

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

17 JUNE 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Brazil

a. With the removal of War Minister Kruel from the Goulart cabinet, a firm anti-Communist is gone from a key post. His successor is a down-the-line Goulart man.

b. The two other military ministers have also been replaced.

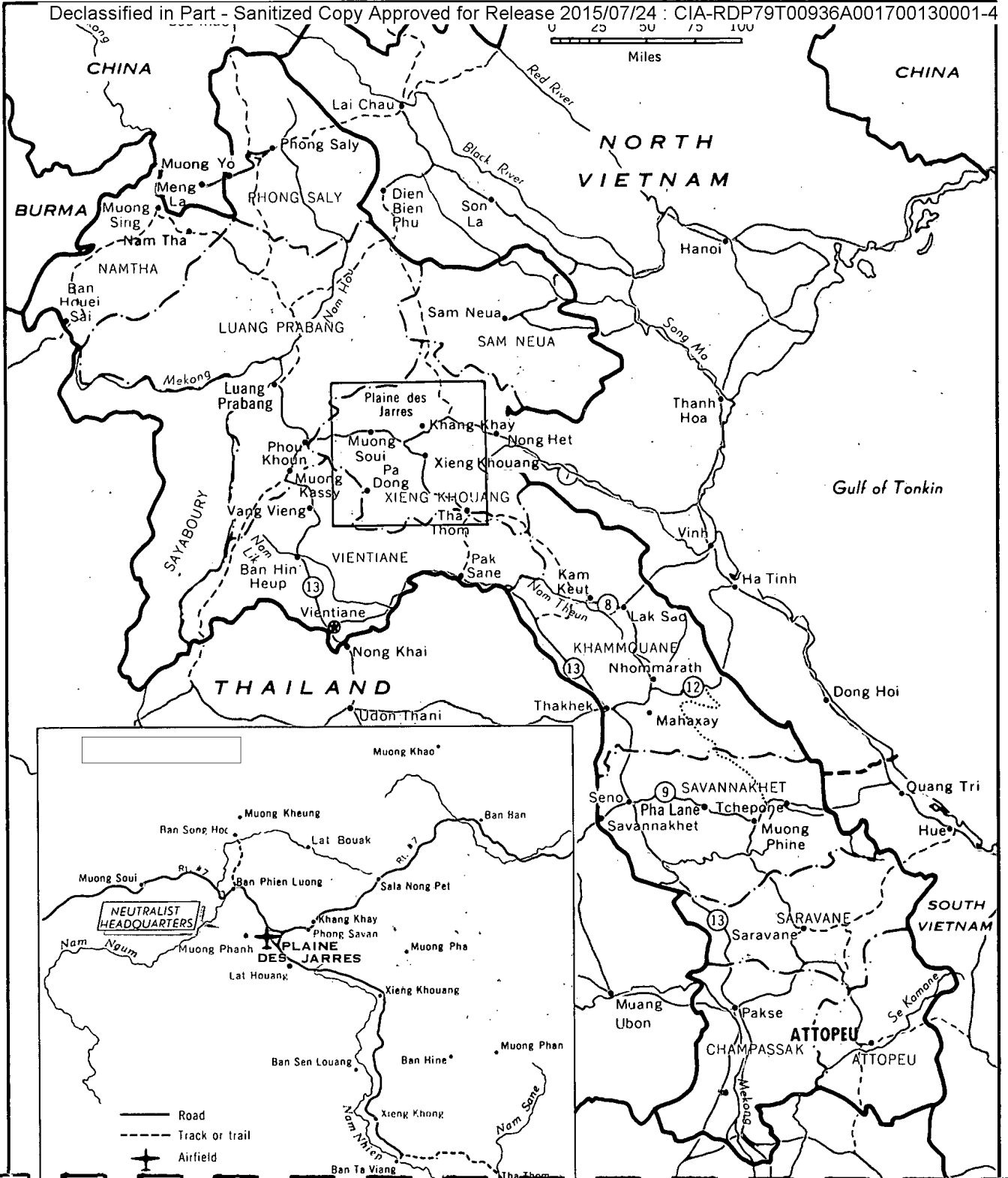
c. We are watching to see how the Brazilian military reacts. Those among the military who regard Goulart as a calamity will be confirmed in their view, but we do not now have any solid grounds for thinking they will counteract.

d. Goulart's Yankee-baiting brother-in-law, Leonel Brizola, has been at the head of the Kruel-must-go forces. He has also been gunning for Finance Minister Santiago Dantas and Commerce Minister Balbine. They may go next, signaling a disquieting growth in Brizola's influence.

2. Laos

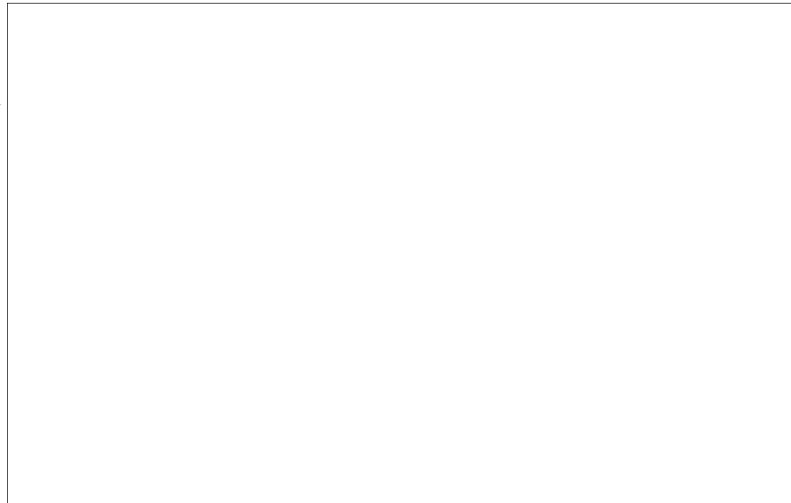
a. Communist forces are maintaining pressures on neutralist military positions in south central Laos.

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3. India - Soviet Union

a. Moscow and Prague have made attractive offers of arms assistance to the Indians.

b. Specifically mentioned in the Soviet offer as described to our Embassy in New Delhi were surface-to-air missiles, mobile radar sets and heavy mortars. Moscow also indicated that it is willing to discuss the manufacture in India of ammunition for semiautomatic rifles.

c. The Czechs did not go into detail but told the Indians that they make "almost everything" and asked the Indians to come up with a shopping list.

(Cont'd)

d. It is evident--from the care the Indians have taken to inform the US government of this development despite Soviet and Czech requests that third parties not be told--that they do not want to jeopardize Western military aid.

e. New Delhi is "intrigued," nevertheless, and intends to follow through on an invitation to send a team of military experts to Moscow toward the first of July. The Indians, we are confident, are sensitive to the implications of their having an arms mission in Moscow on the very eve of the scheduled Sino-Soviet talks.

f. It should not be hard to forecast the Chinese Communist reaction. Peiping is, in fact, beginning publication today of another of its long, unyielding statements on the Communist controversy, in which it berates Moscow for aiding India in its "attack on a fraternal socialist country."

4. Cuba

a. Cubans training in the operation of the Komar missile boats have progressed to the point where they may be ready to take control of them from the Soviets. One of the boats may in fact already be on duty with the Cuban navy.

(Cont'd)

b. The training tempo has lately been intensive but there has been less and less Soviet participation in the exercises.

c. We think it likely that the 16 boats, all of them now at Mariel, will take up stations at a number of points along the coast when the training phase has ended.

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5. Israel

a. [redacted] Ben-Gurion [redacted] resignation which he announced yesterday.

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b. Ben-Gurion has used this device more than once to break down resistance to his policies.

c. Ben-Gurion's second-in-command Levi Eshkol may be asked to try to form a cabinet. If he fails, Ben-Gurion could then resume the premiership in a stronger position to pursue his controversial policy of seeking a closer relationship with West Germany.

NOTES

- A. USSR-Iraq Soviet propaganda has opened up full force against the Baath regime. In a virulent statement issued on Saturday, Moscow accused the Baghdad government of following "Hitlerite" tactics toward the Kurds and of opening Iraq up to a return of Western predominance. If this happens, Moscow storms, Iraq could become a springboard "against the security of the Soviet state."
- B. India One of the few remaining traces of far left-ist influence has departed the Indian cabinet with the resignation of Oil Minister Malaviya. An ally of Krishna Menon and an advocate of Soviet economic assistance, Malaviya has been under fire for corruption. He stayed on as long as he did because Nehru thought to drop him would be to cave in to rightist pressures.
- C. South Korea Political stability may be in for another setback because of a looming food shortage. Whereas a bumper barley crop was needed to offset last year's poor rice harvest, the crop is far below average--perhaps by as much as 50 percent--and fears are rising that food riots will erupt.
- D. South Vietnam Police clashed with rioters--mostly students--in Saigon yesterday, producing injuries on both sides. The disorders were, however, on nothing like the scale that might have developed if the mass funeral for the cremated monk had taken place as originally scheduled. Buddhist leaders, after reaching an accord with the government on their demands, ordered postponement of the ceremonies.

(Cont'd)

- E. Yemen A US air force pilot, who helped ferry the UN observer team into Yemen, reports that UN personnel assert flatly that Russian pilots are manning some of the Soviet aircraft operating in Yemen. The US pilot personally observed a large Soviet encampment close to an airstrip during a ground tour in the vicinity of Sana.



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