

# THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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12 SEPTEMBER 1962  
~~TOP SECRET~~

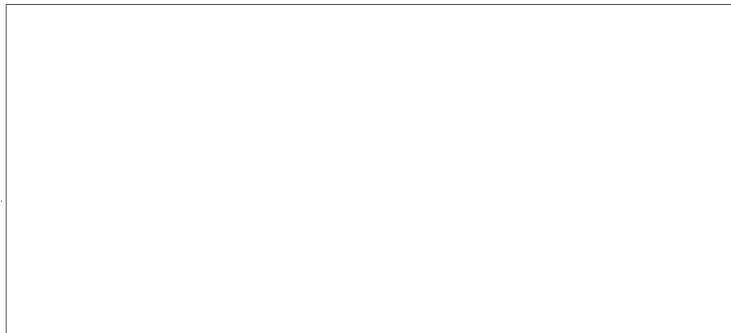
LATE ITEM

Another Venus probe was launched last night and put into orbit around the earth. There are preliminary and still very tentative indications that an attempt to put the vehicle into trajectory toward Venus may once again have failed. ( [redacted] )

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1. Cuba

a. Castro has ordered strict censorship on correspondents in Cuba, and our press and radio services are out of touch with their correspondents there. Reuters' correspondent has been arrested and others are missing and may also have been picked up.



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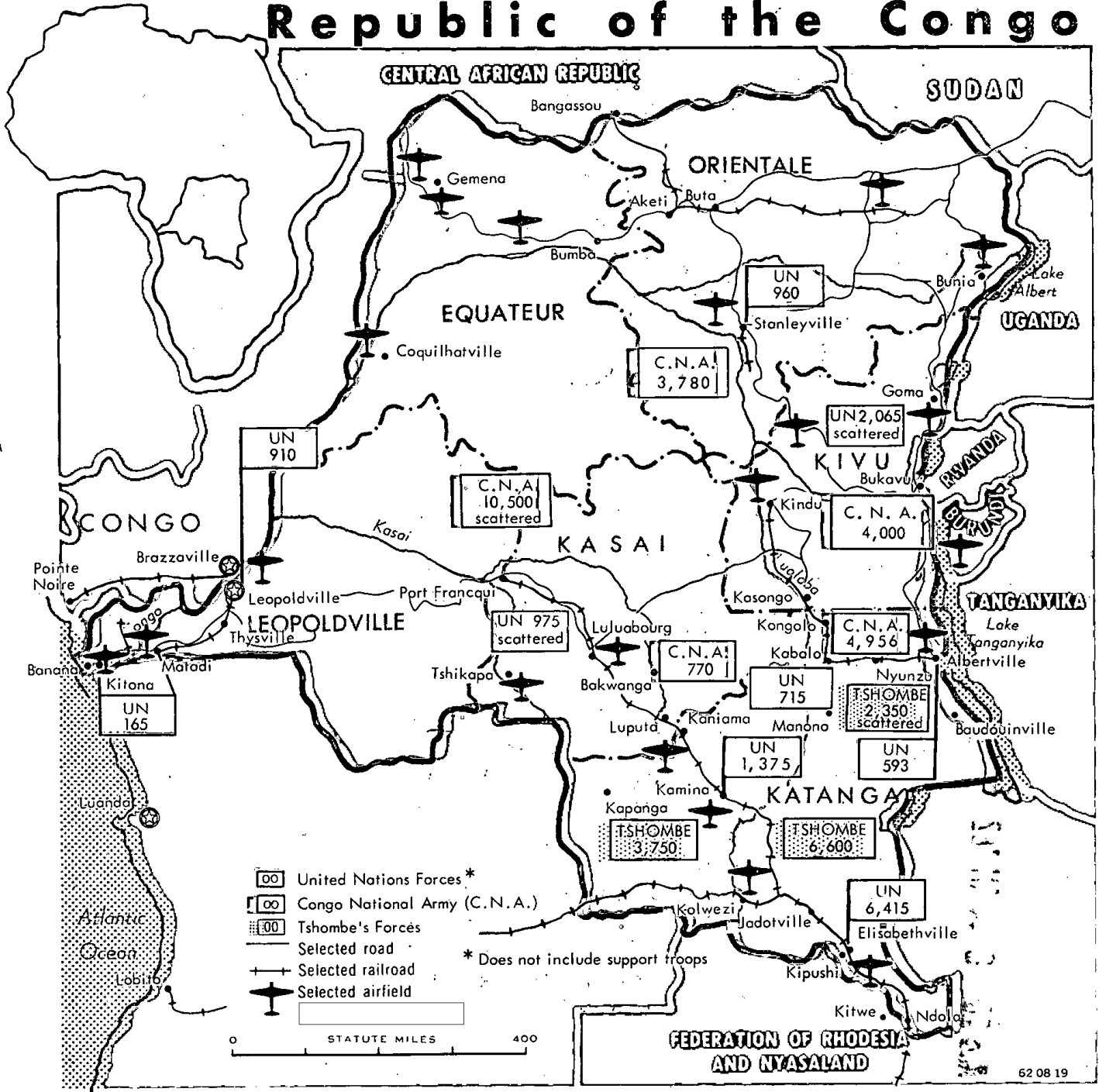
c. President Betancourt insists that any meeting of OAS foreign ministers must discuss the problem of military coups as well as the Cuban problem "or it would not be worthwhile for Venezuela to attend."

2. Congo



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# Republic of the Congo



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b. Mobutu has told us he plans to attack Katangan positions at Kongolo [ ] and we suspect the aircraft have been hired in support of these operations. However, the troops may initially be placed in neighboring Kasai with a secondary aim of discouraging South Kasai separatist leader Kalonji, who escaped from Leopoldville last week, from making common cause with Tshombé.

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c. Gardiner has now delivered to both Adoula and Tshombé his plan for implementation of the UN unification scheme. We have no reactions yet, but an attack on Kongolo would of course make Tshombé even more difficult.

### 3. Berlin

a. Berlin officials, including Mayor Brandt, claim to be worried about contingency plans for Berlin because they feel the plans lack "automaticity"; i.e., at almost every critical stage, they call for consultations rather than prompt counteraction. They are particularly afraid that we will resort to an airlift, though it could no longer sustain Berlin, rather than use force to preserve ground access.

b. Brandt, who is already maneuvering in preparation for Berlin elections next year, is due in Washington early next month and will probably press these views at that time.

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4. Cambodia

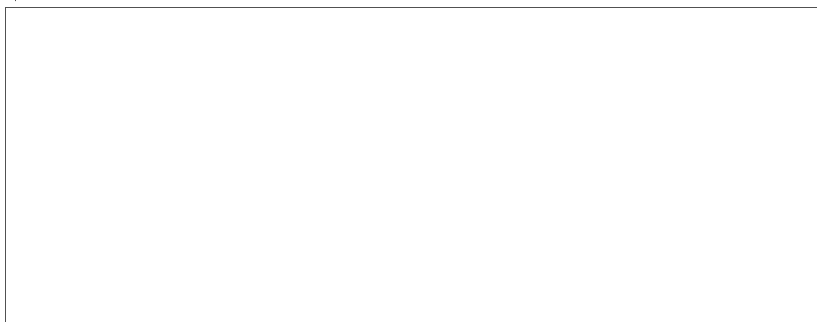
a. Reacting to continued border intrusions by South Vietnamese, Cambodia has placed its air force on alert, and [redacted] its pilots (Cambodia has some good ones) are spoiling for a fight.

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b. Sihanouk yesterday issued an ultimatum of sorts: two more violations from the South Vietnamese side and he will recognize Hanoi.

5. Japan-China trade talks

a. A five-man delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is on its way to Peiping at the invitation of Chinese leaders to explore possibilities for expanding trade and placing it on a normal commercial basis (including credit terms comparable to those granted other trading partners).



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Given  
Japan's [redacted] prospects for  
expanding trade with the West and  
China's desperate need for help,  
there is a chance that something  
may come out of this. [redacted]

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NOTES

- A. Laos Souvanna has formally asked us to provide his government with military supplies and equipment in amounts approximating 1100 tons monthly. Presumably the same request has been made of the USSR, which could explain resumption of the airlift. [redacted]
- B. Algeria Ben Bella says he has come to terms with the military on the knotty question of the electoral lists to be used in next week's balloting. This settled, the campaign is getting into full swing with main attention being given to agrarian reform and relief of unemployment.
- C. Thailand The Thai cabinet is said to be considering signing a trade treaty with the USSR as a first step toward reducing reliance on US support. The Soviets sought such a treaty last year, but were put off by the Thais. Trade between the two is negligible.
- D. West Germany - USSR Ambassador Kroll is said to be at Khrushchev's vacation retreat for a farewell visit at the Soviet leader's invitation.
- E. USSR A large-scale military exercise is getting underway in the Soviet Far East, and, judging from the number of air and naval units involved [redacted]

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[redacted]  
it looks like something more than a routine affair.  
[redacted]

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