

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

5 FEB. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Efforts to arrange a cease-fire at Nam Tha have so far been fruitless. Souvanna and Souphannouvong are demanding that Phoumi's military representatives must come to them in the Plaine des Jarres and put an agreement in writing before a cease-fire can take place, the latter a condition which Phoumi has so far refused to accept.

b. Despite Souvanna's disavowal of intent to take Nam Tha, rebel forces are poised to do just that. A message from his headquarters to field forces on Saturday said, "You are to join up with the Pathet Lao in attacking Nam Tha and surrounding area...we shall bring military pressure to bear to precipitate the princely meeting at Luang Prabang." Orders have also gone out for attacks on Phoumi forces at other points. [redacted]

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c. Phoumi has, meanwhile, reinforced his garrison at Nam Tha contrary to our advice.

d. Thompson's representations in Moscow have not developed any explicit assurances from the Soviets on the use of their influence in the situation.

2. Indonesia

a. The Indonesian government has expressed regret over this morning's attack on our embassy in Djakarta by a rock-throwing mob of about 100, and has sent a squad of soldiers to the spot to control the crowd which is still milling around the building. The demonstration, protesting against our granting of overflight rights for Dutch troops, was Communist-instigated. Ambassador Jones believes that the Communists hope to get us to cancel the Attorney General's visit.

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3. Argentina

Although it has been officially denied in Buenos Aires, there are good indications that the Argentine military leaders did, in fact, extract a signed promise from Frondizi during their Friday meeting that he would break with Cuba by February 10. How they took his subsequent speech justifying his stand at Punta del Este is not certain; they have scheduled a meeting on that subject for today. In any case, they remain suspicious of Frondizi's good faith and the episode will stay open until he carries through.

4. Left and right squaring off in Ecuador

The possibility of a preemptive move by the leftists in anticipation of Arosemena's overthrow by the military is growing. The military, still determined to force Arosemena to move away from the left or get out, are, however, delaying action because of indecision on whether they should try to arrange a constitutional succession to Arosemena, in the person of Vice President Varea, or set up an interim military junta.

NOTES

- A. Principal Soviet commentator on the Berlin crisis writes in Izvestia that the Thompson-Gromyko talks are futile and that Moscow should now dicker directly with Bonn.
 - B. AS Ambassador Merchant sees it, Punta del Este has produced this reaction in Canada: support for our policy toward Cuba has dwindled even further; Ottawa is more chary than ever about association with the OAS.
 - C. Tshombé has made a new proposal to UN representatives in the Congo on the mercenary question. He now suggests that the UN and Katanga establish two joint civilian-military commissions to see that all mercenaries are ousted, again with a one-month time limit. 50X1
 - D. A fairly important policy conference of some kind is in progress in Hanoi. A number of North Vietnamese Ambassadors--including, it appears, those to Moscow and Peiping--have been called home to take part, and we would expect the Sino-Soviet issue, on which Hanoi has shaded toward Peiping, to figure on the agenda, along with the situation in Southeast Asia. 50X1
 - E. Salazar, in a bitterly anti-American mood, intends to put a high price tag on renewal of the Azores base agreement.
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H. MIG jets seem to be the major item in the new Soviet-Finnish military agreement [Redacted] The Finns may also get some anti-aircraft missiles [Redacted]

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE