

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

7 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a) Viet Cong activity of all kinds-- military actions, sabotage and terrorism-- increased considerably last month: 523 incidents, a new high, were recorded during the last week of the month;
b) Moscow and Peiping are hard at work trying to arouse international alarm over the Taylor mission;
c) We continue to receive evidence on the arrival of North Vietnamese regulars in South Vietnam. A recent Viet Cong message noted violations of an order "about secrecy and the careful destruction of all papers, photographs, materials, clothing and the property of recruits who have come down." [redacted]

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2. French-Algerian negotiations reported underway

A top level Algerian rebel official has informed our Ambassador in Tunis in strictest confidence that serious negotiations are now in progress. The official believes that substantial headway has already been made. The two sides are said to be trading step-by-step concessions, with the key bargaining issues being rebel guarantees for the European settlers in return for French relinquishment of its Sahara claims. [redacted]

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3. Showdown nears in Ecuador

The struggle for control of the government between President Velasco and Vice President Arosemena is approaching a climax, as rioting continues in Quito and Guayaquil. The Vice President, who has leftist labor and student backing, is attempting to have the legislature, which he heads, unseat Velasco. The legislative building is now surrounded by troops on Velasco's orders. The President, meanwhile having accepted the resignation of the cabinet, is trying to rally new support from the center and right. Although he apparently retains the support of the military, the situation [redacted] is touch-and-go. (State, military and CIA reports)

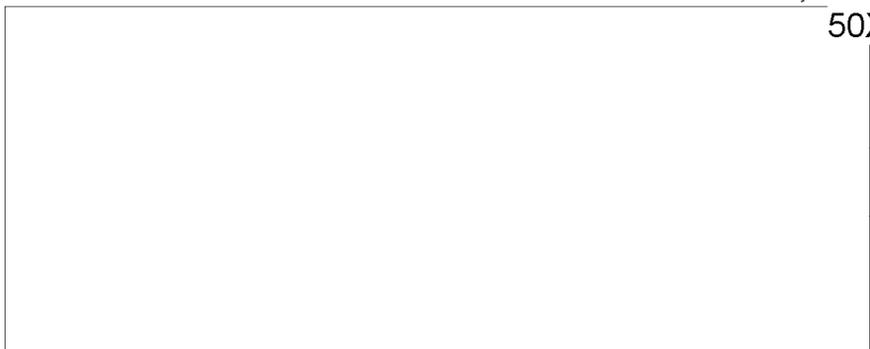
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4. Brazilian regime continues to flounder

The government, hampered by division of authority between President Goulart and Prime Minister Neves, is making little headway against rising inflation. Public confidence in the regime is slipping and there is growing opposition from both left and right. Extremist military plotters are again becoming active but appear to lack wide support. A newly-formed leftist political grouping, the National Liberation Front, may, by picking up the Quadros following, represent a serious threat. [redacted]

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5. Congo



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b) the Leopoldville government's forces following their total withdrawal from Katanga, are also in a state of near anarchy.

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6. Soviet Revolution celebrations

a) There was no major keynote address on the anniversary eve, for the first time in Soviet history, the leadership apparently wanting to rest on what was said at the Party Congress;
b) preliminary information on the military parade indicates that little in the way of new equipment was on display. Fuller reports from our military attachés will be available soon;
c) the scheduled high-level meeting of Bloc leaders in conjunction with the anniversary has apparently been cancelled. The Chinese, smarting over the Albanian issue, are believed to have balked.

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NOTES

- A. Police and the armed forces are on the alert in Argentina with a general strike under way since last midnight. There have been no reports of serious violence.
- B. It now appears virtually certain that the nuclear test series at Novaya Zemlya has ended. Testing may, however, be continued at the Semipalatinsk area. [redacted]
- C. President Betancourt has confirmed to our Ambassador that Venezuela plans to break diplomatic relations with Cuba if it can assure the safety of asylees in its Havana embassy. This could, however, be a big if.
- D. The Shah of Iran has apparently decided to postpone elections indefinitely, hoping to meet public criticism with a more vigorous reform program. [redacted]

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- F. A recent article in the Soviet press discounting the effects of radiation, points to some apprehension on that score among the Soviet public despite Moscow's almost total news blackout on its nuclear tests.
- G. Sihanouk's public statements continue highly charged. He is now quoted as saying that he would like to fight the Thais and that he would enter Bangkok with the aid of Chinese Communists forces. Our embassy in Phnom Penh feels, nevertheless, that he is cooling down some and is not likely to abandon his neutrality for the present.

- H. The arrival of a Polish economic mission in Niger on 4 November may foreshadow the first acceptance of Bloc aid by one of the Brazzaville group. Other members of the group, facing domestic criticism of excessive pro-Westernism, may follow suit.
- I. Peiping has announced the destruction of a Chinese Nationalist reconnaissance plane on a mission over the Liaotung Peninsula on 6 November.

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