

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



5 DEC. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Congo developments

A. The UN representative in Elizabethville made a public statement this morning that he was in possession of a Katangan "battle plan" for attack on UN forces at "all points," that Katangan troops were moving on the city's airfield, that fighting would begin "at any moment," and that he has handed the situation over to the UN military Command (This means to the Indians, who are spoiling for a fight).

B. The immediate background appears to be a UN decision to bring into Elizabethville by air the units which are scheduled to replace the Swedish and Irish troops now in Katanga. Katanga authorities responded by sending troops into the city, blockading the road to the airport, and threatening to shoot down any UN aircraft over the province.

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C. We had learned prior to these events that Gizenga made a speech on 29 November defying the central government. Adoula describes it as "out-and-out secession" and claims it was ghosted by the Soviets. Adoula told our chargé he plans to demand of the bloc countries with which he has just established relations that they submit to the UN General Assembly the US amendment on "other secessionist action" which the USSR vetoed in the Security Council. If they refuse, Adoula will come to New York himself next week.

D. As of 0830 it appears from press reports that some fighting has begun in Elizabethville

2. Berlin: vehicle harassment continues

Further incidents in East Berlin yesterday were met by detention of Soviet vehicles in West Berlin. The Soviets protested these "unexplained" actions and warned of unspecified counter-measures. They avoided receiving General Watson's reply; he plans to try again today.

3. Laos

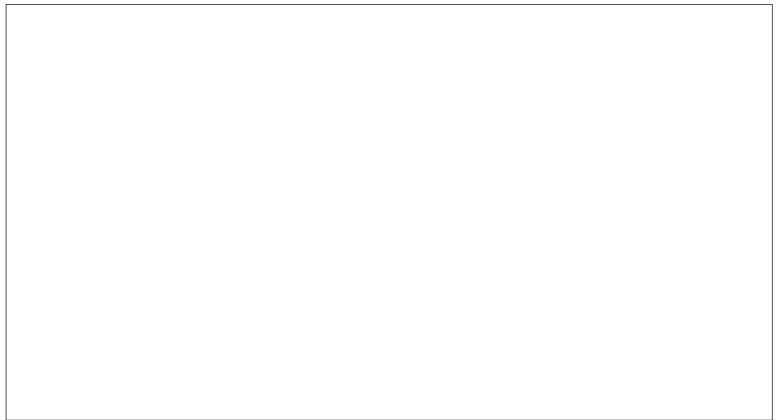
Kong Le's headquarters yesterday ordered its units to halt operations

[REDACTED] the princes are still fencing over terms for a meeting. Brown describes Boun Oum's proposal to go to Xieng Khouang without bodyguards if Souvanna would agree to come to Vientiane equally unguarded as "gamesmanship." He is now convinced that Phoumi is "wholly unrealistic" and "using every device he can think of" to avoid a meeting.

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B. The Vietnamese military will not begin the defoliation program without written authority from the government, which thus far is holding back for fear of adverse political reactions.

NOTES

- A. A session of the USSR Supreme Soviet is scheduled to open tomorrow. The agenda has not been published yet: we think this is the routine session to approve the 1962 budget, but a major Khrushchev speech is not unlikely.
- B. Political negotiations in Santo Domingo are still going on, with another meeting scheduled this morning. There was some strong-arm activity yesterday by elements of the military in an attempt to break the general strike; we have no word on results.

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- D. In a speech to Parliament today, Nehru said Communist China has threatened to send troops from Tibet into Indian-claimed territory.

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