

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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8 DEC. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Congo

a) Tshombé returned to Katanga yesterday

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b) US Globemasters have resumed their airlift into Elizabethville without further incident. The UN's dominance of the air remains uncontested. Yesterday, UN jets carried out raids against several key points in Katanga province. In the fighting in and near Elizabethville, however, neither side has gained a clear edge. Katangan resistance shows no signs of crumbling.

c) Communications were restored yesterday with Consul Hoffacker; he is apparently still under house arrest, but "in no immediate danger."

2. Dominican factions still short of agreement

Armed forces chief Rodriguez balked yesterday at the terms of the preliminary accord between the opposition and the government. The chief stumbling block now is Rodriguez' belief that the settlement does not give the military adequate guarantees of "self-administration." Our representatives in Santo Domingo think the problem is more one of faulty communications between the parties concerned than of substance.

3. North-South Vietnam

a) The Chinese Communists and North Vietnamese have scheduled joint military discussions on the South Vietnamese situation. They will take place in Hanoi in "the near future."

b) There is evidence that the North Vietnamese are now operating a radio station on Cambodian territory in support of infiltration operations against South Vietnam. [redacted]

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4. Albania

All remaining Soviet personnel--some 50 odd--are being pulled out of Albania.

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[redacted] This could be a preventive against retaliation for the anticipated expulsion of the Albanians from the Warsaw Pact. A Pact meeting is rumored to be imminent.

5. Laos

a) Kong Le headquarters on Monday had ordered a suspension of military operations in anticipation of an early meeting of the three princes. Yesterday, the order was revoked [redacted]

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b) Soviet Ambassador Abramov, after an hour's talk with the King, said the King might soon urge publicly that the three princes reach agreement quickly.

NOTES

- A. There were more acrimonious words over Goa yesterday in New Delhi, but both Nehru and Krishna Menon denied that India plans to "liberate" the enclave. The Portuguese have asked for diplomatic help from both the US and Britain.
- B. The Venezuelan government is continuing its security vigil in anticipation of the President's visit. Riot police yesterday broke up leftist street demonstrations protesting the visit. The police, who have closed down Communist party headquarters, are carrying out a roundup of potential trouble-makers.
- C. Moscow and Cairo are near agreement on enlarging the existing Soviet aid program.
- D. The Danish parliament yesterday approved the Baltic Command by a sizeable margin.
- E. Our UN delegation believes that Indonesia's Sastroamidjojo, from whom we can expect no favors, will have a clear field toward the presidency of the next General Assembly unless the US comes up with an alternative soon.

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