

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

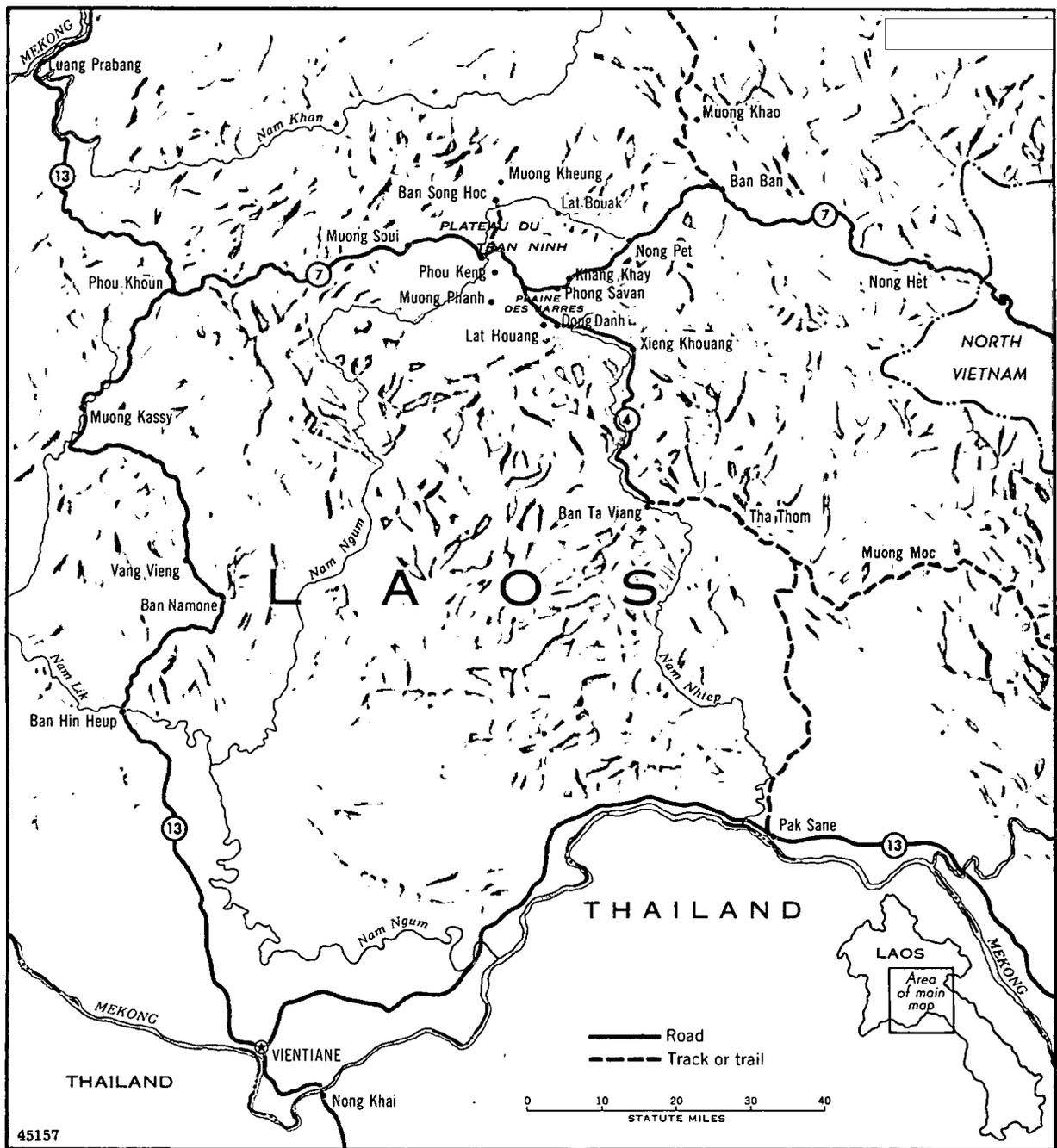
ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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15 MAY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. The key strongpoint of Tha Thom, southeast of the Plaine des Jarres, has fallen to a combined Pathet Lao - dissident neutralist force which attacked early yesterday.

b.
North Vietnamese elements also supported the attack.

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c. The loss of Tha Thom, which controls an important access route to the Mekong Valley, is a serious strategic setback. It will also add materially to Souvanna's already full plate of political problems.

d. The day before the attack Souvanna had asked the ICC to station teams at Tha Thom and Vang Vieng, but the Commission had not had time to act on his request.

e. The government situation remains muddled. Souvanna plans to go ahead with the replacement of three neutralist ministers.

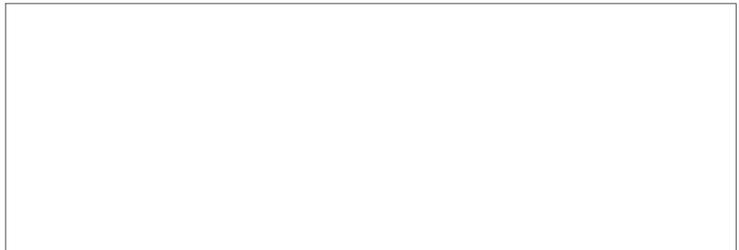
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2. South Vietnam

a. Some of Khanh's disgruntled civilian ministers are beginning to wonder how long the present government can last.

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c. Deputy Prime Minister Hoan, Khanh's pacification chief, is now complaining because his weekly radio talks have been canceled on orders from Khanh. Hoan felt these talks were needed to help explain the government's mobilization order and to overcome recruiting difficulties.

d. 

 Khanh is also urging some political and religious leaders not to participate in the United Political Front which Hoan is soon to proclaim.

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e. One reason for Khanh's lack of cooperation is his desire to keep the personal political ambitions of the civilian politicians in check. 

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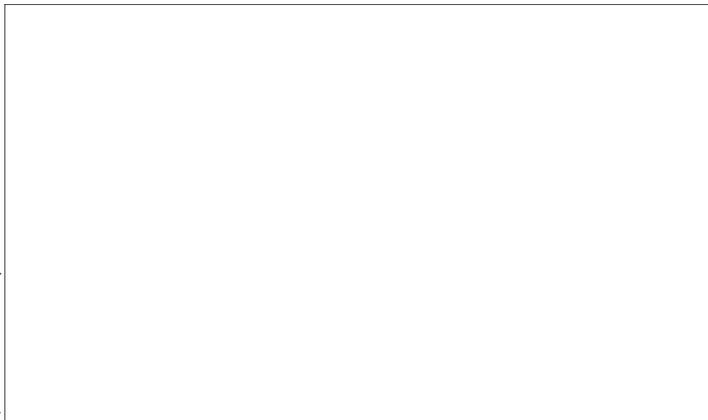
f. On the military front, the Vietnamese Army this morning suffered one of the worst routs this year. Viet Cong forces ambushed a government relief force about 20 miles north of Saigon, killing 51 troops.

g. We have no information casting any light on Wednesday's press report that the Viet Cong had surrounded three government battalions in the northern province of Quang Ngai.

3. Cuba

a. We have further reason to believe that the final stages of Cuban missile training will involve a live firing against a target plane.

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4. Cyprus

a. Attention has shifted for the moment from the island to The Hague, where the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers have agreed to make another try at conciliation.

b. Dirk Stikker's good offices, which will be limited to keeping the crisis from getting any worse, should help calm the air. Neither Ankara nor Athens is in a mood to compromise, however.

c. Some shooting is going on in various parts of the island, but nothing big. The Greek Cypriots continue to seize Turkish hostages.

d. Makarios has agreed to go with UN officials today to edgy Famagusta to appeal for an end to the kidnappings.

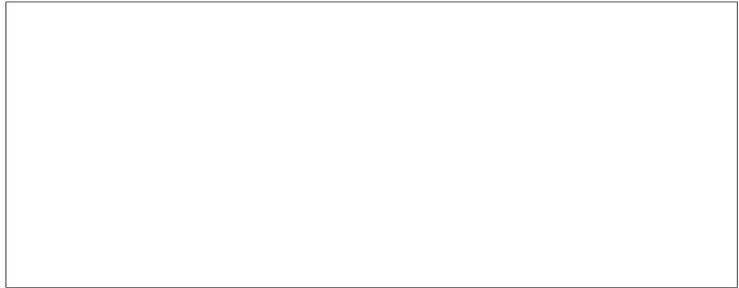
5. Malaya-
Indonesia

a. The odds against a Maphilindo summit meeting look greater than ever as Philippine emissary Lopez carries his case from Djakarta to Kuala Lumpur.

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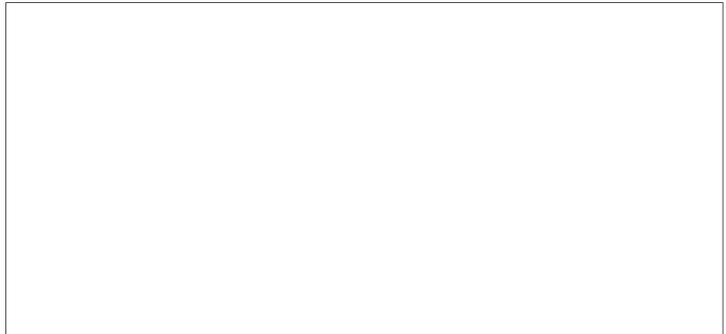
b. Sukarno put on his conciliatory hat for his talk with Lopez on Wednesday, but his offer of a token withdrawal of Indonesian forces when the conference opens, and further withdrawals if it makes progress, is not likely to move the Tunku.

c. He told Ambassador Bell that there was "no earthly chance" of success at the summit while the "crush Malaysia" cry was still being sounded from Djakarta.



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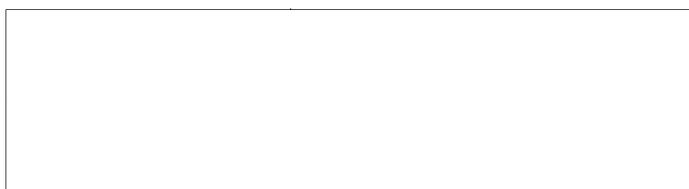
6. Egypt-Aden



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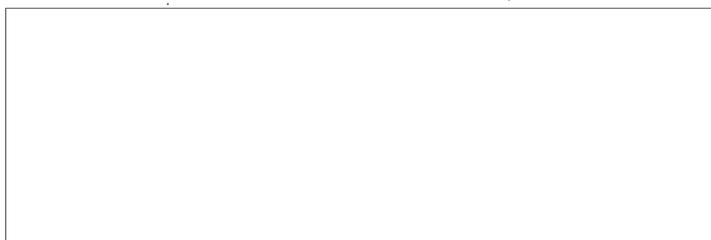
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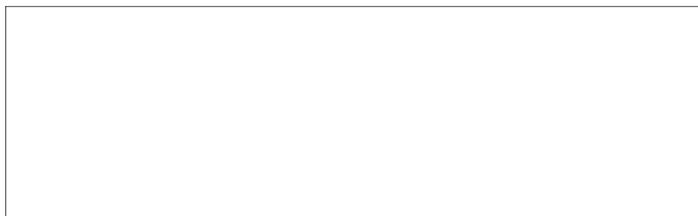


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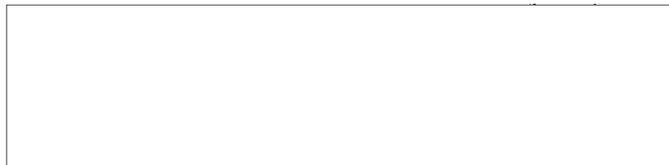


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Communist China



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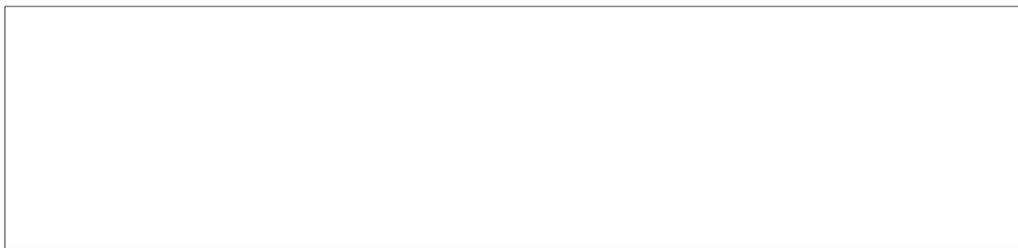
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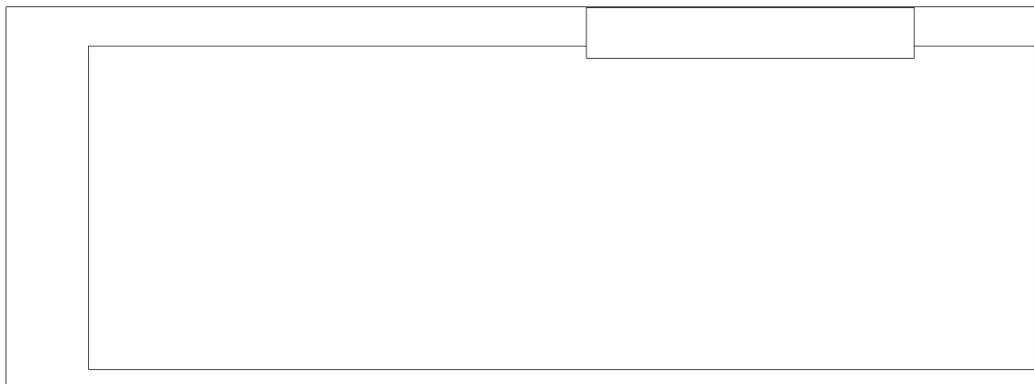
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NOTES

- A. France-Tunisia French officials in Tunis are taking a "very grave" view of the current crisis over the seizure of foreign-owned land and the subsequent suspension of French aid. They feel that De Gaulle has had enough, and if Bourguiba does not retreat anything can happen. Meanwhile, pressures on King Hassan to take similar action against French properties in Morocco have increased sharply.



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- D. Communist China - USSR This year's Sino-Soviet trade agreement was signed in Peiping Wednesday after four months of bitter bargaining. We have no details, but recent talks on both sides suggest that the trade will drop to a new low in 1964. Last year's level was about \$600 million.

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E. Egypt-Iraq [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Moscow apparently
is willing to supply Baghdad with aircraft and
other arms in place of the missile equipment
still undelivered when Iraq discontinued its
SAM program [redacted] [redacted]

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F. UAR-Ghana [redacted]
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