

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

**ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**7 JANUARY 1964**  
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Yesterday's reorganization of the Vietnamese top military command ought to improve the government's military effectiveness against the Viet Cong.

b. Junta leader General Minh remains supreme armed forces commander. General Tran Van Don becomes commander in chief of the armed forces while remaining defense minister.

c. General Le Van Kim, the third member of the junta's inner leadership, becomes chief of the Joint General Staff under General Don.

d. Other shifts seem designed to neutralize generals suspected by the junta of having political ambitions. General Dinh, the security minister, has been relieved of command of the strategic Third Corps which encircles Saigon.

e. The reorganization makes the Joint General Staff the operational high command of the armed forces. This should result in a clear chain of command which has been notably lacking in the past.

## 2. Cyprus

a. Turkey and Greece are attempting to set back the date of the proposed quadripartite conference on Cyprus for at least a few days.

b. Both countries have told the UK that 10 January is too early and have suggested a preconference meeting of the foreign ministers of the three guarantor powers.

c. Makarios has accepted a proposal for a UN observer on Cyprus. The UK representative at the UN favors Ralph Bunche for this job.

d. Tension rose on the island yesterday following two incidents. Five Turkish journalists were detained by the Greeks and five Greek post office workers were held by the Turks.

[Redacted]

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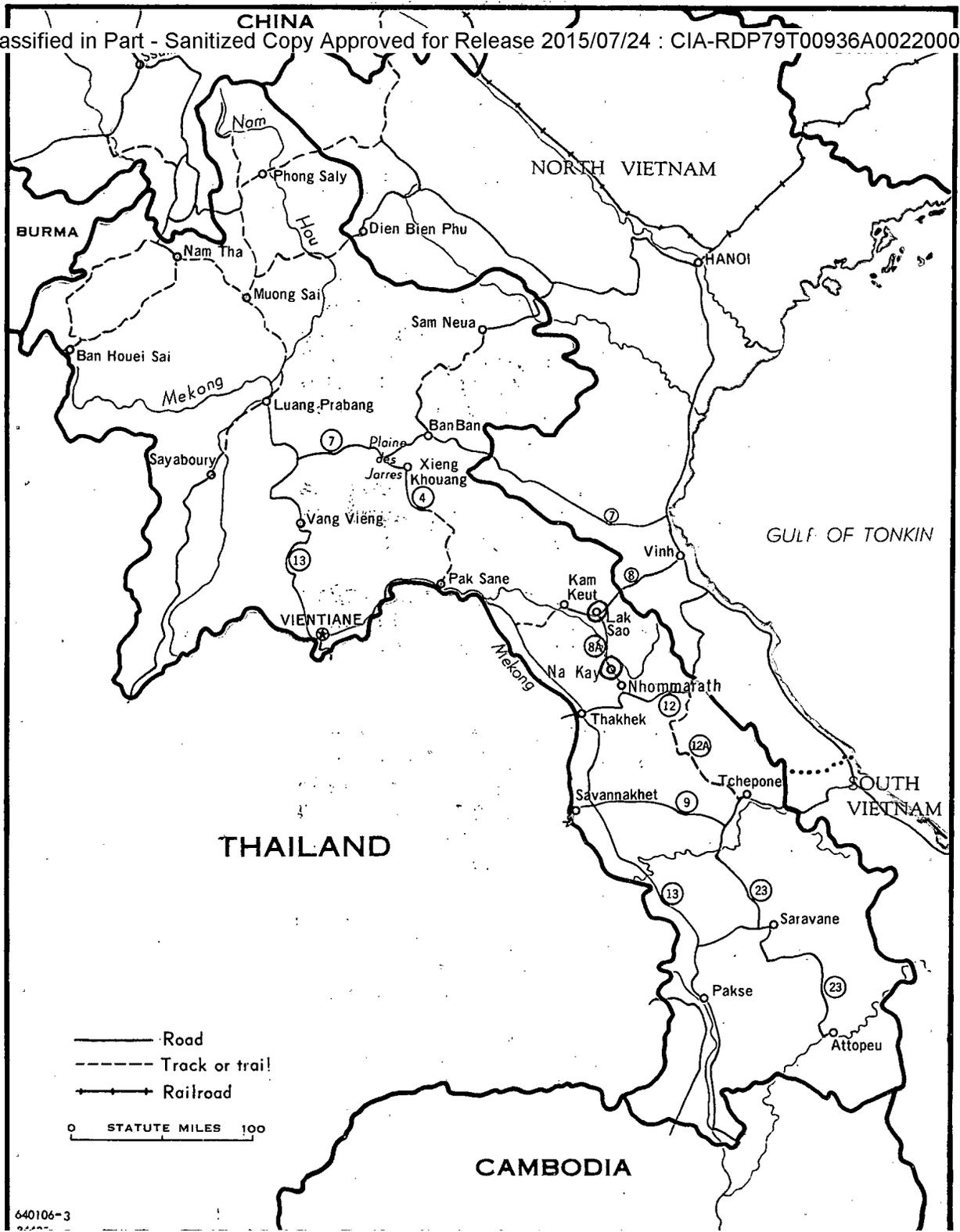
## 3. Iraq

a. [Redacted] plotting by Iraqi opposition groups against President Arif and his regime.

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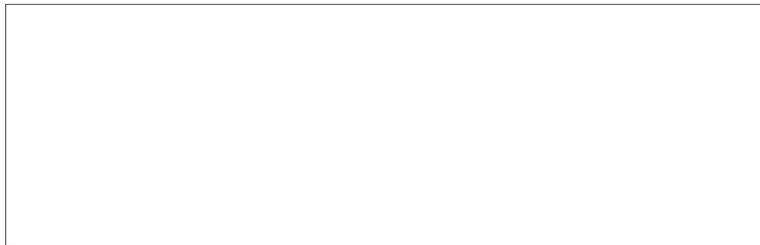
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c. Although we do not rule out the possibility of an assassination attempt against Arif, the President seems well aware of the plotting [redacted]

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#### 4. Laos

a. Communist forces are continuing to press neutralist and right-wing forces in central Laos.

b. Their object seems to be to gain full control over Route 8-A, an important north-south supply link.

c. In recent weeks, some Communist forces have moved south from Lak Sao, while other elements are now positioned only four miles south of Na Kay. This town is the most important position held by the non-Communists on Route 8-A.

c. Neutralist forces defending the Na Kay plateau region would probably be unable to hold their positions against a determined Communist offensive.

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NOTES

A. Cuba-UK Havana radio reports that the Cuban Foreign Commerce Agency and Leyland Motors Ltd. of Great Britain have signed a \$10 million agreement for the delivery of 400 buses and spare parts on a five-year credit basis.

B. USSR-Egypt Khrushchev's trip to Egypt has been postponed indefinitely

[Redacted]

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C. Guatemala Army patrols continue to skirmish with guerrillas in the mountains near Guatemala's Caribbean coast. Cuban broadcasts praise the Guatemalan guerrillas as the spearhead of opposition to the Peralta regime.

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D. Cambodia-France The French radio says Prince Sihanouk is expected to visit Paris in the spring at De Gaulle's invitation.

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