

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

1 MAY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. The military situation has taken no new major turn. Skirmishing continues, and Kong Le is continuing his efforts to build up a force around Xieng Khouang.

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b. Both Kong Le and Vang Pao, the Meo leader, claim Vientiane is too chary with supplies. Vang Pao says that if his Meos do not get more ammunition, they will have to pull back from along the roads, thus giving the Pathet Lao freedom of movement into the Plaine des Jarres.

c. Souvanna came away from his session at Khang Khay with Souphanouvong yesterday with little more than a Pathet Lao proposal for mixed civil and military commissions to arrange a cease-fire. Kong Le, however, is still saying he will not even talk to the Pathet Lao before his lost positions are restored.

d. In talking yesterday to Ambassador Unger, Soviet Ambassador Afanassiev--who claims to be only "partially informed" on the Harriman-Khrushchev talks--appeared to agree

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that a cease-fire in the Plaine des Jarres on the basis of a return to the status quo ante would be "logical."

e. Unger feels the Communists may be giving some thought to a de facto partition. Souphannouvong has dropped remarks about a two-way division as a "temporary device to restore peace." Polish ICC member Thee has spoken along similar lines.

2. Cuba

a. Raul Castro, filling in for Fidel, will mount the rostrum today for what is being billed as Cuba's biggest May Day yet.

b. Further comment on Cuba's creaking economy [redacted]

[redacted] the very poor quality of oil used to lubricate heavy machinery and to fuel merchant ships, particularly since the turn of the year.

[redacted] lard is so short that every ship loading for Cuba is asked to pick up some.

c. Lord Home told Secretary Rusk yesterday that the British "are doing what they can" to keep their ships away from Cuba and are "speaking to the shipping people."

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Five of ten companies involved (40 ships) have withdrawn from the Cuban trade and a sixth is doing so. One of the remaining companies has 19 ships on charter to the USSR--breaking the contract would involve "millions of pounds compensation."

d. The preliminary scan of yesterday's photography showed no change at three Soviet armored camps; the fourth and the Torrens headquarters area were obscured by clouds.

e. Monday's photography reveals the launch positions and guidance area of the Campo Florida cruise missile site (a few miles east of Havana) to be vacant, with a convoy of missile related vehicles drawn up nearby. It has been considered a training site and a display in today's parade--possibly with Cubans aboard--may be forthcoming.

3. Jordan

a. Stringent security precautions remain in effect and the situation is outwardly calm. Propaganda from Baghdad, Cairo, and Damascus portray conditions in Jordan as seething, but the Baathi press in Damascus on Monday changed its line

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and commented grudgingly that the "Jordan rulers may be able to delay their grim future for some time."

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4. Yemen

a. The Saudis told Ambassador Hart "positively" but not "officially" on Monday that all aid to the Yemeni royalists had ceased and that "nothing" had crossed the border for two days. UAR military action now against Saudi Arabia would mean "real war between us in Yemen."

b. U Thant, nervous about Soviet reaction and wishing to ensure his legal and financial authority over the UN operation, is restricting General Von Horn's present mission to one of reconnaissance.

5. Soviet Bloc

a. Soviet/Satellite economic planning seems to be running into snags.

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b. The Executive Committee of the Bloc's Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) is to meet within the next 10 or 12 days. It concluded a meeting only last week and it normally meets only every other month.

c. We know that one issue in dispute is Rumania's reluctance to accept its allotted role in CEMA's plans for economic integration.

d. The Polish delegate, in a statement to the press after the last meeting, dropped a hint that the problem could be broader than the specific issue of Rumania. He said the "debates" were "pervaded by the concern" with which members "approached the expansion and deepening of cooperation."

NOTES

A. Haiti The OAS team is beginning what may prove to be a prolonged investigation, and the situation in both countries has simmered down. Duvalier is keeping the lid on brutally tight. Bosch has proclaimed that the Dominican Republic will "not do anything to aggravate the status quo,"

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B. Turkey [Redacted] spreading discontent and restlessness within the Turkish officer corps, particularly in eastern Turkey.

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C. USSR Khrushchev, who was most critical of the Soviet construction program in his speech a week ago, is now moving to overhaul it. I. T. Novikov, chairman of the State Committee for Construction, has had "unexpectedly" to cancel his trip here (an exchange for Secretary Udall's trip). He says he has been charged with completely reworking present construction plans this month. With a growing backlog of uncompleted construction starts, we expect many projects will be dropped or put on ice.

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D. Communist China The Chinese Communists seem determined to prevent another mass exodus of refugees to Hong Kong this spring. Since February they have been carrying on an intensive propaganda drive to discourage residents of Kwangtung from trying to escape to Hong Kong. They have also instituted additional controls on population movements within the province

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