

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 AUGUST 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. The government's preoccupation with the Buddhist crisis is handicapping the war effort against the Communists.

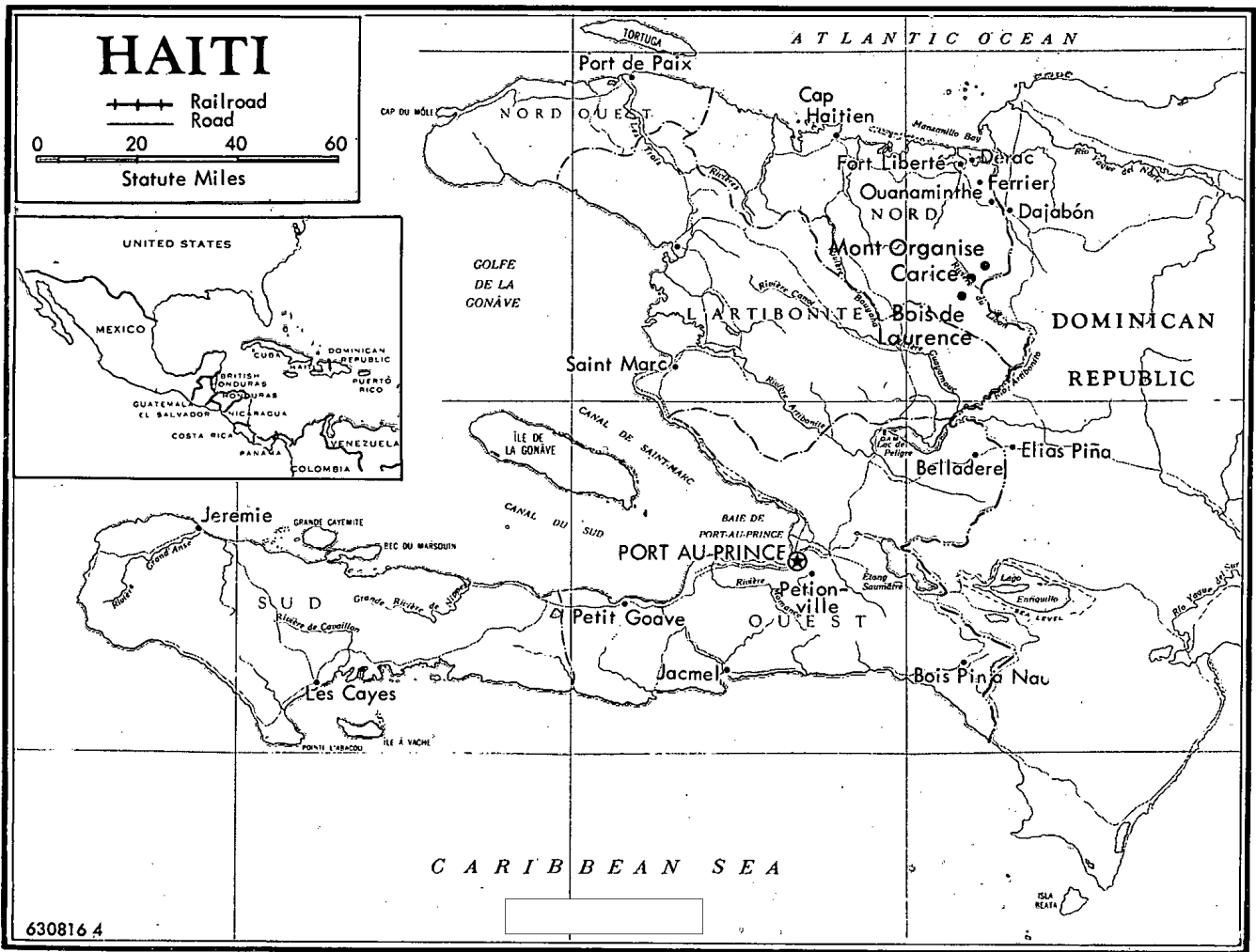
b. The government commander in the area north and east of Saigon has told us that the crisis is preventing his men from carrying out essential military operations. As a result, he has, he says, lost a little ground to the Viet Cong.

c. In the Hue area farther north, the diversion of the army to deal with Buddhist demonstrations may have had something to do with the recent increase in Communist activity nearby.

d. Martial law has now been lifted in Hue and the city is quiet, but US officials there expect further trouble.



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2. Brazil

a. Ambassador Gordon emerged from a "deeply disturbing" hour with Goulart Friday convinced that the Brazilian President has fallen almost entirely under the pernicious influence of advisers who range from "irresponsible adolescents thru fellow travellers to probable Communists."

b. The influence of more moderate men like Dantas seems to have evaporated, Gordon reports.

c. As evidence of this, Gordon notes Goulart's observation that the upper and middle classes are hostile toward him and that his only recourse is to turn to "the masses" who alone understand him.

d. Goulart in his present mood seems more disposed than ever to rely on demagoguery to get his program across.

3. Haiti

a. By late yesterday evening anti-Duvalier forces had withdrawn from most areas they occupied last Thursday and Friday.

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b. The US Embassy in Port-au-Prince reports that the regime has been frantically seeking to raise \$1,000,000 for arms purchases.

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c. This urgent search could stem from the confusion and exaggeration [redacted]

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[redacted] It could also mean that Duvalier considers further attacks most likely.

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4. India-USSR

a. The Indian arms mission has returned from Moscow and Prague virtually empty-handed.

b. The Indians say, however, that agreement is near on one surface-to-air missile complex.

c. The equipment shown the Indians did not meet cost or performance specifications, or its procurement was so bound up in red tape that agreement by the end of the year did not seem possible.

5. Finland-USSR

a. Finland too may be on the verge of acquiring Soviet surface-to-air missiles.

b. A high Finnish military officer, who evinced annoyance at his country's inability to get such equipment from the US, told an American official that negotiations are almost complete for the early delivery of an undisclosed number of SA-3 missiles.

c. We are not entirely sure that the Soviets would ship this particular missile to Finland--it is just beginning to be deployed in the USSR--and consider the SA-2, for which the Finns have dickered before, to be more likely.

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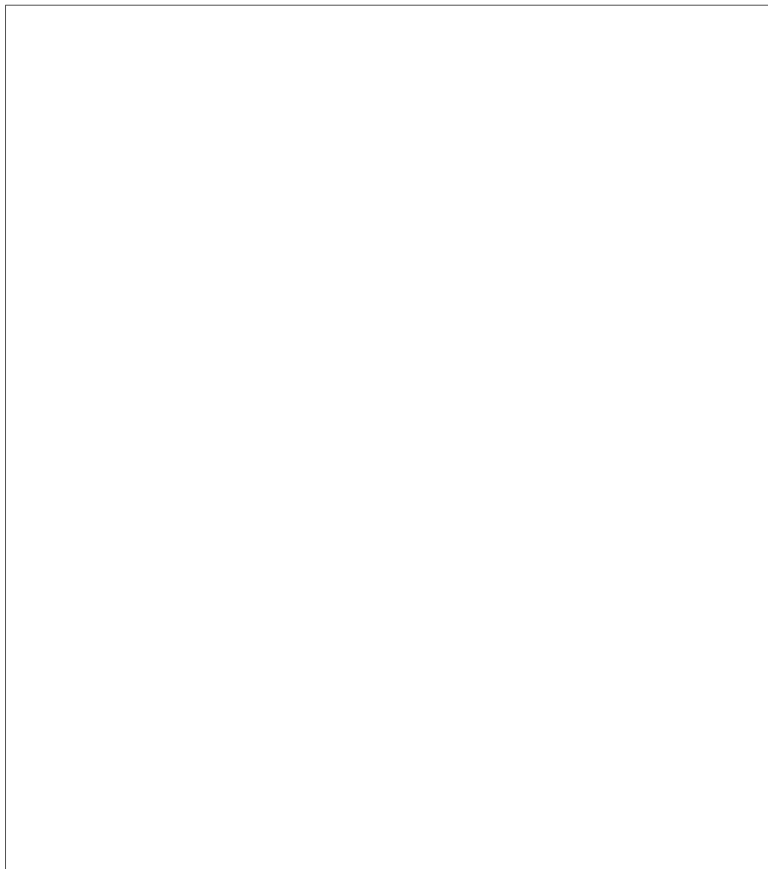
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6. Communist
China

(Cont'd)



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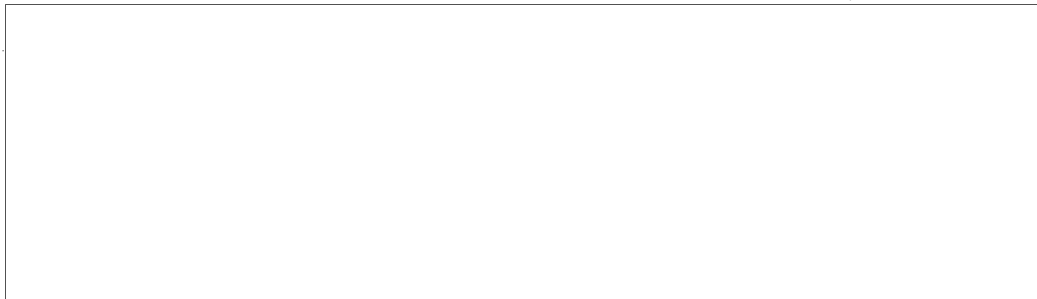
NOTES

- A. Syria-Israel The press reports new exchanges of fire yesterday and last night between Syrian and Israeli forces along the border. Damascus has been taking a tough line on this, largely for home consumption, and says that any "new aggressive" acts by the Israelis will be crushed. Further clashes are likely.
- B. Pakistan The foreign office in Karachi has taken a milder tack with Ambassador McConaughy; at least, it has made a point of accepting his advice to sit tight for the time being on the Kashmir mediation proposal and to receive Nehru's latest outburst with restraint. But Pakistan is still pressing Japan to agree to flights by the Pakistani airline to Tokyo via Communist China. Without a Tokyo stop the line to China would not be a paying proposition.
- C. Congo (Brazzaville) One of the incidental results of last week's change of government was a reduction in French influence over the armed forces. Young Congolese have relieved Frenchmen in the top positions of both the army and the gendarmerie. The French are, of course, still deeply involved and, we note, the foreign office in Paris has expressed the view that the affair in Brazzaville is far from finished. From across the river, Adoula too regards the situation as still not settled.

(Cont'd)

- D. Turkey Prime Minister Ismet Inonu could be in for trouble. The New Turkey Party has been expressing its displeasure with the way Inonu has been dominating the present coalition. Sources in this party say it is closer to pulling out than at any time since the coalition was put together in June 1962.
- E. West Germany - Israel Adenauer has told Ambassador McGhee that he would like to see diplomatic relations between Bonn and Tel Aviv before he steps down as Chancellor. He asked the ambassador whether such a step would upset any applecarts for the US.

F.



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