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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--27 DECEMBER 1963

1. CYPRUS:

A. THERE WAS NO SHOOTING IN NICOSIA LAST NIGHT AND THE CITY IS CALM THIS MORNING.

B. TURKISH AND GREEK TROOPS HAVE ACCEPTED BRITISH COMMAND AND ARE MOVING THROUGH THE STREETS TO SUPERVISE THE PRECARIOUS CEASEFIRE.

C. BRITISH FORCES ON THE ISLAND ARE BEING REINFORCED WITH A SQUADRON OF ARMORED CARS FROM LIBYA AND A BATTALION OF INFANTRY FROM ENGLAND. THEY WILL TRY TO SET UP A NEUTRAL ZONE BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES.

D. A GENERAL SETTLEMENT WILL BE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER. THE SCARS OF THE PAST WEEK RUN DEEP AND THERE IS REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE LEADERS OF EITHER COMMUNITY CAN CONTROL THEIR EXTREMISTS.

E. MEANWHILE THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WILL WANT TO SEE WHETHER THE BRITISH-LED EFFORT TO RESTORE ORDER WILL BE SUCCESSFUL BEFORE TAKING THEIR MILITARY FORCES OFF THE ALERT THEY WERE PUT ON YESTERDAY.

2. BERLIN:

A. WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE CHRISTMAS PASS AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO MORE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANIES.

(CONT'D)

[REDACTED]

B. THE CHIEF OF THE WEST GERMAN TRADE OFFICE IN BERLIN, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE WITH EAST GERMANY, SAYS THAT HIS OPPOSITE NUMBERS ARE ALREADY MANEUVERING TO BYPASS HIS OFFICE IN FAVOR OF DIRECT CONTACTS WITH BONN AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

C. ERHARD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH MANEUVERS IS NOT CLEAR, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS THAT HE MAY PROVE MORE WILLING THAN WAS ADENAUER TO EXPLORE NEW APPROACHES.

3. GREECE: KARAMANLIS' POLITICAL HEIR KANELLOPOULOS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IS NOT ABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

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THIS STRENGTHENS THE PROSPECT FOR NEW ELECTIONS. PAPANDEOU IS PROPOSING THE CREATION OF A CROWN COUNCIL, MADE UP OF LEADERS FROM BOTH MAJOR PARTIES, TO HANDLE NATIONAL QUESTIONS WHILE A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS THE ELECTIONS.

4. CAMBODIA: AFTER ACCEPTING THE PHILIPPINE MEDIATION OFFER, SIHANOUK CHARACTERISTICALLY IS AGAIN INSISTING THAT A RECONCILIATION IS POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER THE US MEETS HIS "CONDITIONS." HIS CURRENT LIST LOOKS MUCH LIKE THE ONE HE DREW UP LAST WEEK EXCEPT THAT HE IS NOT NOW INSISTING WE SILENCE THE KHMER SEREI RADIO.

5. COMMUNIST CHINA: PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, WITH MILDLY SUCCESSFUL VISITS TO EGYPT AND ALGERIA BEHIND HIM, MOVES TO MOROCCO TODAY. HIS ONWARD PLANS ARE VAGUE, BUT A PRESS SERVICE SAYS HIS NEXT STOP WILL BE ALBANIA, WHERE HE WILL SPEND A FEW DAYS ON FRIENDLY GROUND BEFORE RESUMING HIS AFRICAN TOUR.

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6. SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE: KHRUSHCHEV'S BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THE 70-YEAR-OLD MAO TSE-TUNG WERE NOT THE FRIENDLY GESTURE THEY APPEAR ON THE SURFACE. THE CHINESE THEMSELVES DO NOT TAKE NOTICE OF MAO'S BIRTHDAYS AND WILL REGARD THIS AS STILL ANOTHER SOVIET EFFORT TO REMIND THEM OF MAO'S SENILITY.

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7. CHINA

8. CUBA-US: HAVANA'S PROPAGANDA ORGANS, AFTER AN INITIAL "WAIT-AND-SEE" PERIOD, ARE BEGINNING TO LASH OUT AT PRESIDENT JOHNSON. A CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCAST DESCRIBED THE PRESIDENT AS "IMPETUOUS" AND WARNED, THAT "IT WILL NOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE WE ARE FACED WITH EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS."

9. SOUTH VIETNAM: GOVERNMENT FORCES CHALKED UP A MUCH NEEDED SUCCESS IN A PRE-CHRISTMAS OPERATION AGAINST A VIET CONG SUPPLY DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTER IN THE MY THO AREA SOUTH OF SAIGON. A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF COMMUNIST MATERIEL WAS CAPTURED AND AT LEAST 38 VIET CONG KILLED. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET