

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

26 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--25 October 1961

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

South Vietnam: Communist forces continue to increase their efforts to undermine the Diem government by sabotage and terrorism and to expand the Viet Cong areas of military control in South Vietnam.

1. Soviet Party Congress

a) Abuse of Albania and of Khrushchev's defeated "Stalinist" opposition continue to be central themes at the meeting, which has now passed the mid-way point. Khrushchev appears intent on putting the Chinese Communists--the indirect target of his anti-Stalinist invective--in their place, even at the cost of an open display of Bloc disunity. Peiping seems to have been caught by surprise by the bluntness of Moscow's challenge, but we do not expect the Chinese to give much ground.

b) Gromyko's foreign policy speech yesterday was a carbon copy of Khrushchev's speech on the opening day of the Congress.

c) pro-regime demonstrations in Albania, though organized, seem to have brought out a good deal of latent anti-Soviet feeling.

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2. Nasir jumpy over coup possibility

[redacted] Nasir had begun a security screening of his officer corps [redacted] he is feeling considerable anxiety (probably exaggerated) over plotting against him.

[redacted] Nasir, who suspects that one regiment would be enough to bring off a coup, has since formed an emergency regiment for his own security.

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NOTES

A. Both Thailand and Cambodia have taken steps to increase their military readiness. These appear so far to be precautionary moves on both sides.

B. The Bundestag vote on the Chancellor is now scheduled for 30 October.

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C. Yesterday's nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya

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