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PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--23 December 1961

1. CONGO:

A. TSHOMBE'S POSITION HAS HARDENED FURTHER SINCE HE RETURNED SAFELY TO ELISABETHVILLE. HE CLAIMS THAT HE AND ADOULA HAD ACCEPTED THE "LOI FUNDAMENTALE" DRAFTED BY THE BELGIANS, WHICH MAKES KATANGA A PROVINCE OF THE CONGO, WHEN AMBASSADOR GULLION--CAST AS VILLAIN--PRODUCED A NEW SET OF DEMANDS AND "BRUTALLY WARNED TSHOMBE HE HAD A CHOICE TO ACCEPT THIS PROTOCOL OR ELSE THE US WOULD GIVE THE UN EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO CRUSH KATANGA." HE SAYS HE NEVER HAD AUTHORITY FROM HIS CABINET TO ACCEPT SUCH AN AGREEMENT. (GULLION REPORTS THAT MIDWAY IN THE KITONA MEETING WHEN THINGS WERE GOING WELL TSHOMBE SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED HE HAD NO POWER TO NEGOTIATE. FROM THIS POINT THE TALKS BECAME EXTREMELY BITTER, AND WERE FINALLY SAVED FROM BREAKDOWN WHEN TSHOMBE WAS ALLOWED TO INCLUDE IN A LETTER TO THE UN TRANSMITTING THE AGREEMENT A REFERENCE TO CONSULTATION WITH THE KATANGA GOVERNMENT.)

B. TSHOMBE'S CABINET NOW SAYS IT HAS NO AUTHORITY EITHER, AND MUST REFER TO THE KATANGAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE ASSEMBLY, IT CLAIMS, HAS BEEN SCATTERED BY THE FIGHTING IN ELISABETHVILLE AND IT WILL TAKE A WEEK OR TEN DAYS TO RECONVENE IT. TSHOMBE'S DIE-HARD MINISTERS HAVE ASKED THAT THE UN CONTINUE THE CEASE FIRE WHILE THIS TAKES PLACE, GUARANTEE SAFE TRAVEL TO ELISABETHVILLE FOR ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, AND GUARANTEE

[REDACTED]

SECURITY OF THE ASSEMBLY WHILE IT MEETS. NO RESPONSE TO THESE DEMANDS HAS BEEN REPORTED YET. WE SUSPECT THE UN WILL BALK AT ASSISTING TSHOMBE IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY ANOTHER EVASIVE MANEUVER. IN ANY CASE, WE DOUBT THAT THE SITUATION IN ELISABETHVILLE CAN BE FROZEN FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS LONGER. [REDACTED]

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C. THERE ARE A FEW POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS TO NOTE, HOWEVER. TSHOMBE HAS FOR THE MOMENT ACCEPTED KATANGA'S PROVINCIAL STATUS UNDER THE "LOI FUNDAMENTALE" AND HAS NOT PERSONALLY GONE BEYOND HIS ACCUSATIONS OF DURESS TO REPUDIATE FINALLY THE KITONA AGREEMENT. FURTHERMORE, [REDACTED] THE KATANGAN GOVERNMENT HAS SPLIT OVER THE AGREEMENT, WITH A SIZABLE FACTION URGING ACCEPTANCE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY "FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AT LEAST."

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D. INITIAL SOVIET REACTION TO KITONA WAS CAUTIOUS, BUT ZORIN IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY ACCUSED GULLION OF "SAVING" TSHOMBE.

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2. PRESENT LINE-UP FOR OAS MEETING NEXT MONTH: IT APPEARS TO US THAT:

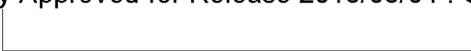
A. NINE (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU) WOULD LIKE TO STIFFEN THE ORIGINAL COLOMBIAN PLAN TO "INVITE" CUBA TO BREAK ITS TIES WITH THE BLOC.

B. THREE (HAITI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, VENEZUELA) HAVE NOT COMMITTED THEMSELVES BUT WILL PROBABLY ALSO AGREE TO STRENGTHENING THE PROPOSAL.

C. SIX (ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, ECUADOR, URUGUAY)--ALSO UNCOMMITTED--ARE LIKELY TO OPPOSE STRENGTHENING, BUT SOME ARE PROBABLY NOW WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE ORIGINAL PLAN. FRONDIZI IN PARTICULAR IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM HIS MILITARY TO TAKE A STRONGER LINE AGAINST CUBA.

D. TWO (CUBA, MEXICO) WILL BE OPPOSED. A SPECIAL CUBAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IS OUT VISITING VARIOUS CAPITALS IN AN ATTEMPT TO STIFFEN RESISTENCE TO OAS ACTION.

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4. INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES TO MEET IN NIGERIA ON

22 JANUARY: THE CONFERENCE IS A FOLLOW-UP ON THE MONROVIA CONFERENCE LAST MAY, AND WILL DEAL WITH BROAD PROPOSALS FOR INTER- AFRICAN COOPERATION. THE FIVE "CASABLANCA" RADICAL STATES, UNEASY OVER THEIR ISOLATION FROM THE 20 "MONROVIA" MODERATE STATES, NOW PLAN TO ATTEND. THEY APPARENTLY WANT TO TURN IT INTO A "PREPARATORY MEETING" FOR THE PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR TUNIS IN APRIL, WHICH THEY HAVE MORE HOPE OF DOMINATING.

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[REDACTED]

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5. VIETNAM:

A. NORTH VIETNAM IS SHOWING SIGNS OF CONCERN OVER GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES--SUPPORTED BY SOUTH VIETNAM--AMONG ETHNIC MINORITIES ALONG ITS WESTERN BORDER.

B. A JOINT US-SOUTH VIETNAMESE RADIO DIRECTION-FINDING TEAM WAS AMBUSHED BY THE VIET CONG YESTERDAY. THE TEAM CONTAINED ONE US SERGEANT, WHO WAS KILLED.

C. SOUTH VIETNAM IS DISCUSSING WITH SOUTH KOREA THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SOME FORM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, APPARENTLY IN THE TRAINING FIELD.

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6. INDONESIA-NETHERLANDS: SUKARNO'S WAR OF NERVES ON WEST
NEW GUINEA CONTINUES TO BUILD UP. AS WITH THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN
AGAINST GOA, IT APPEARS TO BE ACQUIRING A LOGIC OF ITS OWN,

[REDACTED]

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DUTCH PARLIAMENT IS TO DEBATE NEW GUINEA POLICY ON 2 JANUARY,
AFTER WHICH THE HAGUE WILL PROBABLY LOOK FOR A WAY TO ENTER
BILATERAL TALKS. WE THINK THIS PACE MAY BE A BIT SLOW FOR SUKARNO.

[REDACTED]

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7. DEVELOPMENTS IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE:

A. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND SOVIETS COLLIDED HEAD-ON AT THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL MEETING IN STOCKHOLM LAST WEEK, WITH THE FORMER DEMANDING IN BITTER POLEMICS THAT "REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE" NOT BE SUBORDINATED TO DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

B. THOMPSON REPORTS PRAVDA USING THE WORD "NEGATIVE" TO DESCRIBE THE CHINESE--THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE EVER USED IN PUBLIC BY THE SOVIETS AGAINST PEIPING.

C. HE ALSO REPORTS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CHINESE ADMISSION TO THE UN WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC IN DECEMBER THAN IT HAD BEEN WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED.

[REDACTED]

8. NOTES:

A. NKRUMAH HAS MADE HIS SPEECH ON THE VOLTA RIVER PROJECT. A SUMMARY BROADCAST BY ACCRA RADIO APPEARS MORE FAVORABLE TO THE US THAN THE PRELIMINARY TEXT FURNISHED TO OUR EMBASSY.

B. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE SOVIET CONSCRIPTS RETAINED BEYOND THEIR NORMAL TERM OF SERVICE WILL BE RELEASED SOON.

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