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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--27 DECEMBER 1961

1. [REDACTED] GERMAN TREATY RESCHEDULED:

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A. [REDACTED]

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KHRUSHCHEV REMAINS DETERMINED TO SIGN A TREATY IRRESPECTIVE OF NEGOTIATION RESULTS BUT WILL DELAY UNTIL FEBRUARY OR MARCH TO COMPLETE BEHIND-SCHEDULE MOBILIZATION MEASURES AND TO CARRY OUT ADDITIONAL MILITARY PREPARATIONS NECESSITATED BY THE WEST'S UNEXPECTED STRENGTHENING OF NATO CAPABILITIES. [REDACTED] SOVIET LEADERS WERE BANKING MEANWHILE ON HIGH-LEVEL BERLIN TALKS TO "GAIN TIME" AND JUSTIFY THE PREVIOUS DEADLINE POSTPONEMENT.

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B. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WE THINK KHRUSHCHEV WANTS TO RETAIN SOME FREEDOM OF ACTION, BUT WE DOUBT THAT MILITARY PLANNERS COULD OR WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT.

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2. KUWAIT:

[REDACTED]

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3. CONGO:

A. OUR CONSULATE REPORTS THE REDEPLOYMENT OF UN FORCES IN ELIZABETHVILLE CONTINUES, WITH "UNDISCIPLINED" ETHIOPIANS ASSIGNED TO THE MAIN RESIDENTIAL SECTION, AND SPECULATES THE UN MAY PLAN FURTHER ATTACKS AGAINST KATANGAN BASES IF THE KITONA AGREEMENT IS REJECTED.

B. HOFFACKER REPORTS THE FLOW OF EUROPEAN REFUGEES FROM ELIZABETHVILLE CONTINUES, WITH "EVERY DEPARTING CONVEYANCE FILLED TO CAPACITY."

C. AS OF 0800 WE HAVE NO WORD ON THE KATANGA DEPUTIES MISSION TO LEOPOLDVILLE. THE POSSIBILITY OF DELAY, HOWEVER, IS RAISED BY TSHOMBE'S REQUEST YESTERDAY EVENING FOR ADDITIONAL UN ASSURANCES.

D. [REDACTED] THE CONGO ARMY "PRESENCE" AT KAMINA AS LARGELY SYMBOLIC IS NOT SHARED BY MOBUTU WHO REPORTEDLY CONSIDERS KAMINA AN ESSENTIAL BASE FOR EVENTUAL DIRECT CONGOLESE OPERATIONS AGAINST KATANGAN STRONG POINTS.

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E. THE UN IS SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL IN FINDING AN AFRICAN REPLACEMENT FOR GENERAL MACEOIN, WHO HAS AGREED TO REMAIN UNTIL 31 MARCH.

F. GULLION, REPORTING ON CONTINUED FRICTION BETWEEN "LEFTIST" AND "MODERATES" IN THE ADOULA CABINET, IS HOPEFUL FOR SOME RESOLUTION OF THE "MESS" BUT DOES NOT RULE OUT A BLOW-UP REQUIRING US TO EXERT OUR INFLUENCE.

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4. USSR AGREES TO IRANIAN FRIENDSHIP NEGOTIATIONS:

A. IN A SUDDEN REVERSAL OF FIELD THE RUSSIANS HAVE ACCEPTED THE SHAH'S TWO-YEAR OLD STANDING OFFER OF A MISSILE-BASE BAN AS THE BASIS FOR TALKS, NAMED GROMYKO AS THEIR SENIOR NEGOTIATOR, AND PROMISED AN END TO SOVIET BROADCASTS ATTACKING THE SHAH WHEN DISCUSSIONS BEGIN.

B. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSURED CHARGE ROCKWELL YESTERDAY THAT IRAN WOULD CONSULT WITH US AND OTHER ALLIES BEFORE TAKING ANY SUBSTANTIVE POSITION IN THE TALKS.

5. LAOS:

A. IN THEIR VIENTIANE ARRIVAL SPEECHES THIS MORNING SOUVANNA PHOUMA SPOKE IN A CONCILIATORY VEIN WHILE SOUPHANNOUVONG BLASTED "AMERICAN WARMONGERS" AND PRINCE BOUN OUM.

B. OUR EMBASSY IS INVESTIGATING CONFLICTING REPORTS ON THE ORIGIN OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY, ALLEGEDLY BY SOUVANNA'S ESCORTS.

6. ALBANIA:

A. HER NEIGHBORS CONTINUE TO VOICE CONCERN OVER SOVIET OR EACH OTHER'S INTENT TO EXPLOIT THE CURRENT POWER VACUUM BY ARMED ACTION. SO FAR, WE HAVE NO GOOD EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ANYBODY'S ALLEGATIONS.

B. MEANWHILE, SINO-ALBANIAN RELATIONS PERK MERRILY ALONG. YESTERDAY PEIPING ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A JOINT SHIPPING COMPANY WITH ALBANIA TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC TIES AND TIRANA PREDICTED 1962 PLAN FULFILLMENT WITH CHINESE AID DESPITE SOVIET CANCELLATION OF CREDITS.

C. HIGH SOVIET PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE DISPUTE.

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7. NOTES:

A. THE USSR DELIVERED 8 TU-16 JET MEDIUM BOMBERS TO EGYPT YESTERDAY. MORE TU-16S, MODERN JET FIGHTERS, AND A VARIETY OF SHORT-RANGE GUIDED MISSILES, NAVAL VESSELS, AND LAND ARMAMENTS ARE ALSO DUE UNDER LAST JUNE'S AGREEMENT.

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B. WEST BERLIN OFFICIALS, APPREHENSIVE OF POSSIBLE POPULAR ACTION AGAINST THE "WALL" DURING THE HOLIDAYS, ARE MONITORING ACTIVITIES OF LIKELY INSTIGATORS.

C. PRESIDENT YDIGORAS HAS NOW PUBLICLY STATED GUATEMALA'S INTENT TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN OVER BELIZE.

D. SIHANOUK'S POLICY SPEECH YESTERDAY WAS COMPARATIVELY MILD, AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE US.

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