

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

9 SEPTEMBER 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. A flurry of gunfire erupted in Vientiane early this morning (last night Washington time) following a Pathet Lao attempt against Col Bounleut, Phoumi's chief military aide.

b. By tossing grenades into his yard, they presumably hoped to provoke rightist forces into action which would allow the Communists to claim Phoumi was trying to take over.

c. Phoumi's troops moved quickly to surround the billets of the small Pathet Lao detachment in town. Vientiane is now quiet but tense and heavily patrolled.

d. As is often the case in Laos, the only known casualties were a couple of innocent bystanders.

e. Souvanna, unshaken by this most recent evidence of factional tension, still plans to leave on an extended visit to France and the US.

2. South Vietnam

a. The Diem/Nhu government is letting it be known that a shakeup is in the offing and that acting chief of staff Gen. Tran Van Don is slated for a "key" post as assistant Defense Secretary.

b. The ostensible purpose may be to placate us and some dissatisfied elements in the military, but it appears that most of the changes, if made, will actually be in the direction of assuring unquestioned loyalty to the regime.

c. Although some students have been released, more were rounded up again today following another demonstration, and the promised early end to martial law is still not in sight.

3. Malaysia

a. The Malaysia scheme is perilously close to the rocks as it enters the final week before its formal adoption. Internal bickering is running high.

b. Everyone seems to be fighting Sukarno's battles for him, with Singapore's Lee threatening to stay out, Rahman threatening to keep him out, and Sarawak showing the "audacity" to demand a local candidate instead of a Malay for governor.

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4. Cuba

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5. South Korea

a. Kim Chae-chun, former security chief and founder of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, suddenly left the country on Saturday in at least temporary exile.

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b. His action follows a series of meetings with junta leaders during which we assume they "talked to him" about his avowed intention to fight the Kim Chong-pil faction "to the death."

(Cont'd)

c. Kim, on leaving, completely disavowed his party and its candidate for president, Song Yo-chan, who is currently under arrest.

d. Neither Kim, Song, nor the Liberal Democratic party ever held much promise, but the junta apparently feels compelled to make absolutely certain that next month's elections are in the bag.

NOTE

Communist China - USSR

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