by a reliable source claiming to speak for President Lopez Mateos that the Mexican and Brazilian governments are consulting on whether to break relations with Cuba. Ambassador Mann points out that Mexico's concern over the Communist threat from Cuba has not increased, nor has Mexico retreated from its opposition to collective OAS action against Cuba. Rather, Mexico's cardinal concern is to avoid isolation in its position toward Cuba.



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3. Soviet nuclear submarines

a. Our latest information brings to at least nine, and probably ten, the number of nuclear submarine hulls known to be under construction at Komsomolsk in the Soviet Far East.

b. Although we cannot be sure of numbers, we believe that as many or more are now being built on the White Sea.

c. The current estimate credits the Soviets with 18 nuclear submarines completed, seven of them equipped for ballistic missiles.

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4. European Union

a. Belgium's Spaak sees his suspicions buttressed by De Gaulle's comments on European union during his West German visit. As Spaak sees it, De Gaulle is offering not a unified Europe but a Franco-German alliance which he will "generously permit" the Benelux countries to join as satellites.

b. Canada's Diefenbaker, Australia's Menzies, and India's Nehru are scheduled to take the floor today at the Commonwealth prime ministers' meeting in London. They are expected to present their rebuttals to the case for British entry into the Common Market presented by Macmillan yesterday, but going into the session British officials were still optimistic about obtaining Commonwealth approval this week.

NOTES

- A. Syria A bid for political power by a group of old-line politicians, who are distasteful to key army officers, is threatening to end Syria's brief internal respite.

- B. Cambodia Phnom Penh has issued a communiqué alleging a new border intrusion by South Vietnamese forces yesterday.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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