

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20 DECEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cambodia

a. Ambassador Sprouse concludes there is no real hope for improvement in US-Cambodian relations so long as Sihanouk is the "unquestioned arbiter" of Cambodian policy.

b. The ambassador believes the best strategy for the US is to ride the storm out. He does not believe that further overtures to Sihanouk could lead to a change in his attitude or current policies.

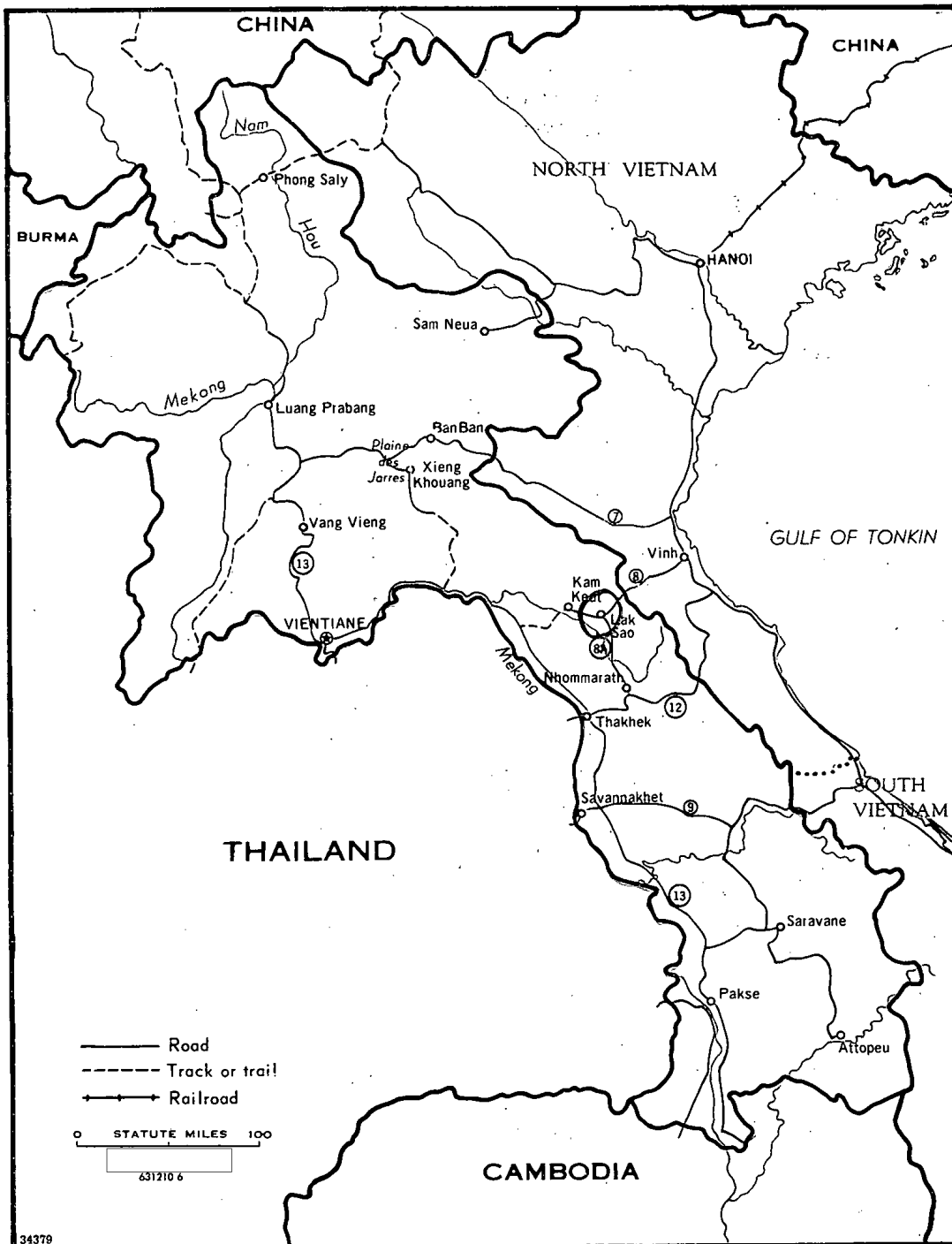
2. Brazil

a. The resignation last night of Finance Minister Carvalho Pinto may result in the appointment of a leftist to this key post in President Goulart's cabinet.

b. Goulart has been under heavy pressure from the extreme left to replace Pinto, a political moderate, with someone such as Leonel Brizola, the President's pro-Castro brother-in-law.

c. Brazil's financial problems are pressing, particularly in the area of debt payments, and the removal of Pinto diminishes hope for constructive action.

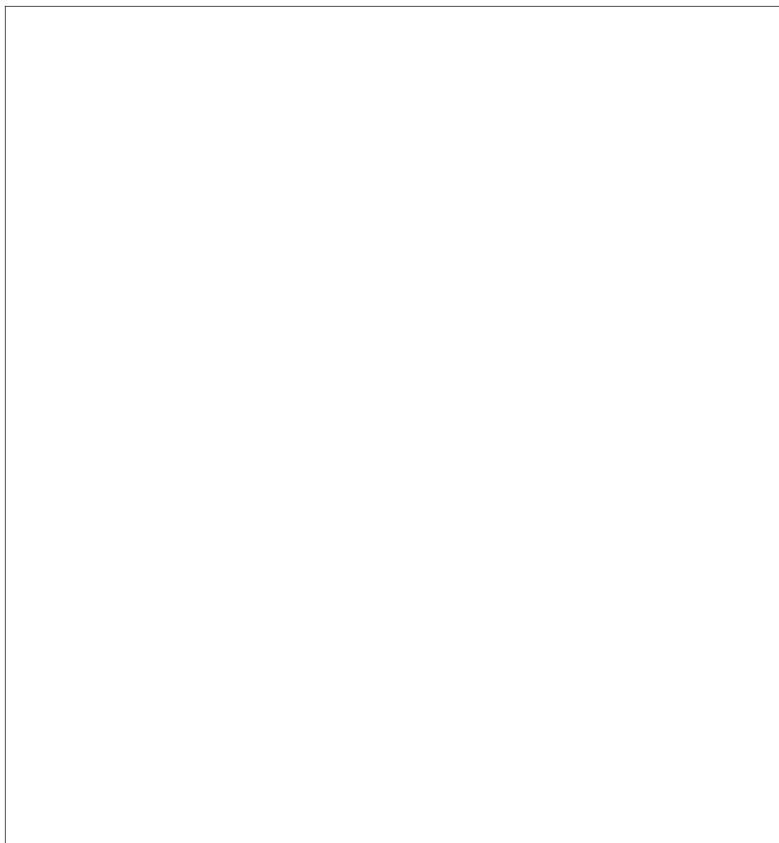
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3. Egypt - Communist China



4. Laos

a. The Communists are moving to counter some of the recent rightist advances in Central Laos.

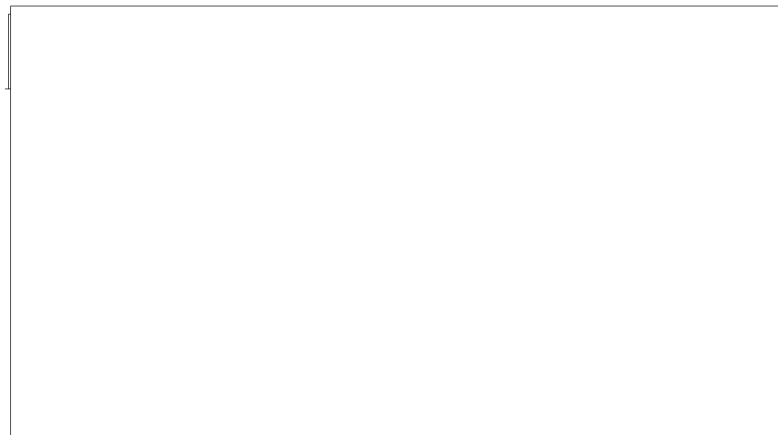
b. On Monday, a force reportedly consisting of one battalion of North Vietnamese troops recaptured the key road junction at Lak Sao. Right-wing forces had taken this town earlier in the month.

(Cont'd)

c. The Communists do not appear to be pressing the counter offensive further at present, possibly because they wish to keep alive Pathet Lao leader Souphannouvong's recent bid for talks with Premier Souvanna.

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5. Papal visit



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c. Jordanian authorities ordered on 18 December the detention of "all dangerous persons and those suspected of assassination and terrorist activities." Such persons are to be held from 1 January until the end of the Papal visit.

d. There have been two notable assassinations in Jerusalem in recent times. Count Bernadotte, the chief US mediator of the partition of Palestine in 1948, was killed there. King Abdullah of Jordan was assassinated there in 1951.

6. Cuba

a. Shipping to Cuba in November fell short of the October figures

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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c. Six Soviet passenger vessels docked in November and eight sailed. One Soviet arms carrier also arrived during the month.

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NOTES

A. Berlin West Berliners began moving through the wall this morning. A considerable security problem may develop. The crossing points are almost certain to be crowded at the beginning and end of visiting hours each day. We also expect an increase in the number of escape attempts from East Berlin.

B. USSR [redacted]

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[redacted]

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C. USSR The earth satellite vehicle placed in orbit yesterday is a recoverable, unmanned satellite--Cosmos 24 (Sputnik 49). We do not know its specific purpose. The Soviets will probably attempt to recover it in the next 7-10 days. [redacted]

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D. Spain-Cuba Some sort of deal providing for the exchange of Spanish ships for Cuban sugar seems to be in the making. [redacted]

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST



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