

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

**ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**19 NOVEMBER 1963**  
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

LATE ITEM

Cambodia - US aid

a. Sihanouk has climaxed a series of threats to cut off US aid by staging a show against the US in a publicly held National Congress in Phnom Penh today.

b. There, after surfacing alleged agents of Khmer Serei who confessed to US and South Vietnamese backing, Sihanouk engineered a vote by acclamation renouncing, effective immediately, all US aid and calling for withdrawal of US military personnel and civilian advisers.

c. Rumors in Saigon that a coup against Sihanouk is imminent apparently have fed Sihanouk's fears that a US-sponsored move against him is afoot. This could account for his most recent outburst.

1. Iraq

a. The Iraqi army is apparently in full control. The curfew has been lifted during daytime hours.

b. Almost universal army disgust with the freewheeling National Guard, strong arm of the Baathist extremist faction, made it easy for Arif to marshal military support behind him. The guard has now been disbanded.

c. The outlook of the new regime has yet to become clear. Baghdad radio has not yet spoken against the Baathist Party, only against the National Guard, and many Baathists remain in high places, particularly in the military.

d. Former Foreign Minister Shabib, leader of the moderate Baathist faction, now in exile in Beirut, has warmly praised the army's action. He may well return to Baghdad.

e. The Baathist Party high command, caught in Baghdad at the time of the takeover, is apparently being allowed to return to Damascus today.

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f. This evidently includes party founder Aflaq, rumored earlier to have been killed.

g. Baghdad radio is, of course, also making pro-Nasir noises.

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2. Syria

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3. Sino-Soviet Dispute

a. Peiping has cut loose with another (fifth in a series) major polemical tract which heaps abuse on Khrushchev personally.

(Cont'd)

b. In earlier screeds, the Chinese suggested to both the Soviet people and the Soviet party that they get rid of Khrushchev.

c. Now, however, Peiping is making similar suggestions to the Soviet military by pointing out that Khrushchev's continuation in office will result in disintegration of the Soviet military establishment.

d. Apparently this blast is the Chinese answer to Moscow's call for a letup in the argument.

e. Its appearance pretty well scotches rumors and reports abroad recently that the two disputants may be edging toward some accommodation.

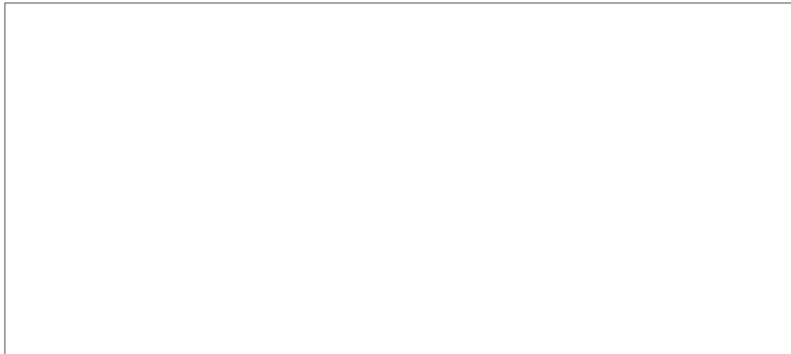
#### 4. Venezuela

a. The chief of the Venezuelan air force intimated to our air attaché Sunday night that a request might be forthcoming shortly for US assistance in aerial reconnaissance.

b. The Venezuelans are particularly concerned about the clandestine introduction of arms by sea; they are also still trying to find the hidden airstrip which they believe guerrillas are using.

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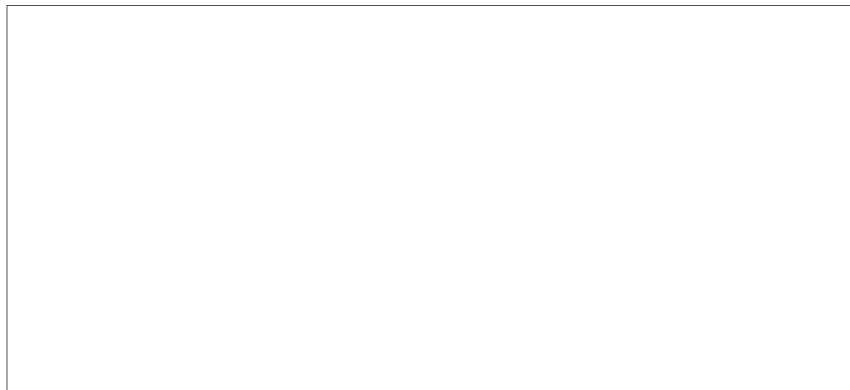
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5. British  
Guiana

a. Jagan is under fire from within his own party as well as from the opposition.

b. He says he has tried in vain to persuade his colleagues that what he did in London (i.e., appeal to Sandys to break the conference impasse) was in his country's best interest.



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NOTES

- A. Turkey Early returns from the Turkish provincial and local elections have the opposition Justice Party running well ahead. The military are already restive and have warned against any popular demonstration arising out of the elections. They may feel compelled soon to take a stronger hand in the government.
- B. NATO - East Germany The NATO Council today will consider the proposal to relax restrictions on travel in the West by East Germans. We stand only about a 50 percent chance of retaining these restrictions.
- C. Communist China Communist press representatives from a number of countries (Italy, France, Finland, Sweden, East Germany) are being recalled from Peiping and not replaced.
- D. South Vietnam - France France has recognized the new regime in Saigon. There was no public declaration
- E. Finland-USSR Finnish President Kekkonen goes to the USSR again, beginning 29 November, for a "private visit" at Khrushchev's invitation.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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