

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

4 DECEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. Iraq

a. Sharp competition for power is hampering the new regime which seized power on 18 November.

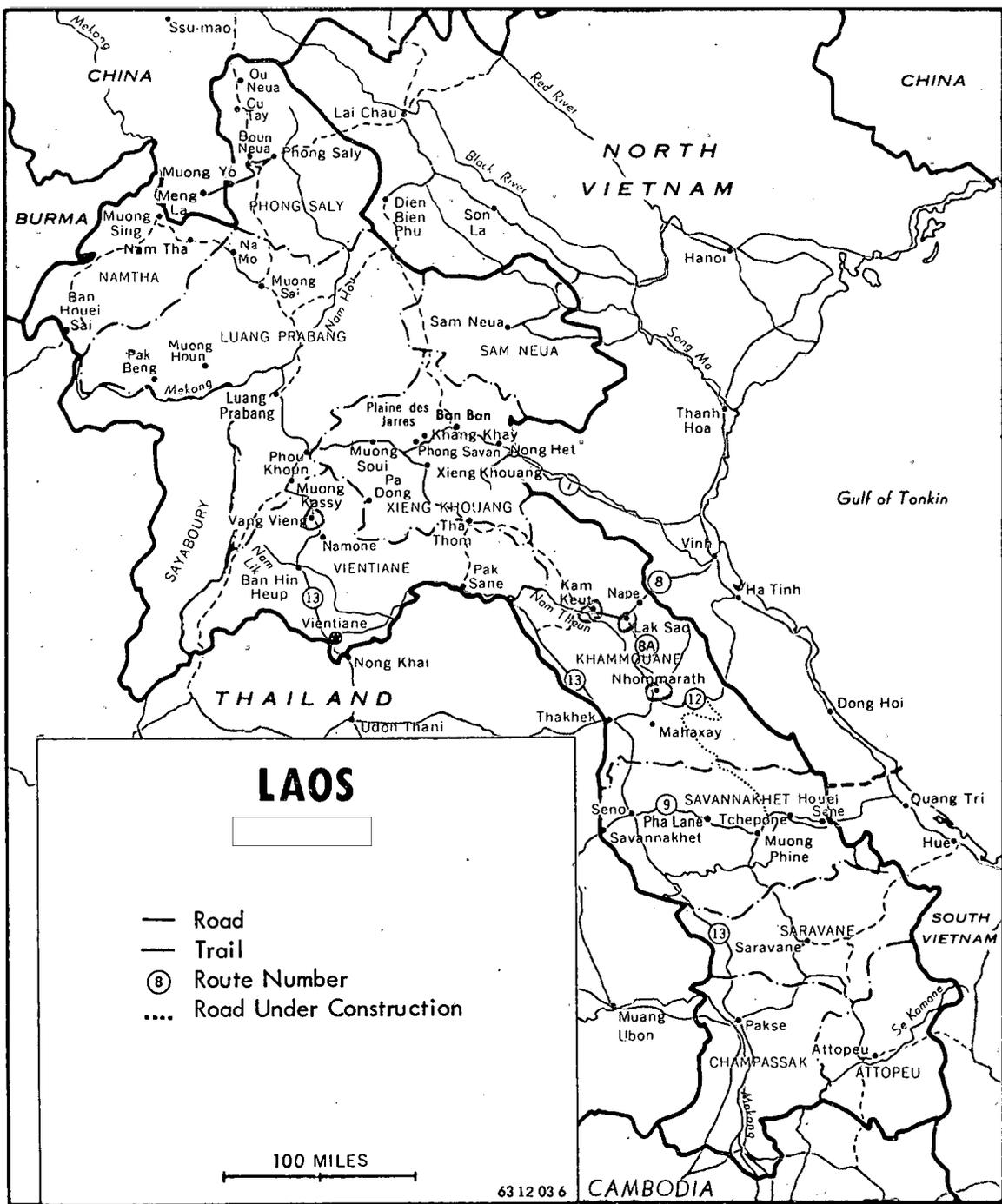
b. Anti-Baathist army officers are still unhappy over the role that Baathists play in the regime. A non-Baathist faction in the government is pressing for reduction of the party's influence and for the arrest and trial of leaders of the extremist faction.

c. Probably as a result of this pressure, Baathists are being eliminated from key positions in the intelligence and security services, a new army deputy chief of staff has been appointed, and a number of army officers retired.

d. There has also been some reshuffling of troops to put those units not under Baath influence where they can intervene in Baghdad.

e. On the other hand, Baathists in the government, headed by Defense Minister Hardan Tikriti and Vice President Bakr, are pressing for gradual resumption of Baathist control and for continuation of the party's policies. Tikriti is also said to be protecting arrested Baathists.

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f. President Arif and Premier Tahir Yahya are trying to maintain a neutral position. Yahya believes that the present situation may eventually lead to yet another coup.

2. Laos

a. Right-wing and neutralist forces continue clearing operations.

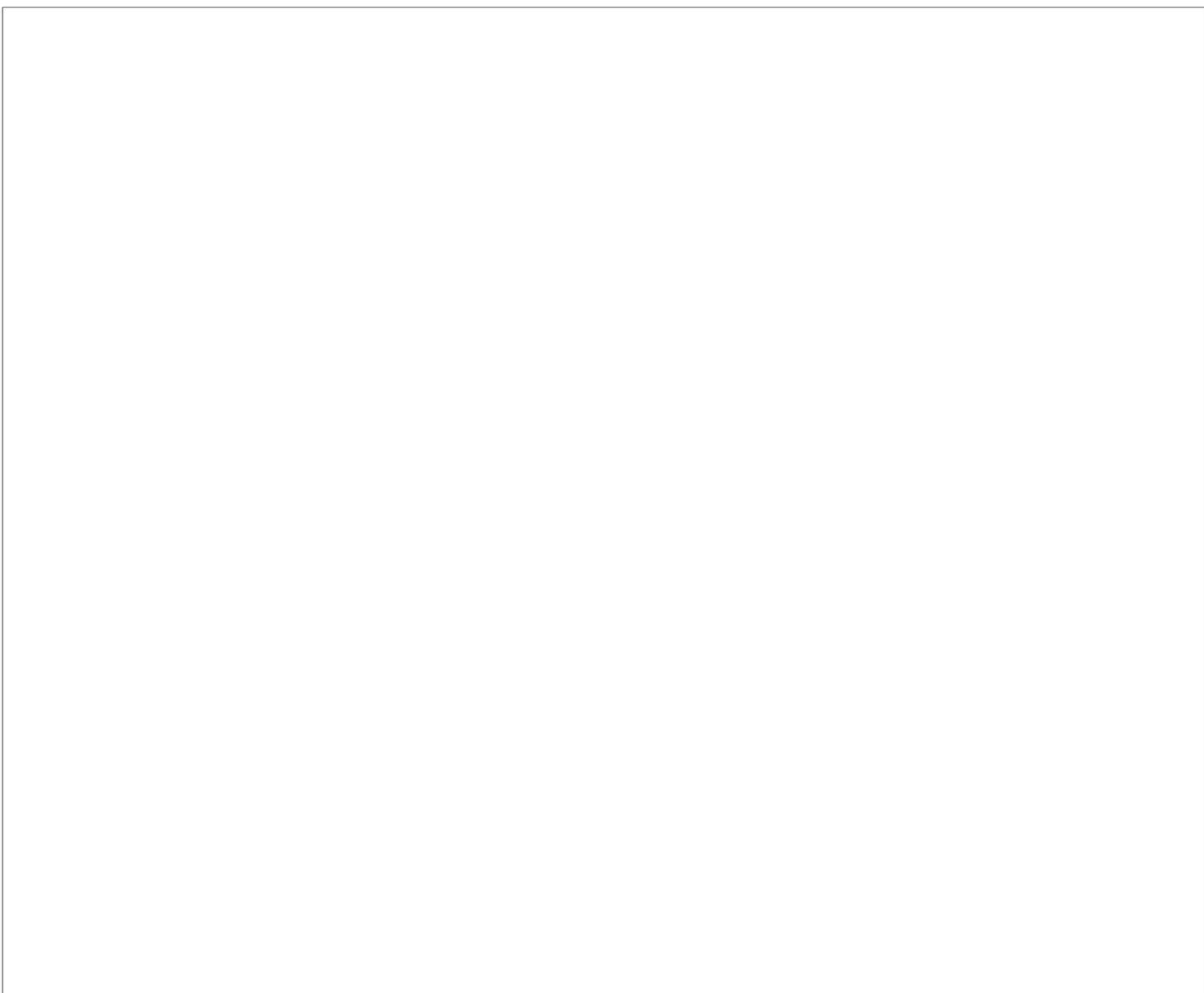
b. North of Vientiane, the neutralist forces which last week captured Vang Vieng have moved about 16 miles farther north along strategic Route 13.

c. In central Laos, regular army troops have captured Kam Keut, at the western end of Route 8, a village which has been a Pathet Lao strong point since early 1961. They have also advanced toward Lak Sao, a depot on the Communist supply route to the Nhommarath region.

d. The Communists have not yet reacted but, going by past practice, we would expect them to counter-attack shortly.

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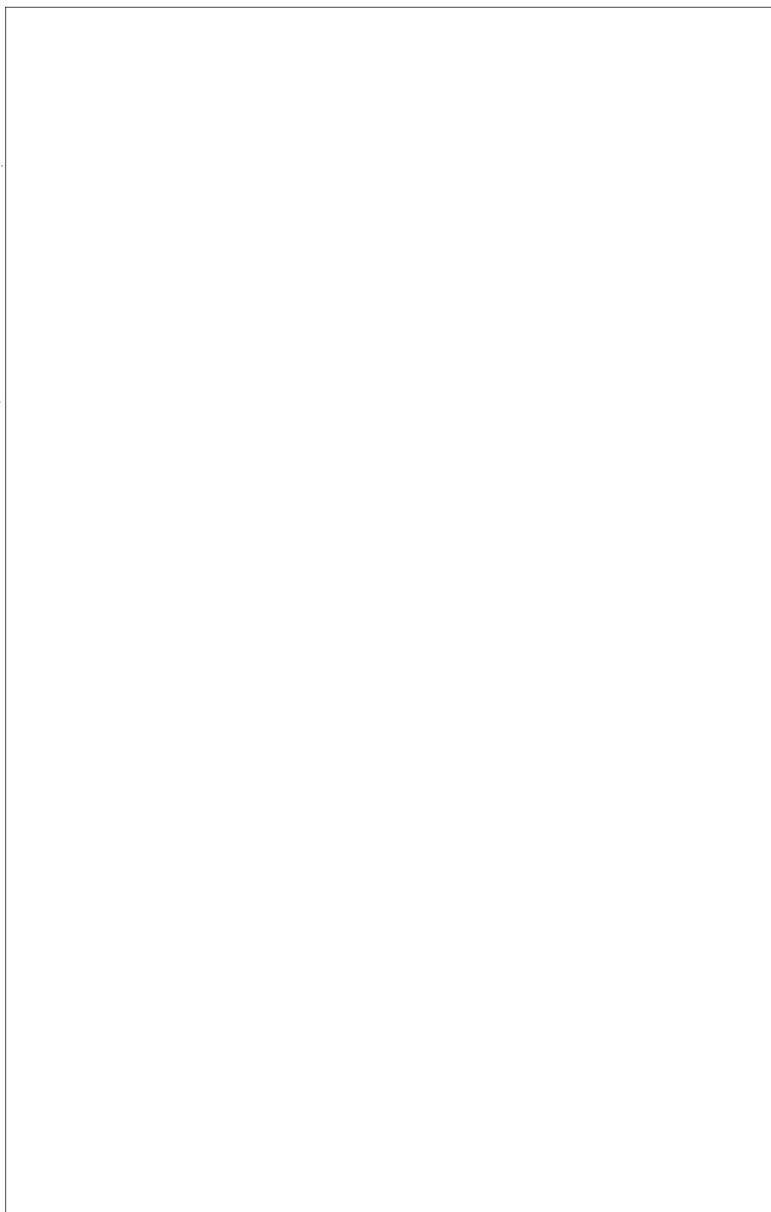
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3. USSR

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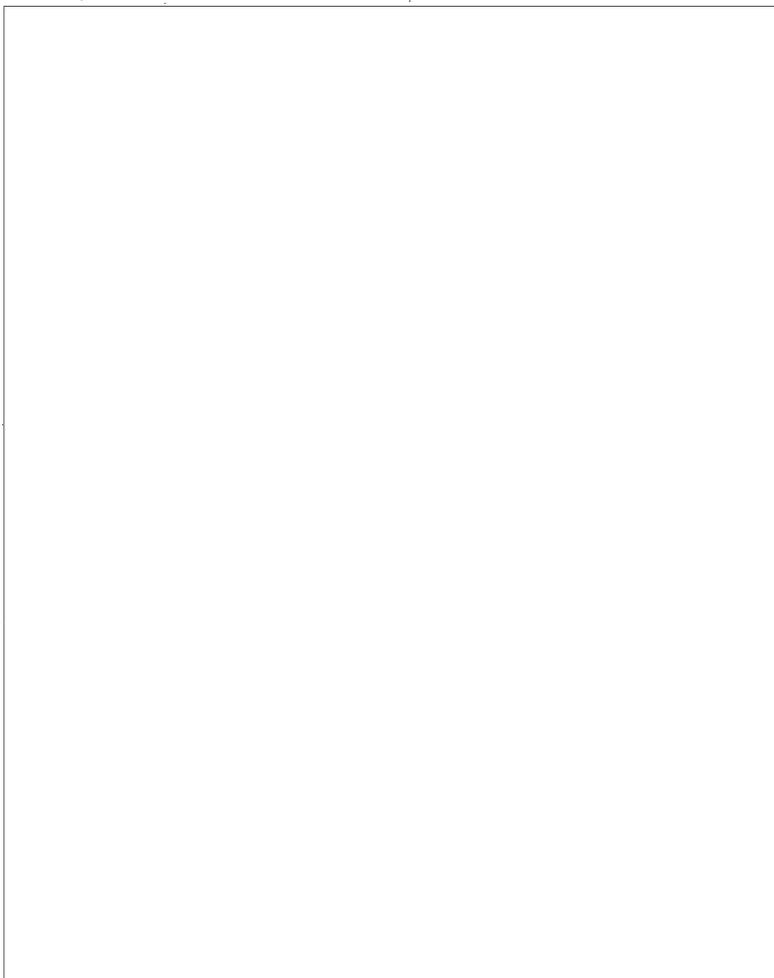
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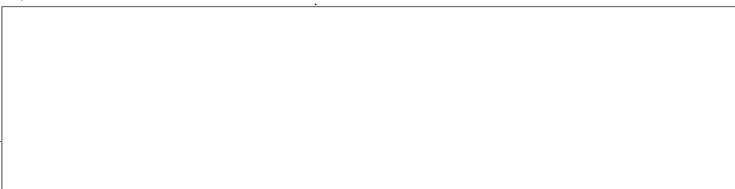
4. French Nuclear Tests

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5. Chinese Nationalists - Burma

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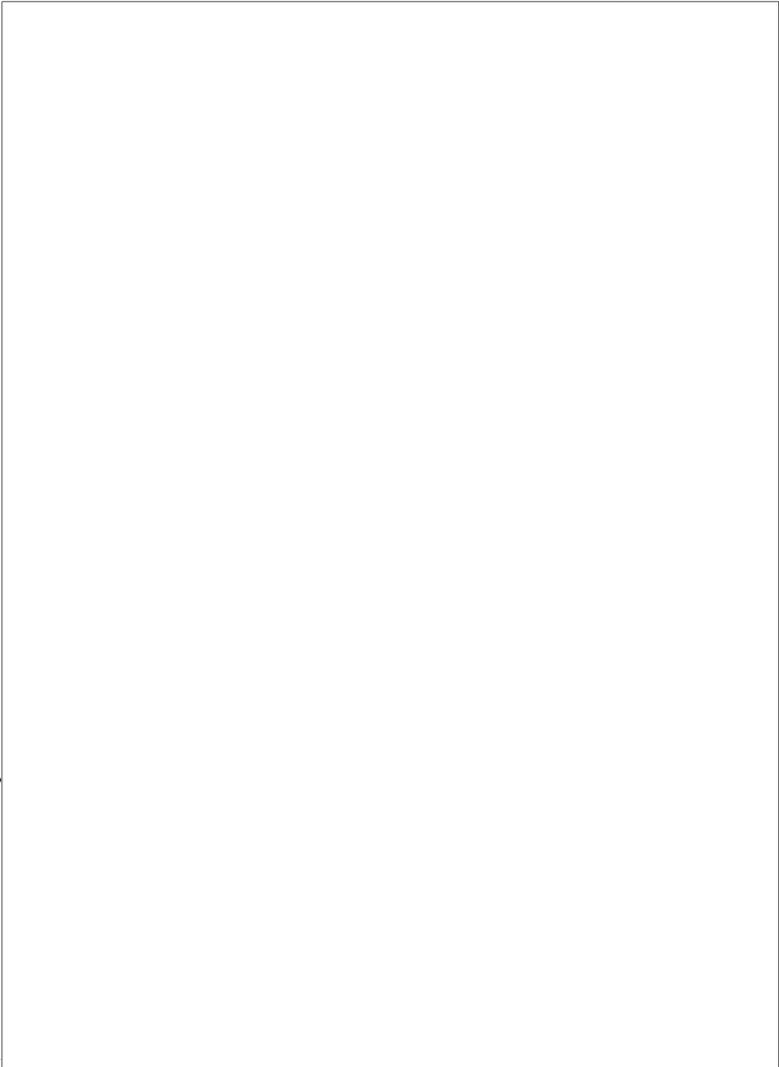


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6. Communist
China

a. Communist China's annual parliamentary session ended yesterday on the same cautious and defensive note that has characterized all Chinese public statements this fall.

b. A press communiqué repeated a two-year-old claim that the economy "has begun to take an all-around turn for the better," insisted that China's policy of relying on its own efforts has proved successful, and asserted that China has won "tremendous successes" in international affairs.

c. The evidence cited to support these claims is vague and unconvincing.

d. An interesting sidelight on this is [redacted] that political indoctrination campaigns are disrupting government operations and causing production delays in some Chinese provinces.

e. In southeast China, for example, output of a chemical plant suffered because workers and bosses alike were tied up in political indoctrination. In Canton, a province-wide diphtheria prevention campaign went understaffed for the same reason. Similar problems were reported in Inner Mongolia.

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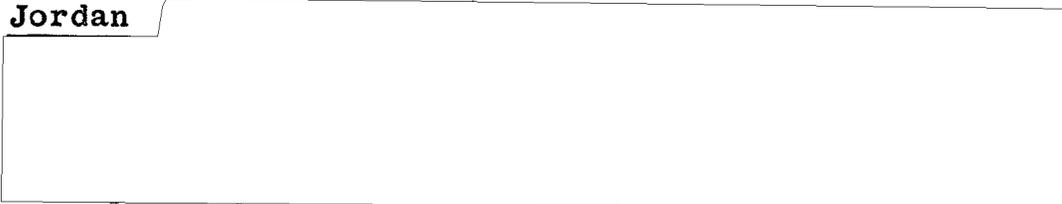
f. the authorities are aware of the disruptive effects of such political drives. The fact that they continue without letup is a measure of the regime's concern over public apathy.

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NOTES

A. Venezuela A Time-Life correspondent was taken by the FALN to see Colonel Chenault Monday evening. The newsman, who was blindfolded en route, reported that Chenault said he was being well treated. The reporter took some photographs and has since left the country to file a story.

B. Jordan



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C. Egypt-Yemen Approximately 1,200 Egyptian troops left Yemen last Wednesday. This is the first sizable movement of troops out of Yemen since late October, when Nasir stated he would attempt to withdraw 5,000 by January. If no replacements are sent for these troops, Egyptian strength in Yemen would be reduced to slightly over 31,000.

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D. Indonesia For the last three weeks a clandestine radio station calling itself the "Voice of Free Indonesia" and believed to be located in West Java has been broadcasting antigovernment propaganda several hours nightly. Our embassy reports that such attacks are bound to nettle Sukarno, who would be quick to suspect US involvement in view of Sihanouk's recent charges along this line.

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