

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

21 MARCH 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Cambodia

a. The outlook is none too good for US nationals in Cambodia at the present time and our embassy has begun to evacuate some dependents.

b. Latest reports place 17 Cambodians dead and 13 wounded in the unfortunate episode at Chantrea, three miles from the South Vietnamese border.

c. The alleged presence of Americans with the South Vietnamese troops has put the American community on the spot. Its safety could be endangered if Sihanouk chooses to emphasize US involvement or even if his imposed deadline of next Monday expires without agreement for a Geneva conference.

d. Sihanouk is traveling to Chantrea today and will no doubt be enraged at what he finds there.

e. Embassy Saigon has been directed to determine whether any Americans were involved in the incident.

f. It has reported that several battalions of the 7th South Vietnamese division were launched on an extensive border sweep several days ago.

(Cont'd)

g. The primary object of the sweep was to destroy a number of Viet Cong arms factories and ammunition depots revealed by aerial photography.

h. The operation which culminated in the Chantrea incident involved, according to the embassy, the pursuit of Viet Cong units and "the frontier was crossed in force in the heat of combat and in error."

i. The Cambodians have informed U Thant they plan to protest against the US and South Vietnam before the Security Council.

j. The South Vietnamese have offered to compensate the Cambodians for Chantrea and have empowered one of their generals currently in Cambodia to negotiate for them.

2. Libya

a. The political situation is showing signs of coming apart at the seams.

b. [redacted] King Idris offered his abdication to the president of parliament.

c. [redacted] the King lost his temper with his advisers and said the country would have to get along as best it could without him.

(Cont'd)

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e. In any event, the government took Idris' action seriously enough to alert the Tripolitanian police and the army.

f. The King probably felt an abdication threat would make Libya's politicians realize the dangers the country would face if his stabilizing influence were removed. These are real.

g. Crown Prince Hassan Rida would be unlikely to keep the throne long after Idris' departure, in the face of the burgeoning Arab nationalist sentiment which is hostile to the monarchy.

h. In Cairo, US Ambassador Badeau is worried about "the possibility and opportunity" for an Egyptian sponsored revolt in Libya.

3. North Vietnam

a. Two articles in the February issue of the party theoretical journal show that the dominant, pro-Chinese group within the party is still encountering opposition to its policies.

(Cont'd)

b. One article noted the existence of "rightist" ideologies in party ranks which leads to revisionism.

c. The rightists are said to be out of step with the regime on the necessity of economic self-sufficiency, aggressive warfare in South Vietnam, and Hanoi's pro-Chinese position in the Sino-Soviet dispute.

d. The same issue of the journal carried party first secretary Le Duan's speech before the central committee's December 1963 conference in which he also attacked the "rightists."

4. Angola-USSR

a. Moscow may be taking a fancy to Holden Roberto.

b. A Pravda article on 17 March suggests that the Soviets may now offer aid and recognition to his Angolan Exile Government.

c. Heretofore Moscow has leaned to the "Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola" headed by Agostino Neto.

(Cont'd)

d. However, the ineffectiveness of Neto's group plus the fact that many African countries have recognized Roberto's movement may have induced Moscow to switch allegiances.

e. Roberto has made no secret recently of his willingness to take aid from various Communist sources.

5. Cyprus

a. Negotiations continue in an effort to prevent new outbreaks of violence in the area west of Nicosia.

c. Embassy Nicosia reports it is finding more and more Greek Cypriots espousing enosis as the only solution to the Cyprus problem.

d. Like Makarios, but for different reasons, the Cypriot Communist Party probably takes a dim view of this growing sentiment on the island.

6. Thailand

a. Prime Minister Thanom is reported planning a sweeping change of personnel held over from former Prime Minister Sarit's government.

(Cont'd)

b. Top government officials and military officers have been maneuvering behind the scenes since Sarit's death on 8 December, and there have been numerous coup and countercoup rumors. [redacted]

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c. Military and police units in the Bangkok area have been on full alert to forestall trouble.

8. USSR

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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9. USSR - Berlin
Air Corridors

a. We do not think the Soviet notes of 19 March are intended to challenge existing regular Western air traffic to Berlin.

b. Rather they appear aimed at blocking international flights which do not make at least transit stops in the Federal Republic.

c. The Russians think the extension of air service to Berlin from other countries in "Western Europe, Africa, and America" will undercut their position that Allied use of the corridors rests on occupation rights.

d. Since 1958, Moscow has contended that these rights would be terminated by a separate peace treaty with East Germany.

e. The USSR probably wants any new international flights to West Berlin that do not stop in West Germany negotiated with East German authorities. Pan Am plans to inaugurate such a flight from New York on 31 May.

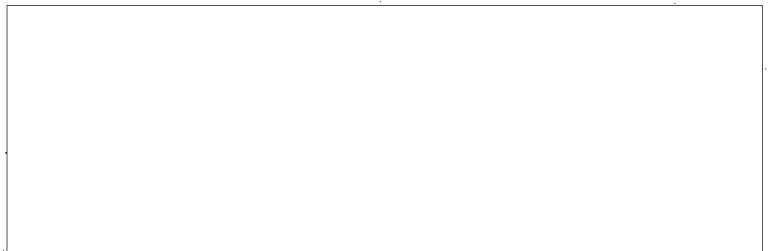
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10. Somalia-USSR



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b. Malik may well have sought to restrain the Somalis from an over-active pursuit of their claims against Ethiopia and Kenya.



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d. However, Moscow does not want the Somalis forcing its hand in the Horn of Africa, and would prefer to maintain at least passable relations with both Ethiopia and Kenya.

d. In any event, it is doubtful that even the Soviet Union will be able to induce Somalia to use restraint in pressing its territorial claims.

11. Syria

a. The Baathist regime is still on its anti-US drive.

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b. For the past several weeks government-controlled propaganda and public statements by Syrian leaders have been directed against American policies.

c. At the same time Syria is demonstrating a much cozier attitude toward the USSR and Communist China.

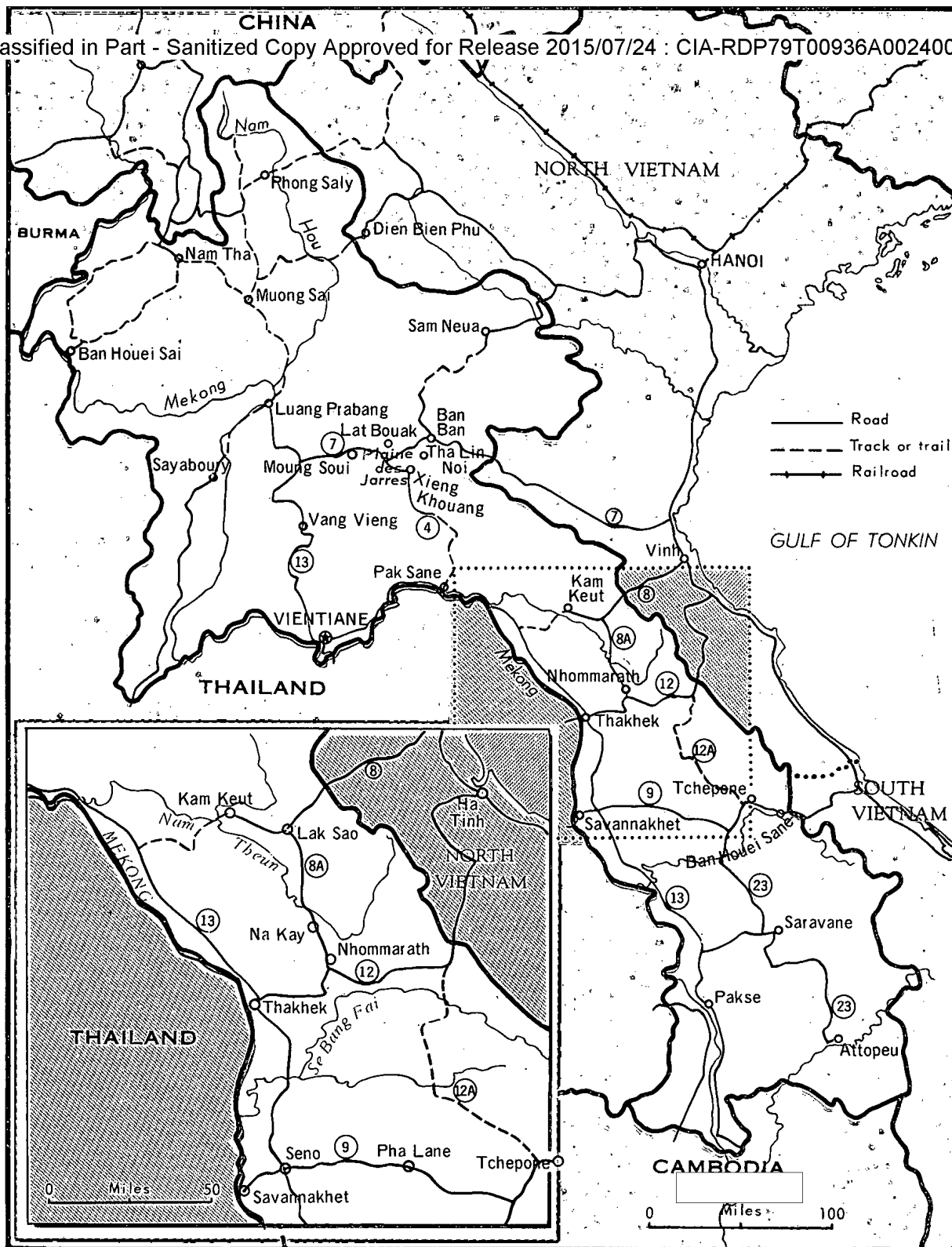
d. These maneuverings are probably a response to what the Syrians consider US support for Israel.

e. They, even more than the other Arabs, view Israel as the major threat to their security. Once again, Syria appears to be interested in Soviet military aid and diplomatic support as a countervailing factor.

f. The Syrian leadership, however, has not seen fit to include any concessions to domestic Communists in connection with their new sweetness and light attitude toward the Communist bloc.

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NOTES

A. Laos. General Phoumi is planning to beef up clearing operations against Communist units which have been active in the lowlands east of Savannakhet in central Laos. A drive launched earlier this month bogged down in the face of stiff resistance in the area just south of Pha Lane on Route 9. Phoumi now plans to renew these attacks using bombs as well as rockets in support of his ground troops.

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B. Cuba - Latin America. [redacted] Cuba has agreed to provide funds to Juan Lechin in Brazil and Salvador Allende in Chile for their presidential campaigns, and to Brazilian federal deputy Leonel Brizola to arm his political organization. [redacted]

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C. Sweden Security and Defense Ministry officials have just about completed their interrogation of Wennerstrom. The trial of the spy case is expected to begin 9 April. It will probably take about three weeks, and almost all of the proceedings will be in secret.

D. Cuba [redacted]

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E. USSR [redacted]

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