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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--27 JANUARY 1962

1. LAOS:

A. COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE OVERRUN ONE OF PHOUMI'S TWO BATTALIONS AT NAM THA IN THE NORTHWEST. HE PLANS TO AIRLIFT A RELIEF BATTALION THERE TODAY. BOTH SIDES CONTINUE FEELING EACH OTHER OUT IN THE MAHAXAY-THAKEK REGION OF CENTRAL LAOS.

B. SHAKEN BY ENEMY RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER "OFFENSIVES," PHOUMI NOW TALKS OF ASKING UN HELP AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BUILDUP AND COMMUNIST ATTACKS.

C. OUR MAAG CHIEF, COMMENTING ON RECENT CONSISTENT ROYAL ARMY REVERSES, NOTES AN ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL FEAR OF NORTH VIETNAM TROOPS AMONG OFFICERS AND MEN AND CONCLUDES THAT SERIOUS WEAKNESSES, PARTICULARLY IN LEADERSHIP AND MOTIVATION, CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE VIETIANE FORCES.

D. PHOUMI, WITH AN EYE OUT FOR PEIPING, ASKS OUR INTERCESSION WITH TAIPEI TO EXPATRIATE 3,000 NATIONALIST IRREGULARS FILTERING IN FROM BURMA. BROWN STRONGLY SECONDS THE MOTION.

E. SOUVANNA IS IN PARIS STILL DISCOURAGED AND SCEPTICAL OF OUR SUPPORT.

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2. PUNTA DEL ESTE SIDELIGHTS:

A. COLUMBIA, CONCERNED OVER VENEZUELAN PRO-CASTRO UPRISINGS AND ITS OWN VULNERABILITY AS SPOKESMAN FOR STRONG ANTI-CUBAN MEASURES, INSTRUCTED ITS DELEGATION TO AVOID AN EXTREMIST POSITION IN THE INTERESTS OF LATIN UNITY. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

C. URUGUAYAN LEFTISTS ARE [REDACTED] TO HIT THE STREETS WITHOUT FURTHER ORDERS UPON HEARING THE CONFERENCE HAS ADOPTED ANTI-CUBAN MEASURES. THE FIRST ASSIGNED TASK IS SAID TO BE SETTING FIRE TO OUR EMBASSY. PRO-CASTRO GROUPS ALREADY HAVE ONE SUCCESSFUL MONTEVIDEO DEMONSTRATION UNDER THEIR BELTS.

3. CONGO:

DANGERS TO GIZENGA'S PERSONAL SAFETY POSE A CONTINUING RISK FOR ADOULA, WHO IS STILL UNDECIDED WHAT LEGAL FORMS TO USE AGAINST HIM OR WHEN. U THANT WANTS NO "MARTYR" TO HELP THE DEVELOPING SOVIET PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON HIMSELF AND THE UN. GULLION, IS ADVISING ADOULA--SO FAR WITH LIMITED SUCCESS--TO PRESS HIS CASE VIGOROUSLY AND QUICKLY. MEANWHILE BRITAIN, HOLDING THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY THIS MONTH, IS STALLING ON THE SOVIET REQUEST FOR AN IMMEDIATE CONGO MEETING.

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[REDACTED]

4. USSR-EGYPT:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR EGYPT TO RECEIVE SOVIET SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES

APPEAR WELL ALONG.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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5. NOTES:

A. ADZHUBEI IN MEXICO TELLS THE PRESS THAT, ALTHOUGH HE LIKES US, WE ARE "GREEDY" AND "HAVE EVERYTHING." HE ASSERTED AMERICAN OPULENCE WAS OBTAINED AT THE EXPENSE OF LATIN AMERICA, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE MEXICAN "LOSS" OF TEXAS TO THE US. HE ADDED THAT RUSSIA ALSO SUFFERED TERRITORIAL LOSS AT OUR HANDS IN THE CASE OF ALASKA "WHICH IS EVEN LARGER."

B. DIEM IS CONSIDERING A ONE-YEAR POSTPONEMENT OF THE UP-COMING AUGUST ELECTIONS, ALLEGEDLY TO AVOID DISRUPTING HIS ANTI-SUBVERSION CAMPAIGN. NOLTING BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE A GRAVE POLITICAL ERROR AND SO INFORMED DIEM.

[REDACTED]

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C.

[REDACTED] MOROCCAN-SOVIET MILITARY AGREEMENT [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] PROVIDES UNLIMITED SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FREE AND ARTILLERY AND OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT ON 12-YEAR CREDIT. NO AIRCRAFT ARE INVOLVED.

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D. IN IRAN THE SHAH IS STILL BACKING PRIME MINISTER AMINI. GENERAL BAKHTIAR LEFT THE COUNTRY YESTERDAY AND HIS PROTEGES IN THE SECURITY SERVICE HAVE BEEN ORDERED REMOVED.

E. THE WEST GERMANS ARE STILL AFTER IBERIAN AIR BASES. THEY HAVE A GOING DEAL WITH PORTUGAL AND DEFENSE MINISTER STRAUSS RECENTLY REQUESTED SALAZAR'S INTERVENTION WITH MADRID FOR GERMAN USE OF SPANISH FACILITIES.

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