

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

18 AUGUST 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE BERLIN SITUATION

East German officials, party members and police are jubilant over the success of their moves to seal off West Berlin. [redacted]

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[redacted]

West Berliners, whose morale has sagged, feel that failure by the Western powers to counter the recent East German actions will only invite more drastic measures.

Although East German security forces along the sector border have been reduced, probably to give the impression that the situation is normal, riot trucks with water cannon and light armed vehicles are still on duty near the Brandenburg Gate and reserves of two tank platoons and five armored troop carriers remain in the city. Only 386 registered refugees escaped to West Berlin in the first three days following the imposition of controls on 13 August.

[redacted] two of East Germany's 14 districts show a continuing defiant attitude among some elements of the population, scare buying of commodities, and withdrawals from banks.

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The regime's appeal to the 1,700,000 member Free German Youth organization to report this morning to receive a "fighting assignment" is the first step in what appears to be a vigorous campaign to produce "volunteers" for the East German armed forces. Ulbricht is to deliver an address this afternoon (Washington time) over all East Berlin radio and TV stations. [redacted]

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1. French-Algerian relations

Paris may create--possibly in mid-September--a Moslem dominated "provisional Algerian executive" or "interim government" in an effort to break the stalemate over Algeria. De Gaulle must move gingerly on this because of a possible adverse reaction by the French military. The French have reason to believe that such an arrangement would be accepted by the Provisional Algerian Government (PAG). If the composition of the group were not worked out with the PAG, or if its authority did not encompass the Sahara, however, the PAG would be likely to oppose it and to mount terrorist attacks against its members.

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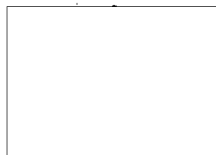
2. Cuba's plans for the forthcoming UN General Assembly

We expect that charges of US aggressive intentions will include a bitter attack on US base rights at Guantanamo. Cuba is planning to submit an explanatory memo stating that "acts of provocation are being undertaken and prepared" at Guantanamo and that such bases are defensive but rather for "offense against the independence of those countries in which they are located." Cuba probably hopes to capitalize on the emotions aroused in the UN during the discussions on Bizerte.

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3. Somali Republic's quest
for arms

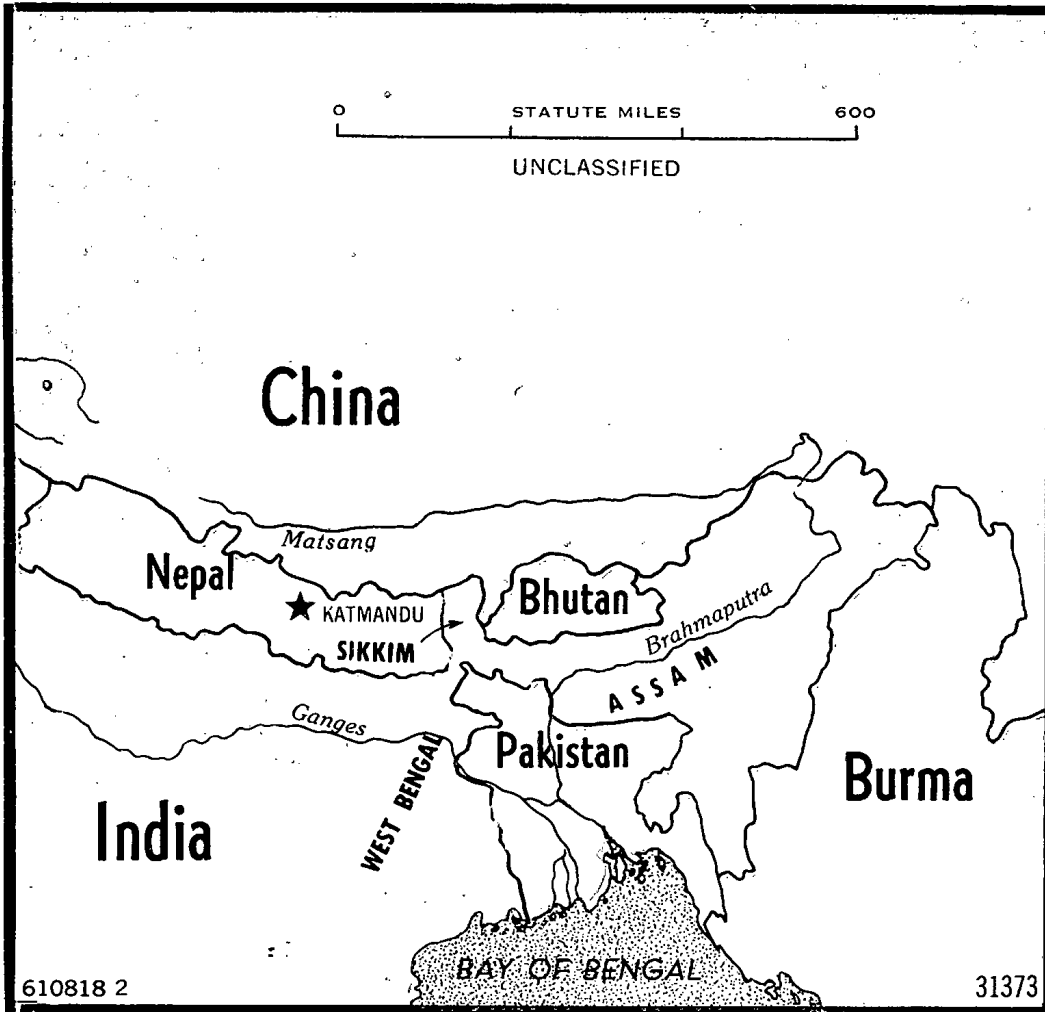


Premier Abdirascid claimed he refused bloc arms during his visit to Moscow and Prague last May but Western diplomats in Mogadiscio think he may soon turn to the bloc for arms aid. Abdirascid apparently feels he needs arms from any source to strengthen his defenses against alleged Ethiopian threats as well as to bolster his own regime at home.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - INDIA BORDER AREA



NOTES

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A. India, spurred by continuing reports (probably exaggerated) of Chinese Communist military activities in the border areas, has established a divisional headquarters just south of Sikkim to improve operational control over units charged with Sikkim's defense. This fall is apparently New Delhi's deadline for plugging holes in the northeastern defenses. (MAP)

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B. Chile's two major copper companies (American owned) may be asked by the government to agree to sell the USSR 60,000 tons of copper annually for the next four years--about ten percent of Chile's total production. The government expects Moscow to pay one half cent per pound above world copper prices.

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C. The Cuban currency conversion of 5 August has rendered penniless the 700 or more Cubans who have sought asylum in Latin American diplomatic missions in Havana. Many of them were paying for their food and saving for their passage out of Cuba when granted safe conduct. Their maintenance costs are now being paid by the hard-pressed missions which granted them asylum.

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D. Iraq is planning to send a delegation to Moscow soon to negotiate a new armaments agreement.

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