

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

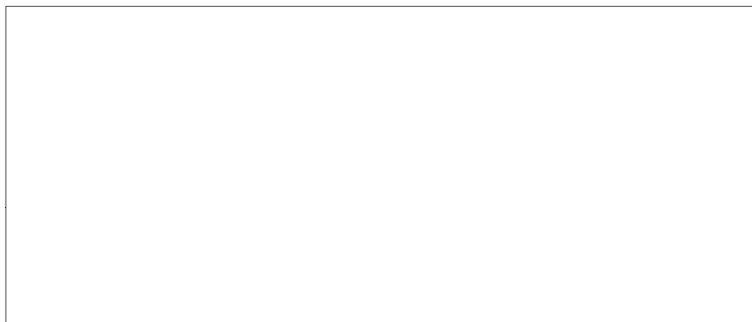
18 DECEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam -
Cambodia

a. Leaders in Saigon are obviously concerned over a rise in neutralist sentiment.

b. They have sent a special emissary to Phnom Penh, hoping to improve relations and dissuade Sihanouk from pressing his neutrality proposals further.

c. To make Sihanouk more receptive, they have publicly renounced the Diem regime's claim to a group of islands in the Gulf of Siam which have been in dispute.



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2. Afro-Asian
conference

a. Plans for another major Afro-Asian neutrality conference are beginning to shape up.

b. A meeting of foreign ministers of various nonaligned countries has been proposed for next month to

(Cont'd)

settle details, and their principals may meet late next summer or early in the fall.

c. Peiping is clearly worried as the conference would include India and exclude them.

d. Pointing to the "threat" of our prospective Indian Ocean Task Force, the Chinese argue for early convening of a rival conference which they could control.

[redacted]

50X1

3. Cuba-USSR

a. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

[redacted] Cuban training with the SAMs, coast defense cruise missiles, and Komar (boat-launched) missiles, is in a "very advanced stage."

50X1

b. [redacted]

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50X1

[redacted] the Soviets had obtained an agreement from Castro not to use the SAMs against US high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft,

[redacted]

50X1

4. France - Communist China

a. On returning from his unofficial trip to Peiping, former Premier Edgar Faure recommended to De Gaulle that France go ahead and recognize the Peiping government.

b. He had, "on his own authority," discussed terms for this with the Chinese.

c. Faure told Ambassador Bohlen he found De Gaulle very attentive, but, as usual, the latter gave no indication what, if anything, he would do.

5. Yemen

a. [redacted]

[redacted] the Yemeni executive council and all cabinet members have submitted their resignations.

b. The move is attributed to general indignation over Egyptian refusal to allow the government to be reconstituted along lines proposed by Yemeni tribal and religious leaders [redacted]

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6. Iraq

a. President Arif has been chipping cautiously away at Baathist sources of strength in the military with the result that the Baathists are actively plotting to overthrow him.

50X1



7. Saudi Arabia

a. There has been no break in the Saud-Faysal confrontation.

50X6



c. Faysal is still in control of things, and there have been no disturbances.

d. Saud apparently is still in his palace.

NOTES

- A. Cuba A meeting of Latin American Communists may be held in Rio toward the end of this month to decide on ways to counter anticipated OAS action in the Venezuelan arms cache case.
- B. USSR The Russians are having their trouble with some 400 African students in Moscow. This morning they clashed with police in a demonstration protesting the alleged murder of one of their number by a Russian.
- C. Turkey Inonu has failed in his bid to put together another coalition. It may take weeks before a new try is made.
- D. Italy Moro's troubles are not over, but he got his vote of confidence last night, 350 to 233. Twenty-five of the Socialist left-wing splinter group walked out before the vote--a move which suggests that for the time being at least, they will try to remain within the party.
- E. USSR-US Soviet reporting of the President's UN speech has been prompt and factual and has stressed those portions calling for strengthening peace and ending the cold war.

(Cont'd)

F. Commonwealth-Malaysia The British have been trying with some urgency to involve Australia and New Zealand in the defense of Sarawak and North Borneo. Neither country so far has conceded any need for this, and the issue may become a sore spot in relations between the Commonwealth members.

G.



50X1