

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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~~19 MAY 1964
TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Kong Le yesterday abandoned his few remaining positions on the Plaine des Jarres to the Pathet Lao and now has his headquarters west of Ban Khong.

b. Elements of four of his battalions this morning are scattered along the extreme western fringes of the Plaine.

c. Communist pressure continues and the remaining Kong Le forces, shorn of their artillery, may soon have to join the Meos in the hills to the west. Isolated Kong Le units north and northwest of the Plaine expect to be attacked [redacted]

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d. A considerable disarray in Kong Le's entourage contributed to this debacle. Several of his battalion commanders [redacted] were threatening mutiny unless their demands on Kong Le and Souvanna that there be no rightist-neutralist "merger" were met. [redacted]

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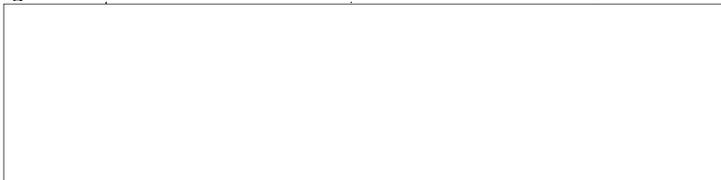
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The Communists deny that they are involved in the current hostilities on the Plaine. They are trying by such means to portray these as a squabble among the neutralists.

f. Communist forces remain positioned south of Tha Thom.



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g. Lao air force trainers yesterday bombed and rocketed Communist positions in the Plaine and near Tha Thom.



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2. Tanganyika-
Zanzibar

a. In the three weeks the union has been in existence, it has brought few discernible changes to Zanzibar and, unless Nyerere and the Tanganyikans assert themselves, it may never be consummated.

b. The Communists, foreign and domestic, still have Karume's ear. Zanzibari ministers in the new union remain on the island, doing business as usual under the old "Peoples' Republic of Zanzibar" banner.

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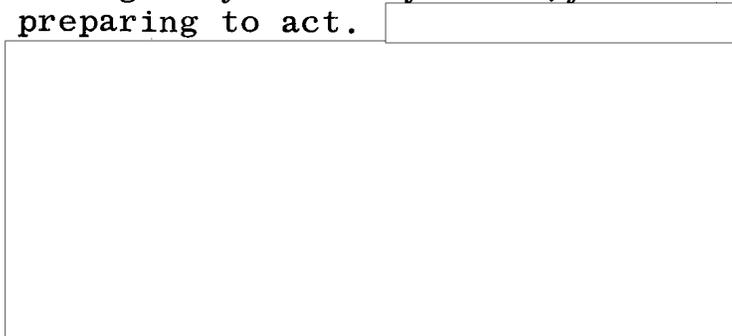
c. Babu, especially, continues to act like a full-fledged foreign minister. He refuses to alter customs duties and is dealing with Indonesia in cloves and military training without recourse to Dar-es-Salaam.

d. The Chinese Communists have brought in additional men and promised him a \$14 million loan if this money is not used in conjunction with the Tanganyikans.

e. The North Vietnamese have dispatched an individual to open their "embassy" in Zanzibar.

f. Karume this morning went a step further. He announced that he had signed a treaty of friendship with East Germany on behalf of the union.

g. Nyerere may finally be preparing to act.



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3. South Vietnam

a. Khanh has indicated that certain changes in the makeup of his government are in the works.

b. He seems quite aware that some of his subordinates have not only been complaining of his way of doing things but have also been intriguing against him.

c. One of these is Deputy Premier Do Mau, who, rumor has it, has been maneuvering to replace Khanh. While discounting Do Mau's ability to pull this off, Khanh may nevertheless take some action to clip his wings.

d. We still think that a more likely source of a serious challenge to Khanh would be the ambitious and wily defense minister, General Khiem.

4. Rumania

a. The Rumanian party has followed up last month's declaration of independence with an intensive indoctrination campaign which, by accounts reaching US officials in Bucharest, is taking on a pronounced anti-Soviet and anti-Khrushchev cast.

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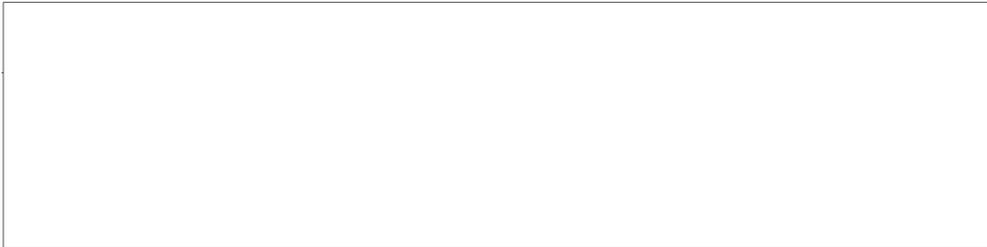
b. At meetings throughout the country, the Soviets are being criticized for 20 years of economic exploitation and for infiltrating the Rumanian secret police.

c. Khrushchev has been called a "thief" and a "corn and pig specialist" who lectures Rumanian farmers but does not know what he is talking about.

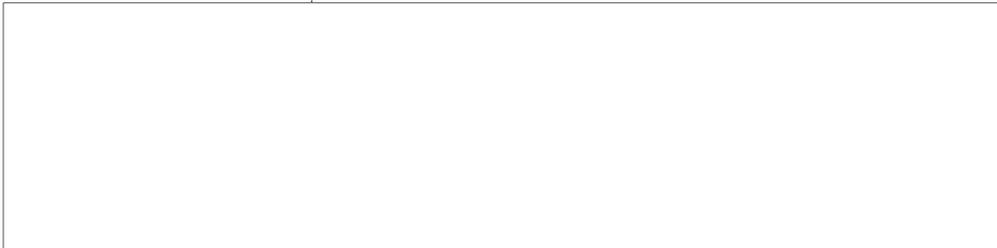
d. The dominant theme, however, seems to be about the same as in the April party documents, that "Khrushchev and Mao can do what they want, Rumania will go its own way."

NOTES

A. Bolivia The anti-Paz explosion which the government expected yesterday turned out to be a dud. Only about 300 workers out of an expected 10,000 turned out. Surprised by their own weakness, they quickly disbanded. This has probably blasted a big hole in Lechin's hopes to stir up real trouble for Paz prior to the 31 May elections.



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E. Lebanon The Egyptians, who prefer President Shihab to such "mortal enemies" as Chamoun and the Maronite Patriarch, have their ambassador in Beirut working on the president to change his mind and accept a second term.

F. Mexico [redacted]
[redacted] Lopez Mateos, already worried about Communist inroads among the northern peasants, is convinced that the Communists may try [redacted] [redacted] to instigate disturbances in Mexico City similar to those in Caracas before the Venezuelan elections last December. Some of this, he fears, may be aimed at the US Embassy and other American property.

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