

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

2 APRIL 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

Argentina

a. The elements identified with this morning's reported coup effort apparently do not represent the key leadership of the armed forces. Their ability to make their move stick is doubtful. They are not likely to get the support of responsible military leadership and Peronist reaction will be strong if not violent.

b. General Benjamin Menendez, identified as Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary forces, has been associated with extreme rightist groups. Their intention is likely to be the institution of a long-term military dictatorship.

1. Cuba

a. Photography of 31 March reveals a new military installation under construction at Remedios, south-east of the Soviet encampment. Some 44 tents and 30 vehicles, probably Cuban, were observed. There are thus now indications of a Cuban presence at three of the four Soviet armored unit camps.

b. All encampments except Holguin were cloud covered on 1 April. A preliminary scan of photography of that date showed no apparent change there.



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2. Laos

a. The assassination of Foreign Minister Quinim last night was apparently ordered by Kong Le.

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c. Though originally chosen as a member of the neutralist faction in the Cabinet, Quinim had leaned increasingly toward the Pathet Lao.

d. Quinim's removal will weaken the Pathet Lao's efforts to undermine Souvanna's coalition cabinet and may give the "neutralist" experiment another breathing spell.

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3. Syria

a. The government is being hard pressed by the Nasirists.

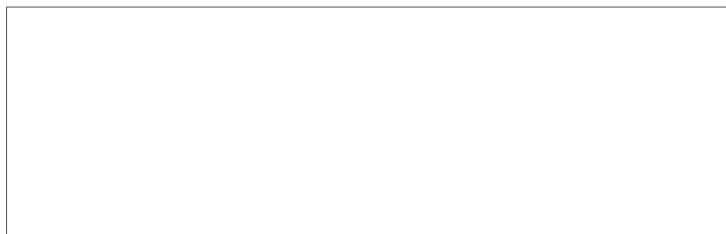
b. Another pro-Nasir demonstration in Damascus yesterday turned into a riot. The crowd had to be dispersed by troops and police with fire hoses, clubs, and gunfire.

c. The government has closed its border with Lebanon--Nasir's base of operations--and imposed a strict curfew. Cairo propaganda, meanwhile, continues to play up the Syrian difficulties and to egg on the Nasirists there.

4. Soviet Lunar Shot

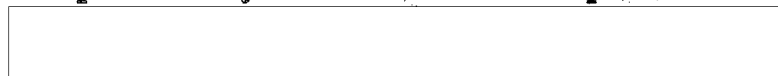
a. A Soviet space vehicle was launched at 0316 EST this morning. It appears to have been a parking vehicle for a lunar attempt.

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c. The USSR had suffered failures in ten out of its previous interplanetary and lunar attempts.



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NOTES

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C. Guatemala The situation remains calm. The Arevalists have made no move. In a press conference in Managua yesterday Ydigoras reiterated his approval of the new regime and recommended that foreign nations recognize it. None have so far.

D. Cambodia Sihanouk is making another neutralist play. He has extended an invitation to Ho Chi Minh to pay a state visit to Phnom Penh. No date has been indicated. [Redacted]

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F. Iraq-Kurds Barzani has asked our Baghdad embassy to forward to Washington his request for US material and moral support--or if this is not possible, our neutrality--in the event the Kurdish revolt is renewed. He is prepared to give guarantees that the revolt will not spread to Turkey or Iran. As a new round of talks between the Kurds and the government gets underway in Baghdad, each side is asking more than the other is likely to give.

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H. Korea Ambassador Berger yesterday delivered President Kennedy's letter to Pak and from the ensuing conversation is convinced that Pak intends soon to announce that his proposed referendum will be held about 25 April.