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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--8 AUGUST 1963

1. HAITI:

A. THE "INVASION" BY CANTAVE'S REBELS SEEMS NOW TO HAVE BEEN CONTAINED BY DUVALIER'S FORCES OR TO HAVE SIMPLY PETERED OUT. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE "INVADERS" WERE FEW IN NUMBER, POSSIBLY LESS THAN 20.

[REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED]

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C. [REDACTED] CANTAVE'S MEN [REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED] PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE CAPABILITY FOR ANYTHING BEYOND NUISANCE RAIDS.

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D. THE FAILURE OF CANTAVE'S RAID TO ELICIT DEFECTIONS FROM DUVALIER'S FORCES OR TO TOUCH OFF INTERNAL RESISTANCE WILL NOT ENCOURAGE OTHER EXILE GROUPS

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[REDACTED]

(CONT'D)

3. USSR-BERLIN:

A. LAST WEEK THE SOVIETS PROPOSED THAT BRANDT OR HIS DEPUTY MAYOR ARRANGE A MEETING WITH ABRASIMOV, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO EAST GERMANY.

B. MONDAY, ABRASIMOV HIMSELF INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR MCGHEE THE USSR'S DESIRE TO INCREASE THE RANGE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN.

C. DIRECT SOVIET CONTACTS WITH WEST BERLIN OFFICIALS WOULD LET MOSCOW CLAIM THAT BERLIN IS AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY, AND THAT THE OCCUPATION STATUS IS OUTMODED.

D. HIGH RANKING WEST BERLINERS HAVE RECENTLY ADVOCATED EXPANDED RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNISTS, AND WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THEIR DOORS WOULD BE CLOSED TO EMISSARIES FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY, OR THAT THEY WOULD NECESSARILY CLEAR SUCH CONVERSATIONS IN ADVANCE WITH THE ALLIED COMMANDANTS.

4. USSR:

A. SOVIET SCIENTISTS ARE SEEKING TO IMPRESS WESTERN SCIENTISTS WITH THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES OF AN ATTEMPT TO LAND A MAN ON THE MOON.

(CONT'D)



B. THEY POINT TO THE DANGER OF SOLAR FLARES AND TREMENDOUS LAUNCH PROPULSION REQUIREMENTS, AND ASSERT THAT THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF A MANNED FLIGHT WOULD NOT JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE. THEY HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SUCH FLIGHTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

C. THIS MAY BE AN INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BACKING AWAY FROM AN EARLY ATTEMPT AT A MANNED LUNAR LANDING. THE STATEMENTS COULD ALSO BE INTENDED TO INFLUENCE WESTERN SCIENTISTS AGAINST THE ANNOUNCED US PROGRAM.

5. NOTES:

A. SOUTH VIETNAM: THE ARREST OF MANY BUDDHISTS IN SAIGON YESTERDAY HAS ADDED FUEL TO THE RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS.



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B. NORTH VIETNAM - USSR: THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET VIEWS ON MILITARY AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN SIX MONTHS MAY BE UNDERWAY IN MOSCOW, AS THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY HAS BEEN IN TOWN SINCE MONDAY. THINGS MAY BE A BIT STICKY, HOWEVER. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE RECENTLY MOVED MORE OPENLY TO PEIPING'S SIDE, AND APPARENTLY SUSPECT THAT MOSCOW MIGHT SACRIFICE THEIR INTERESTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

(CONT'D)



[REDACTED]

C. RUMANIA-US: OUR EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST CONCLUDES THAT THE RUMANIANS HAVE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY ALL JAMMING OF VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO FREE EUROPE BROADCASTS.

D. IRAQ-USSR: BAGHDAD NOW APPEARS TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ITS BRUSQUE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE USSR, ESPECIALLY ITS EFFECT UPON SOVIET AID.

[REDACTED]

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E. BURMA: NE WIN'S CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO REACH AN AMNESTY AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS COMMUNIST AND ETHNIC INSURGENT GROUPS IS CREATING AN AIR OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY. WE DO NOT THINK HE HAS YET MADE DAMAGING CONCESSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS HE IS THINKING IN TERMS OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT INCLUDING COMMUNISTS AND MEMBERS OF FORMER PREMIER U NU'S PARTY--POSSIBLY EVEN U NU HIMSELF.

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