

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



27 - 28 MAY 1964

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~~TOP SECRET~~



1. Laos: The Communists are within striking distance of Muong Soui. If they take it, they will have removed the major obstacle to a westward push along Route 7.

Neutralist defense of Muong Soui, if any, will have to be made with few supplies on hand and little armor. [REDACTED]

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South of the Plaine des Jarres, Pathet Lao forces appear intent on forcing the Meo guerrillas from the area.

After consultations in Moscow, the Poles have come up with a new proposal for a conference. Foreign Minister Rapacki suggests that the co-chairmen, the three ICC powers, and representatives of the three Laotian factions meet in Switzerland immediately.

Souvanna, in a brief phone conversation with Unger, said that the Polish proposal seemed reasonable to him. He commented that, in fact, he was surprised at its "conciliatory nature." Unger advised him not to commit himself until they had talked it over.

In Vientiane, Souvanna gained some support for his policies from the rightist-dominated national assembly during its session last Tuesday. [REDACTED]

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2. Congo: There is still no clear picture of events in Albertville, in North Katanga, the scene of the latest pocket revolt. The rebels who seized and blocked the airfield there Wednesday--locking up local officials at the same time--have not been identified. Communication facilities in the area are next to nonexistent.

Officials in Leopoldville, meanwhile, have taken back their earlier request for UN troops to help out in Kivu Province. They have decided to send Congolese troops from Leopoldville and Stanleyville in the hope this will take care of the rebellion. Army chief Mobutu has still not returned home, and is staying in Rome

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Last Tuesday Adoula struck out at those who are operating against him from neighboring countries. He closed the border between Leopoldville and Brazzaville, and ordered the power station in Kivu Province to stop transmitting power to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. He thinks, with good reason, that both Brazzaville and Bujumbura have been serving as safe havens for anti-Adoula groups working against the Leopoldville regime.

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3. India: The Congress Party's parliamentary group caucused on the selection of Nehru's successor on 28 May, but the meeting was largely procedural. It will meet again on the 29th.

President Radhakrishnan is anxious to get the election procedure finished before any factional struggle develops. Shastri, the front-runner, is also eager to speed it up since some elements, mostly in the leftist minority, are looking for ways to stop him. The chances are good, however, that he will get the nod at the 29 May meeting.

One immediate effect of Nehru's death has been to stall Sheik Abdullah's dealings on Kashmir. He has canceled his mission in Pakistan and returned to New Delhi, where he will have to begin again with India's new leadership.

4. France - North Vietnam: Several small straws in the Paris wind suggest that the French are willing to develop closer political contacts with Hanoi.

The chief of North Vietnam's trade mission in Paris was received for the first time at the Quai by the head of the Far Eastern office. Previously, the Hanoi man had been unable to get past the economic and cultural functionaries.

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(Cont'd)

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Ho Chi Minh has made no secret of his interest in diplomatic relations. [redacted]

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The French, however, will not want to rush things. Formal recognition of Hanoi would jeopardize the much larger French economic stake in South Vietnam.

5. Cambodia-France: Sihanouk, who had planned to arrive incognito in France on 28 May, now expects to land in Nice on 1 June. The prince wants to take a rest cure until his official visit begins two weeks later. A Cambodian military mission is coming to France with Sihanouk to seek additional military aid.

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6. South Korea: Student demonstrations in Seoul may reach a peak this weekend. There has been no sign the instigators have changed their plans to provoke police brutality and thus garner public support.

7. USSR-Cuba: Major withdrawals of Soviet personnel again seem about to get under way.

Two Soviet passenger ships are in port in Cuba [redacted]

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8. **Brazil-Cuba:** [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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9. **Cuba-Trade:** [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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10. **Lebanon:** The move to persuade President Shihab to accept a second term is growing.

(Cont'd)

On Wednesday, the Lebanese Parliament approved a motion clearing the way for the constitutional amendment required to legalize another six-year term. Before this, Shihab had publicly, and with apparent sincerity, denied any desire to succeed himself.

As the pressure builds, Shihab, despite his disclaimers, may relent. The chief of Lebanon's army intelligence has urged the US Embassy to join the campaign of persuasion. The Egyptians, who regard Shihab as the best possible candidate, are already encouraging his re-election.

Shihab's supporters fear that his refusal will mean a return to political and religious strife over a successor. There is no other candidate in sight who would be considered a good bet to duplicate Shihab's success in controlling the country's divisive forces. The past six years have been the most stable in the recent history of faction-ridden Lebanon.

11. Communist China: Unusual flight activity by Chinese Communist military aircraft suggests that the Chinese are preparing for a test firing of a surface-to-surface missile at the Shuangchengtzu missile test center. Such a test at this time would probably involve a version of a Soviet surface-to-surface ballistic missile--possibly the SS-3 (700 mile) or SS-4 (1,000 mile).

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12. East Germany - USSR: On Friday Ulbricht starts his third mission to Moscow this year. He is worried about his regime's growing isolation, resulting from Bonn's recent improvement of relations with other East European states. Leaders of these countries have been paying little attention to East Germany's interests, and Ulbricht will be after Soviet help to slow the trend.

13. Rumania-USSR: Another problem is developing among the Eastern Europeans, arising out of Rumania's "independent" moves.

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14. UK-Czechoslovakia:

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