

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

4 DEC. 1961  
~~TOP SECRET~~

**1. Berlin**

Construction activity at intersector crossing points continued under floodlights throughout last night. There has been no interruption of traffic. However, the East Germans last night began intensive tailing and harassment of US military mission sedans patrolling in East Berlin.

**2. Dominican stalemate still unbroken**

a) The army has reinforced its patrols in Santo Domingo, but the capital was reported as relatively quiet yesterday.

c) The rift within the National Civic Union between those for and against resumption of negotiations seems to be widening.

d) Several of the air force officers who resigned on Saturday with a blast against the dictatorial tendencies of military chief Rodriguez have now reneged. The prospect for an imminent split within the military has probably lessened but they too have not solved their intramural problems.

50X6

### 3. Congo

a) Tshombé left Brazzaville yesterday for Paris. [redacted] apparently [redacted]

[redacted] President Youlou's serving as a go-between with Leopoldville but no indication that Tshombé was in direct touch with any Adoula emissaries.

b) Both Adoula and Kasavubu say they are in no mood to treat with Tshombé, either in the Congo or on neutral territory. Kasavubu has indicated that he was considerably miffed at the suggestion for bringing Tshombé to Leopoldville on Senator Dodd's plane.

c) In Elizabethville, the security situation is grave following a series of shooting incidents between UN and Katangan forces. The Katanga government has rejected a UN demand that it get its troops off the streets.

d) Our consul in Elizabethville reports that Senator Dodd--despite the restraint he showed--is regarded even more than before as the "great white hope" who will reverse US policy toward Katanga. Senator Dodd used every argument to get Tshombé to talk with Adoula; Tshombé said he was willing but not in Leopoldville.

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50X1

4. Laotian situation

- a) Souvanna, at the urging of the ICC, has again said he would go to Vientiane for a three princes meeting, but there will be more haggling over security arrangements.
- b) Phoumi has given our Ambassador the impression that he is digging his heels in harder against the idea of a Souvanna-led coalition.
- c) Attempts by military units on both sides to improve their positions in the field through small-scale actions continue to strain the cease-fire.

[Redacted]

50X1

5. Moscow revising its civil defense structure

Measures now being carried out will have the effect of integrating civil defense fairly closely with ground force defense, on both a regional and a national basis, under military control. The new structure is headed by a Soviet Marshal who has been and may still be commander in chief of the ground forces.

[Redacted]

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50X1

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6. Turkish government given precarious lease on life

Eighteen months of martial law ended on Saturday when the Inonu government won a narrow vote of confidence from parliament. The coalition regime, essentially a shot-gun marriage imposed by the military, faces a fitful future.

7. **Assessment of South  
Vietnamese stability**

Our Embassy sums up:

- a) The anti-US press campaign gave a fillip to rumblings of discontent but civilian opposition groups are not believed to have the means to overthrow Diem on their own.
- b) Senior military officers are frustrated at the military situation and presidential meddling in military affairs but there is no solid evidence of concerted plotting among them.
- c) The big question mark is the attitude of field grade officers, particularly commanders of elite groups, who could force their superiors' hands if they tried to mount a coup.

NOTES

A. 50X1  


B. **Syrian conservatives and right-of-center elements seem to have won a preponderance in Friday's elections to the constituent assembly.** 50X1

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