

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

17 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE ITEM

Khrushchev opened the Soviet Party Congress today with his major speech--the report of the Party First Secretary. Available highlights together with our preliminary comment are attached in a separate document.

50X1

1. South Vietnam



50X1

A. The pattern of Viet Cong activity is beginning to suggest an attempt to sever communications to the area north of Quang Ngai.

B. President Diem is quoted as saying that the approach of the dry season made it "now or never" in the fight with the Viet Cong.



50X1

Diem's brother is quoted as saying that South Vietnamese army casualties now exceed the recruitment rate.

C. Authorities in Saigon expect a step up in Viet Cong activity to greet General Taylor, and have tightened security.

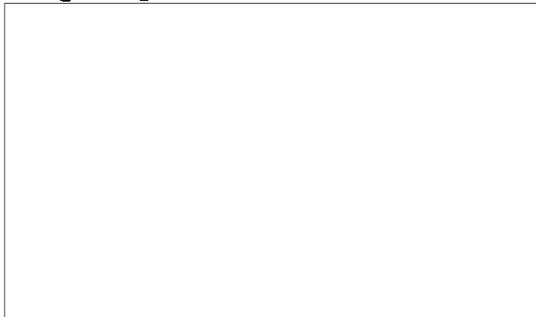
D. Severe flooding of the upper Mekong delta will place an additional heavy strain on South Vietnam's resources. Damage to the rice crop will be particularly serious, as Viet Cong activity has already reduced the rice export surplus for this year from 400,000 to 100,000 tons. On the other hand the Viet Cong itself has lost heavily in supplies and "arsenals" in this same area.



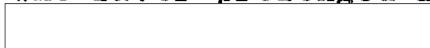
50X1

50X1

2. Turkish election results unsatisfactory to ruling military group



We can now confirm the failure of the military government-favored Republic People's Party to win a majority in the lower house. In the Senate, followers of the late Menderes appear to hold a majority. The prospect of coalition government, and the obvious popular disapproval of the military junta and its execution of Menderes may impel the junta to break its promise to return the country to civilian rule. This possibility is heightened by an apparent reconciliation of the junta with its dissident radical faction of younger officers who favor prolonged military rule.



50X1

3. Bourguiba again presses France for commitment on evacuation of Bizerte



He is described by Ambassador Walmsley as "more aggressive and nervous than we have seen him before". The French Navy is in the early planning stages for eventual evacuation, but De Gaulle still shows no signs of willingness to meet Bourguiba's demands.



50X1

50X1

NOTES

50X1

There appears to have been a crisis over the weekend within the Syrian ruling group, with Revolutionary Command, other army elements, and civilian cabinet members variously opposed on such issues as relations with the UAR and socialization versus denationalization. While things have calmed down for the moment, a political upheaval appears merely to have been postponed.

- B. Poland--in doubt over continued PL-480 supplies--has concluded arrangements to make up its grain deficit for the year ending next June by additional purchases from Canada and Finland.
- C. Salazar has stated he expects rebellion in Mozambique after Tanganyika achieves independence in December.
- D. Souvanna now plans to go to Luang Prabang on Wednesday.

50X1

50X6

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

4. Elimination of Trujillo family influence in sight



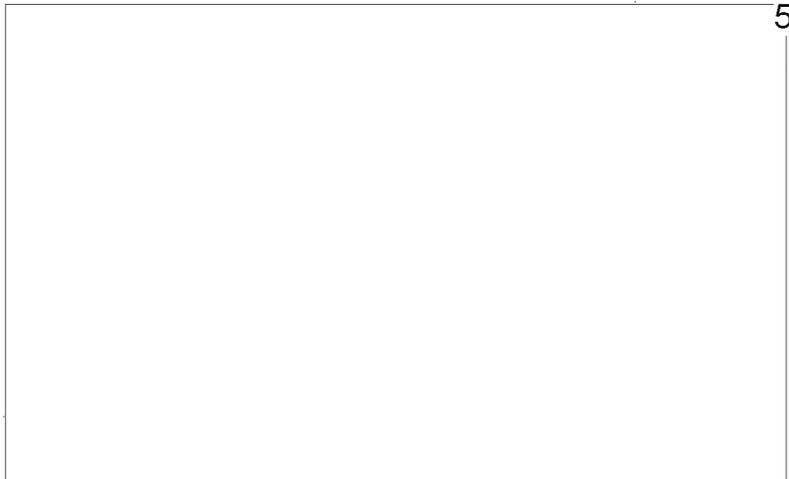
Ramfis Trujillo appears close to agreement on a program which would divest his family of its concentration of wealth and military strength in the Dominican Republic and remove most of its members from the country, although he is still bargaining hard. There is no certainty, however, that his uncle Arismendi, who controls a considerable paramilitary force, will agree to go quietly.

50X1



50X1

50X1



50X1