

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

24 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. East German officials are concerned with attitudes of populace



[redacted] SED (Communist) party District and County officials [redacted] talk of "hostile activity, rumors, slander against the state, and provocations" and refer to small-scale riots, brawls, and a work slowdown. More vigorous measures to obtain "volunteers" for the East German army are to be tried, apparently because of the failure of the Free German Youth organization's recruiting drive. A new law is under consideration "under which all youths between 18 and 23 are to be forced to enter the army." Party officials are under instruction not to publicize the new law yet. East Germany at present has no universal conscription law. [redacted]

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2. India is attempting to build up its fighter aircraft capabilities

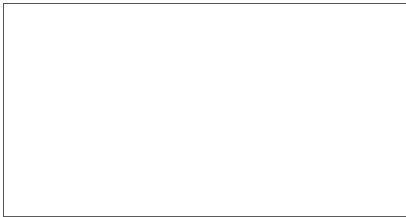


New Delhi has turned down a Soviet offer to sell India MIG-21 jets but is interested in whether Soviet jet engines are suitable for use in the H-24, an Indian-built high performance jet. (Only a prototype H-24 with a British engine has flown to date). India wants to match Pakistan's recently acquired supersonic F-104's with the H-24 if possible. New Delhi is also looking into the chances of acquiring advanced fighters from Britain and France. [redacted]

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3. **Brazil and Communist
China sign economic
agreement**



China has extended credits totalling \$56,000,000. The accord calls for an exchange of Brazilian agricultural products for Chinese chemicals, minerals and manufactured goods. This is the only trade agreement between Communist China and a Latin American country other than Cuba.



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NOTES

A. The East German SED (Communist) party's central committee has criticized a public statement made yesterday by politburo member Albert Norden to the effect that the peace treaty would be signed in December.

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B. East Germany reportedly asked Yugoslavia if an East German mission could attend the forthcoming non-aligned nations conference as an observer in order to explain the East German position on the Berlin problem. The request was turned down.

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D. The Chinese Communist shipbuilding industry has cut production well below 1959 and 1960 levels and the aircraft industry apparently has also suffered since the withdrawal of Soviet technicians a year ago. The absence of Soviet technicians would severely affect production of complex items such as advanced aircraft, but the decline in building relatively simple naval and merchant vessels is attributable to general economic difficulties which are affecting many industrial activities.

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E. Congolese Foreign Minister Bomboko has inquired as to whether the US or the UN could provide financial help to help the Congo government establish diplomatic missions abroad.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSION--23 August 1961

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

BERLIN

There continue to be no indications that a large-scale uprising in East Berlin and East Germany is likely. However, East German forces remain deployed.

There are indications that Czechoslovakia and possibly Poland are making preparations to increase the strength of their armed forces.

LAOS

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[redacted] the USSR will press even more strongly for the formation of a government under Souvanna Phouma during the next few weeks. However, we see no clear indications that the USSR will make significant concessions toward this end. There are indications of preparations by both the Communist and Phoumi forces for increased military operations.

TAIWAN STRAIT

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[redacted] activity of Chinese Communist forces in the general Taiwan Strait area indicates they are in a state of alert. They [redacted] have moved some naval units into the area and may be making preparations for air movements. While some demonstration of force or limited attack against the Offshore Islands cannot be discounted, the measures thus far noted appear largely defensive in nature and could reflect some knowledge of Chinese Nationalist preparations for operations against the mainland. These preparations continue and may be completed for small-scale operations but Chinese Nationalist planning may now be on a contingency basis. [redacted]

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For The President Only—Top Secret