

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

1 APRIL 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Guatemala

a. The military junta which forced Ydigoras out of office in a bloodless coup late Saturday night is headed by Defense Minister Peralta--a fairly honest, straightforward officer who has the support of important military commanders and is likely to retain it.

b. Ydigoras was flown to Nicaragua yesterday. He has promised the press a full statement today which could be strongly critical of the US. Nevertheless he may seek to come to this country.

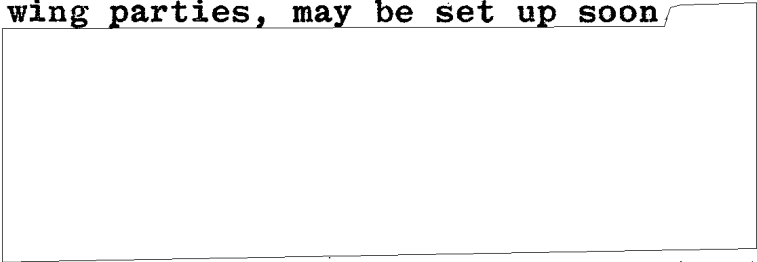
c. Arevalo [redacted] left Guatemala again and probably is back in Mexico. His popular appeal has probably been boosted, but his leading supporters are being rounded up.

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d. So far the situation is quiet, and we believe the junta will be able to keep control. The anti-Arevalo campaign has been fairly successful in Guatemala City, and, with constitutional guarantees suspended, large public demonstrations will not be easy to organize.

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e. The junta's plans are not yet well formulated. A "national unity" cabinet, probably to include representatives of center and right-wing parties, may be set up soon

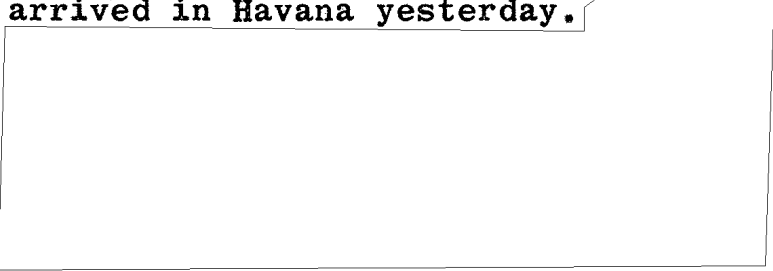


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2. Cuba

a. Western observers report seeing some 300 Russians aboard the Soviet passenger ship Baikal as it departed Havana shortly after noon on Saturday.

b. The passenger ship Nikolaevsk arrived in Havana yesterday.



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c. Tents of the non-Soviet type previously observed at Artemisa, have now been observed at Holguin as well. Six were spotted in a preliminary scan of yesterday's high altitude photography. In addition,

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construction is evidently proceeding rapidly at two non-Soviet encampments adjacent to the Soviet camp at Holguin.

3. South Korea

a. Today may see the last of talks between Pak and civilian opposition leaders. Pak is under strong pressure from the clique behind him to quit treating with the civilians and is both unwilling and unable to grant them any concession.

b. The civilian leaders remain united in their mistrust of Pak and opposition to any prolongation of military rule. They are willing to see the talks break down, believing the junta will be unable to maintain effective government and will sooner or later crumble.

c. Ambassador Berger says he is "pessimistic that matters can be worked out without a Korean explosion at some stage." He anticipates Kim Chong-pil's hoods and organized gangs will take to the streets to demonstrate against our role in opposing military rule. This in turn will bring on counter demonstrations and presumably martial law.

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d. The lives of all the principals, including Ambassador Berger, have been threatened and bodyguards are the order of the day.

NOTES

- A. West Germany Adenauer's party has lost its absolute majority in the traditionally conservative Palatinate yesterday. The Christian Democrats will now, for the first time, have to work with Free Democrats to control the state assembly. The major gains went to the Social Democrats, who went from 37 to 43 seats in the 100 seat assembly.
- B. India India [] say the MIG-21s they got from the USSR are hard to handle and poorly suited and equipped for India's needs.
- C. Syria Yet another crisis in Syria is in the offing. Large pro-Nasir demonstrations swept both Aleppo and Damascus over the weekend and more are expected today. Anti-Nasir elements in the army, [] had planned a coup [] Pro-Nasir elements are also preparing to take over, and it is only a matter of time before one or the other gives it a try.
- D. Congo With two Belgian residents murdered by Congolese within a week, tempers in Elisabethville are again near the boiling point. The atmosphere had already become heavily charged by the central government's crack-down on gendarmerie remnants. Under the circumstances, the movement now under way of two more Congo army battalions into South Katanga can only mean more trouble.

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- E. Haiti - Dominican Republic The Haitian Foreign Minister has refused to give assurances that the Trujillos will not be admitted to Haiti.



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- G. Israel-UAR The Israelis have given notice that they have begun major military maneuvers along the frontier in Sinai. The UAR will interpret this as an attempt to stir up trouble while it is preoccupied in Yemen.
- H. Brazil-Bidault Bidault has been granted asylum in Brazil and will leave Portugal for Rio in the next few days.
- I. Brazil Although the Cuban solidarity conference is over (it stayed in Niteroi), Federal troops are still patrolling Rio. They will probably continue to do so for a while in an effort to give substance to Goulart's contention on Sunday that the intervention was not linked to the congress in the first place. State troops are back in barracks.