

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



5 APR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. West New Guinea

a. Sukarno yesterday gave Jones assurance of a temporary moratorium on inflammatory words and deeds.

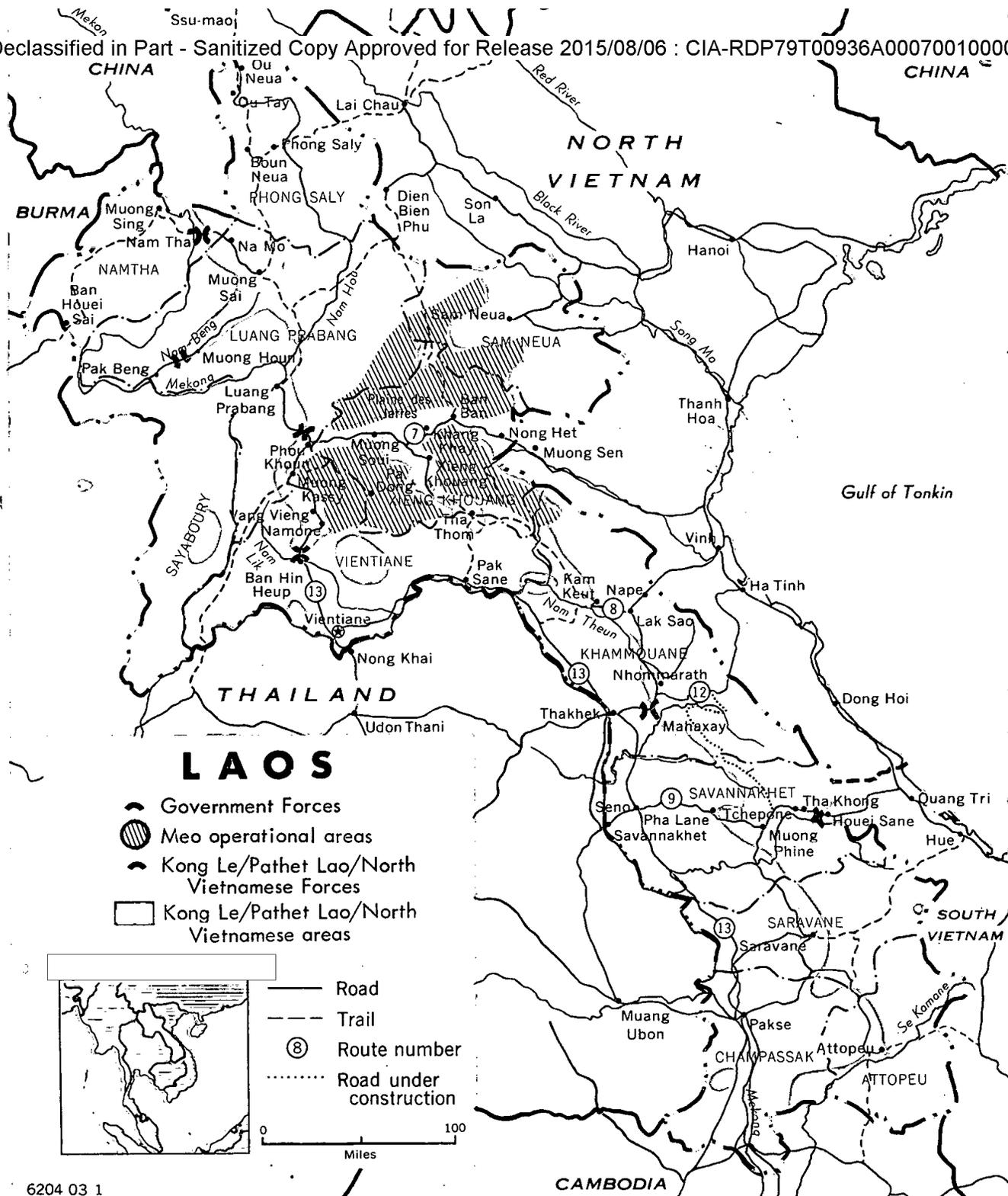
b. The Hague has reacted bitterly to the Bunker formula, accusing the US of appeasement.

c. Both De Quay and Luns stated publicly yesterday that the Dutch would not agree to a transfer of sovereignty to the Indonesians in advance of a local plebiscite.

2. Syria

a. Aleppo is again under nominal Damascus control following the withdrawal from the city of the elements which staged last Sunday's seizure.

b. The weak seams in the settlement are still showing, however, with the stresses particularly evident within the military command in Damascus. Yesterday, tanks were drawn up and sand bags were erected around army headquarters there.



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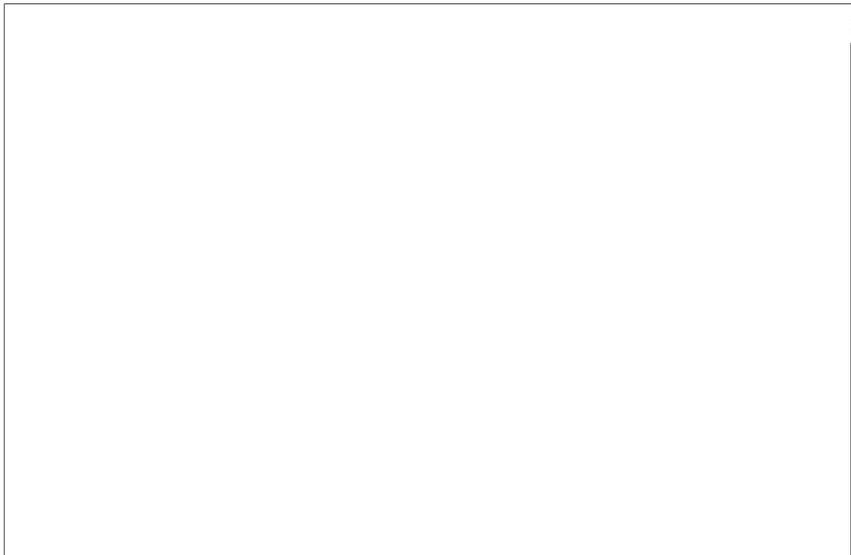
3. Laos

a. Government forces at the town of Muong Houn, west of Luang Prabang, are under heavy pressure from rebel elements and there are indications that they have begun to pull out. This looks like the first follow-up on Souphannouvong's recent threat to re-occupy several areas which he claims to have controlled at the time of the May 1961 cease fire. 50X1



c. Souphannouvong has admitted  that there are two companies of Chinese Communist army engineers in Phong Saly province besides the Chinese laborers working on the road there. 50X1

4. Congo



b. Relations between the UN forces and the Katangas remain uneasy. 50X1

5. Moscow floats new test inspection scheme

It has suggested indirectly [redacted] that [redacted] 50X1
it might accept a system allowing for on-site inspections of unidentified events on either side by representatives of the non-aligned countries. With an eye on our test resumption, the Soviets may be able through this kind of device to convince some of the non-aligned countries at Geneva that they are willing to compromise on the international vs. national inspection issue without committing themselves to anything formally. [redacted] 50X1

6. EEC developments

- a. Chances for progress in filling a major gap in the EEC's development--conflicting national policies on energy resources--are rated good. A conference on the problem is now under way in Rome amidst signs that the spur of US and other non-EEC competition may bring a compromise arrangement aimed at reconciling the interests of coal-producing, oil-marketing and fuel-importing members.
- b. The Community cleared another difficult hurdle yesterday when the 6 agriculture ministers signed into effect the agricultural agreement worked out late last year.

NOTES

- A. About the only issue in the upcoming French referendum is whether De Gaulle will succeed, as he intends, in representing a heavy favorable vote as across-the-board approval of his policies. The non-Gaullist parties are concentrating their efforts on diluting this impression before-hand.
- B. There is a move afoot among various neutralist delegations to develop support for a special UN General Assembly session on the question of test resumption.
- C.
- D.
- E. The Ecuadorian government is still looking for some student/leftist reaction to the break with Cuba but has so far encountered no difficulties. Castro tried to stir things up in a speech in the late hours yesterday in which he brands Arosemena a puppet and a drunk.
- F. The King of Nepal, professing awareness of the Chinese Communist danger, says he would welcome our advice on dealing with it and that he may soon ask the US for modern arms and ammunition. He is likely to take a similar line with the Indians during his upcoming state visit.
- G. The creation of a provisional Angolan government under Holden Roberto has just been announced in Leopoldville. The move had been expected as a means of stemming recent gains by the Communist wing of the rebel movement.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--4 April 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

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

BERLIN: The focus of continuing Soviet harassing and probing tactics against the Allied presence in Berlin may be shifting temporarily to Western ground access and military liaison missions. However, bloc military activity in general suggests that the Communists do not intend their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

LAOS: It is unlikely that either side will initiate a major offensive in the immediate future. Communist forces, however, are likely to initiate local actions to strengthen their military position.

SOUTH VIETNAM: Government forces are waging increasingly aggressive antiguerrilla operations. The Viet Cong, however, generally continue to avoid superior forces and to concentrate upon attacks which they believe are likely to succeed.

INDONESIA: Indonesian infiltration of West New Guinea territory is likely to continue. Naval and air incidents will increase as the Dutch patrol capabilities are enhanced by reinforcements.

MIDDLE EAST: The situation in the Middle East remains precarious, but the Syrian crisis has reached a stage--for the moment at least--which reduces the likelihood of early intervention by Egypt, Jordan, or Israel. However, Israeli-Syrian clashes in the Lake Tiberias area are likely to continue.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

[Redacted]

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II.

[Redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE