

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

14 DEC. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Goa

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Some Portuguese [redacted], a minority 50X1 think that New Delhi would like to ease off, if it can do so without losing face.

c) A Portuguese note on the issue, described as "very confidential," was delivered in New Delhi yesterday, according to press dispatches. We have no word yet of its contents.

2. Laos

a) Phoumi came close to torpedoing the three princes meeting on Tuesday when, in replying to Souvanna's latest offer to come to Vientiane, he reneged on granting Souvanna's security terms. Yesterday, after some stern words from Ambassador Brown, he reversed himself again and publicly announced acceptance of the terms.

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3. Congo

a) The UN is scheduled to launch a major offensive in Elizabethville today, following yesterday's buildup of troops and supplies, but there has been no word yet that the action has begun.

b) Gizenga's whereabouts are again unknown. He may be somewhere in the area of the Northern Katanga border looking for opportunities to batten on the situation there. However, the Egyptians, who have been a major prop for him, are apparently pulling their mission out of Stanleyville and transferring it to Leopoldville.

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5. **Moscow adopts patient
air on timetable for
negotiations**

The Soviets, Ambassador Thompson believes, are avoiding any show of impatience or pessimism over the outlook for successful negotiations. He notes that both the press and official contacts are registering awareness of the timetable for further four-power consultations designed to achieve agreement on the timing and substance of Berlin negotiations.

NOTES

- A. No significant disturbances occurred in Venezuela yesterday.
- B. Its fumbling behavior in the Dominican crisis is beginning to cost the National Civic Union some of its support. The lost following seems, however, to be gravitating as much toward other moderate groups as toward the extremists.
- C. One Soviet arms shipment reached Alexandria last week and others are believed to be enroute now under the sizeable Soviet-Egyptian arms deal [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- D. The Austrians say that the first Soviet reaction to their announcement that they are seeking Common Market ties was "mild." They still expect to be treated to heavy pressure.
- E. Latest returns from Australian election shows Menzies may have only 61 out of 122 seats. A third cabinet minister has been defeated.
- F. The Chinese Nationalists are threatening a Security Council veto of Tanganyika's admission to the UN because of Tanganyika's avowed support for Peiping. President Nyerere has turned down a formula under which Taipei would not veto Tanganyika if the latter would not vote against the Nationalists for 2 years.

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--13 December 1961

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

BERLIN: There are indications the Communists will continue their pressure on the Western position in Berlin, including measures designed to harass and restrict Western access and to gain acceptance of the Berlin wall as an international border. However, their present military activity does not suggest that they expect these measures will significantly raise the risk of an early serious military confrontation.

LAOS: An early political solution is not likely. In the event that negotiations are not held or fail ultimately to reach an agreement, an increase in military operations appears likely.

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SOUTH VIETNAM: Viet Cong subversive and military activity continues at a high rate with no markedly successful counter-actions by government forces.

INDONESIA: Disappointed by the UN's failure to recommend a "satisfactory" solution to the West New Guinea problem, Sukarno appears to be taking an increasingly belligerent attitude; has stated that his own time for action is running out; and has made a highly advertised promise to issue some command regarding West New Guinea on 19 December. On the other hand, Indonesian tactics have long been to threaten military action for purposes of exerting diplomatic pressures, meanwhile continuing the military buildup.

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