

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

17 OCTOBER 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Soviet Leadership

a. The new leaders in Moscow quite clearly intend to preside over Khrushchev's disgrace. They may indeed go even further since Pravda today produced a long catalogue of Khrushchevian sins and shortcomings.

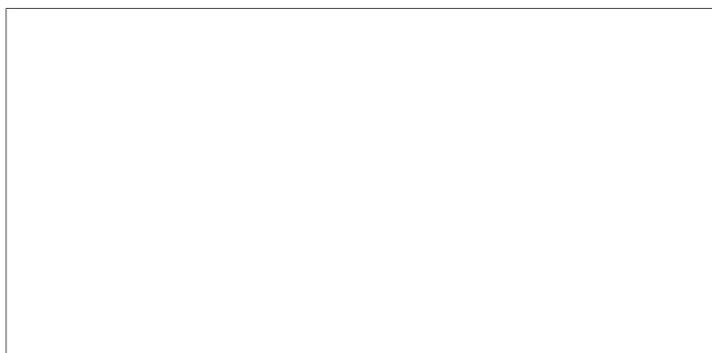
b. Among these, the paper's mention of "hair-brained schemes" could refer to the missile buildup in Cuba and "immature conclusions and hasty decisions" to his frequent and ill-fated initiatives in agriculture--two of Khrushchev's more spectacular failures.

c. The paper further suggests that the former leader will be tarred with the "cult of personality" brush. This indicates that for the short run at least the new bosses will stress collective leadership.

d. In the editorial and approaches by Soviet ambassadors in various capitals around the world, Khrushchev's successors have been making the point that they intend to go on trying to improve east-west relations.

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2. The China Angle

a. Whatever the longer term prospects may be, it seems unlikely that the ouster of Khrushchev by itself is going to lead to an abrupt bettering of relations between Moscow and Peiping.

b. Pravda today suggests that for its part Moscow intends "as hitherto" to pursue an "active line" toward a new meeting of Communist parties without, however, tying the new leaders to the December date proposed by Khrushchev.

c. On the other hand, the pro forma greeting which Mao and his associates sent does not seem to us to have been intended as the opening gun in a campaign for warmer Sino-Soviet relations.

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d. In addition, the Peiping announcement on China's nuclear test contained no acknowledgement of the sizable Soviet contribution. The success was attributed to China's own scientists "relying on their own efforts."

3. Communist China

a. The successful atmospheric test at the Lop Nor site, coming as it did on the heels of Khrushchev's ouster, has doubtless added to the already monumental self-regard of the Chinese leadership.

b. Within hours of exploding a rough 15 KT device, they were jubilantly describing the event to the world as a "major contribution to peace," arguing that they, unlike earlier nuclear powers, could be trusted to be neither adventurous nor capitulationist with their bomb.

c. The Chinese also called for a summit conference to discuss the "complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons." This is an old Chinese chestnut, used, for example, in August 1963 to blunt criticism of Peiping's refusal to adhere to the test ban treaty.

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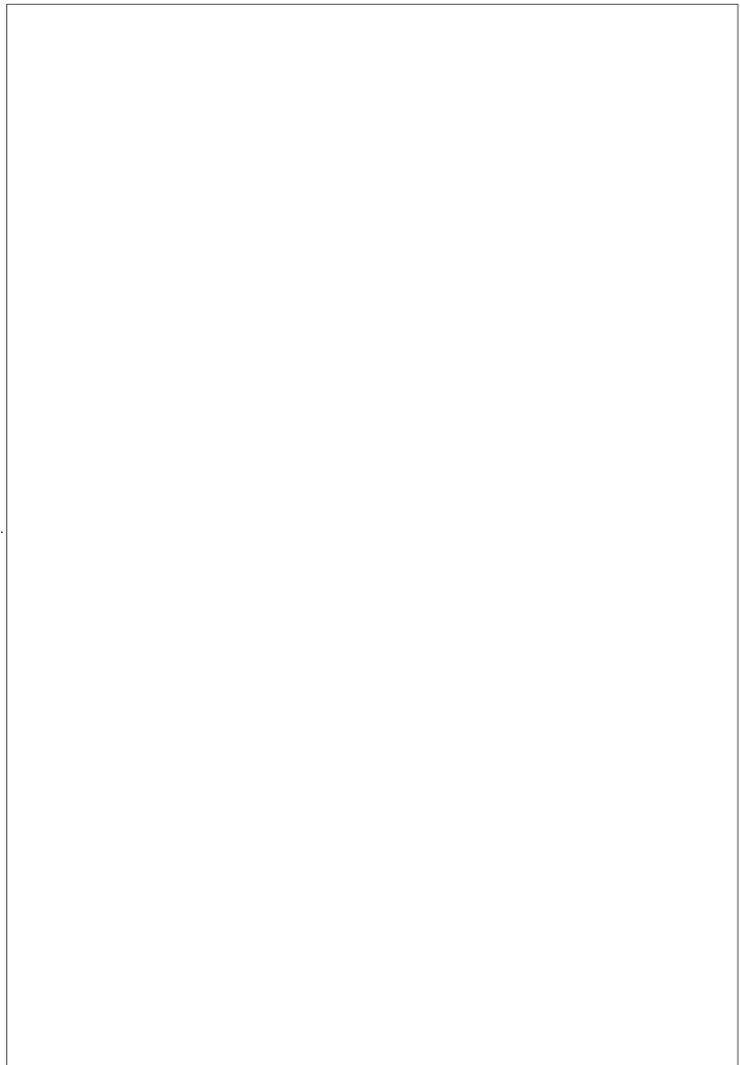
d. Reaction to the Chinese test has been slow in developing.

e. There has been no comment from the USSR or Eastern Europe. Hanoi and Pyongyang have provided dutiful counterpoint to the Chinese line. The first non-bloc party to weigh in with its views has been the Italian which views the event with "alarm."

f. West European statesmen have reflected resignation at an anticipated development and have focussed on its political ramifications. Several have found in the Chinese success a new and persuasive argument for admitting Peiping to world forums.

g. In Asia the reaction in Japan and India has been predictably strong. Japan spoke of China's ignoring the "desires of the world's people against nuclear testing." India found the Chinese action a definite "danger to peace."

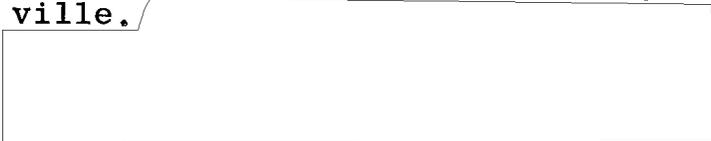
4. UK Elections



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5. Congo

a. A mixed force of mercenaries and former Katangan gendarmes has retaken Bumba, some 200 miles downriver from Stanleyville.



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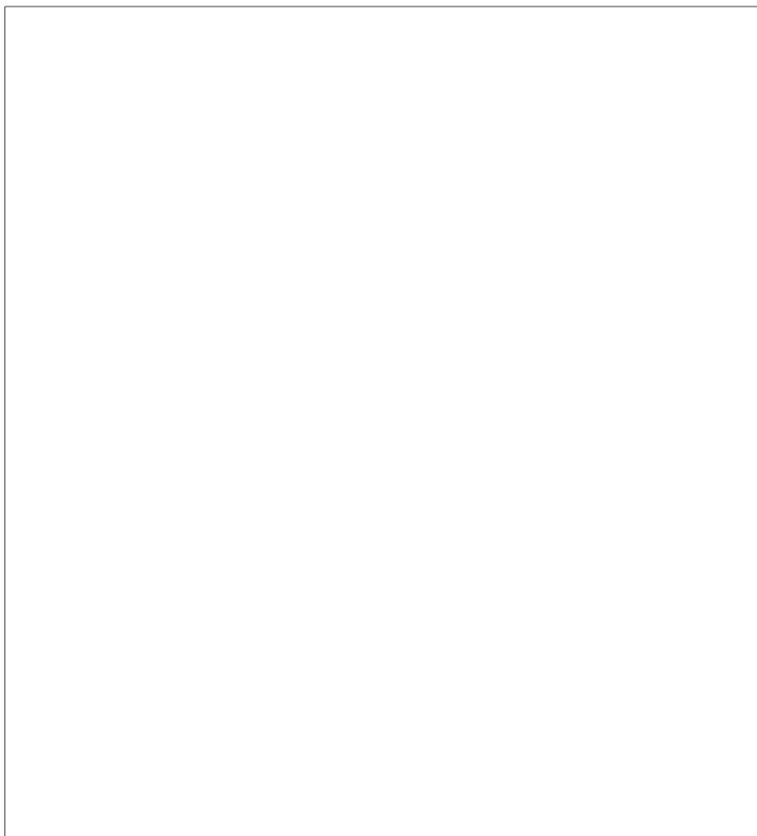
b. The Congolese army, having had its fill of looting, has now abandoned the key city of Uvira, opening Bukavu again to rebel attack. US officials in the area predict that the situation cannot be rectified without air support.

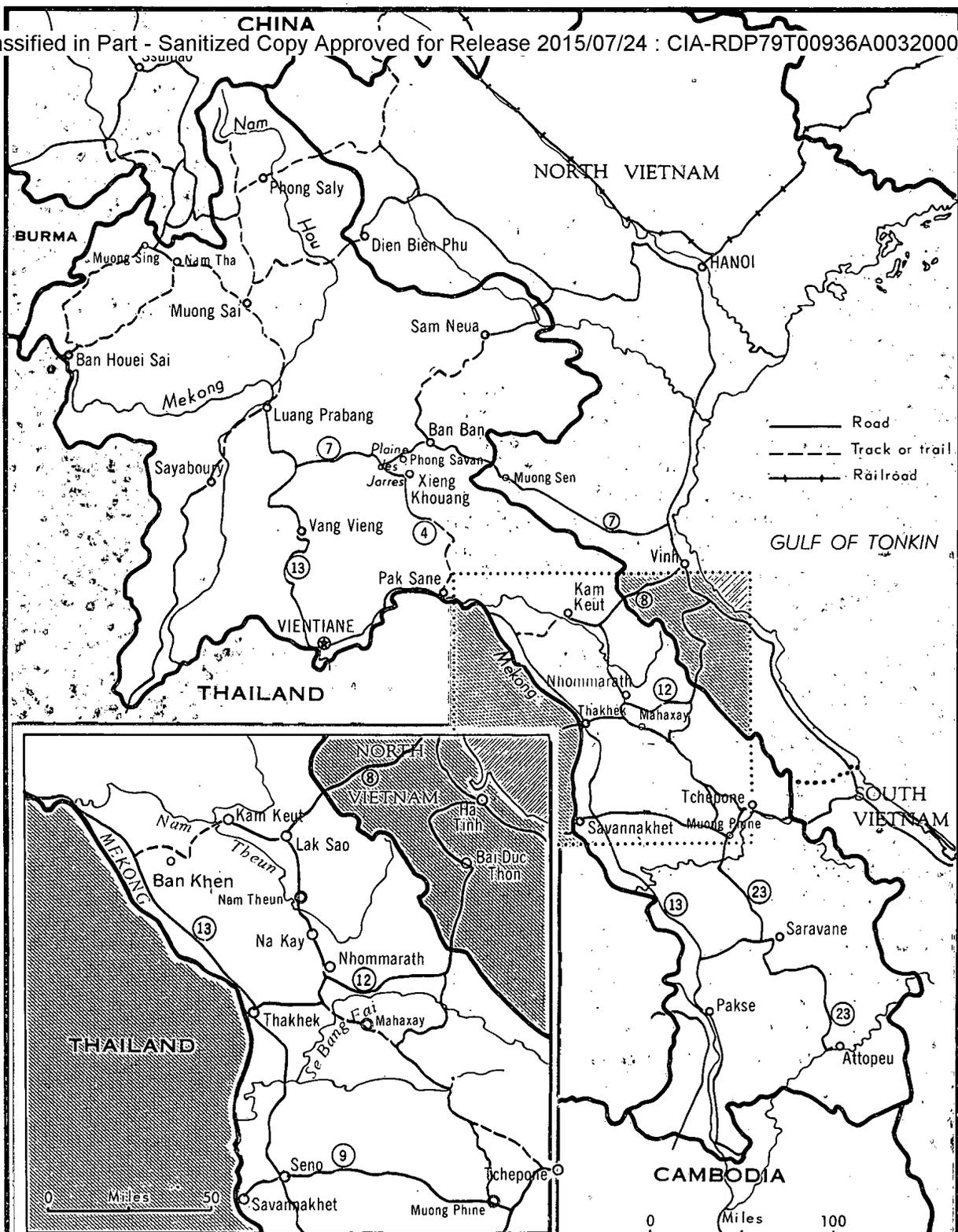
c. As far as we know, there was no air support activity yesterday, and planes are to remain on the ground over the weekend. Ambassador Godley has Mobutu's assurances that the transfer of a South African air unit to the Coquilhatville area will be cancelled.

d. We have yet another report of the mistreatment of US officials in Stanleyville.

6. USSR-US

a. Although we are not entirely sure, it now looks as if the US Neptune aircraft, which was damaged while flying at about 500 feet near Sakhalin Island last Tuesday, was the target of a Soviet SAM. 50X1





7. Laos

A. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Communist forces on Thursday attacked rightist positions near Thakhek, the first action in this part of Laos for many months.

b. It is too early to tell whether this is an isolated action or the signal for the stepped up Pathet Lao drive we have been expecting.

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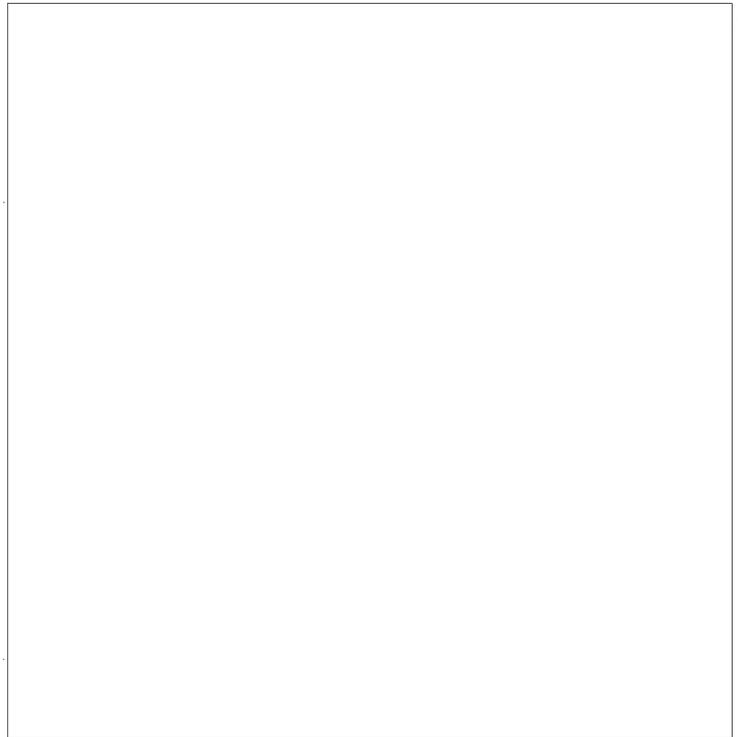
d. The French are still trying to get the princely talks back on the tracks. They say they have Souphannouvong's promise to come to Paris after cleaning up a few "urgent" matters on the Plaine des Jarres. Souvanna has agreed to stay on until 25 October, the French declare.

8. Cyprus

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D. Venezuela [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Venezuelan terrorists plan to step up their activity in the Caracas area [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Government forces are also stepping up their counterinsurgency activities through all of northern Venezuela.

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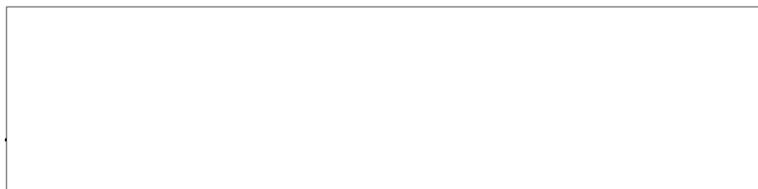
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E. Sic Transit Gloria Mundi In these last few days the ax has been falling all over the world. Not only has it cut down such diverse figures as Khrushchev and Lord Home, but it has shown itself no respecter of either victor or vanquished; both the Cardinal's Johnny Keane and the Yankee's Yogi Berra have felt its edge.

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