

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



1 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin corridors

a. The two Soviet aircraft

southern corridor

have left the corridor

earlier flights by regularly-scheduled Pan Am aircraft drew Soviet fighter reaction but were not molested. more Soviet transports are scheduled to fly into Berlin along the northern corridor, also crossing the central corridor

b. Embassy Bonn is inclined to believe that the USSR will refrain from radical procedural changes on access as long as the Thompson-Gromyko talks are still alive, with immediate harassments on the autobahn, for instance, more likely to be of a technical nature.

2. Phoumi heads for Thailand

He is scheduled to leave for Bangkok

this is more than a tactical maneuver and Phoumi may be thinking of giving up in Laos.

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3. Algerian settle-
ment further
delayed

a. The question of timing could become crucial. The rebel government, which wants De Gaulle to stop the OAS bloodletting before coming to terms, has still not fixed a definite date for the ceasefire announcement. Although it has been able to hold its followers back from retaliation against the Europeans, the longer the delay the less sure this ability to restrain becomes. Moslem crowds clashed with police in Oran yesterday. De Gaulle, in turn, could be forced to move in without the rebels in the face of rapidly-evaporating public order.

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4. Congo

a. Attempts to get Adoula and Tshombé together are no further along. The latter's qualms about his safety are a major stumbling block.

b. Yesterday in Elisabethville, Tshombé bowed to pressure from die-hard associates, which seems to be mounting, and permitted an anti-American street demonstration. Our Consulate in Elisabethville sees some signs of erosion of Tshombé's will to resist Katanga extremists.

c. The central government's "campaign" in Northern Katanga is so far a pretty complete mess. The troops moved into Albertville remain aimlessly there, and General Mobutu, their nominal commander, has been held back from joining them there by the UN, which fears an assassination attempt against him by dissident troops.

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NOTES

A. West German Foreign Ministry and press are once again expressing lack of confidence in Ambassador Kroll in Moscow, who has his own ideas on how to get along with the Russians, but Adenauer still seems to think Kroll can play a useful role. Among the ideas attributed to Kroll: support for recognition of the Oder-Neisse line, political separation of West Berlin from the Federal Republic, and a \$2.5 billion West German credit to the USSR.

B. The Soviet space launch attempt now appears to be only days away.

[redacted] but we will need further evidence before we know exactly what. [redacted]

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C.

[redacted]
[redacted] a major attack on New Guinea [redacted]
[redacted]

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E. Cuba's economic troubles have resulted in the arrival in Havana of the head of the Soviet State Bank. His visit could be a preliminary to a new Soviet economic credit, which is now being rumored. His specific assignment, however, is probably tied to payments problems arising from the expected fall-off this year in Cuban sugar exports to the Bloc and Cuba's need for an infusion of convertible currency.

F. In the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, Governor Brizola is now talking of following up his seizure of ITT with the expropriation of all foreign enterprises.

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G. Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta, in London for the constitutional talks with the British, is now richer by \$70,000 in pounds sterling supplied to him there by the Egyptians.

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I. Venezuelan Communists are in the midst of preparations for new anti-government violence, to come some time after the opening of Congress on Friday. However, the government's watchfulness and deep divisions within party ranks should combine to keep the effort within bounds.

J. The Moroccans have concluded an arms deal with Moscow. They are playing it down to US representatives, but concede that it runs to at least \$3-4 million and covers some 20-30 tanks and artillery as well as small arms and ammunition. Marshal Malinovsky has accepted an invitation to visit Rabat later this month.

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--28 FEBRUARY 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

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

BERLIN: Soviet probing tactics against Allied access to Berlin will probably continue, but bloc military activity in general suggests that the Communists do not expect their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

LAOS: Communist military actions will probably continue at a relatively low level, pending the outcome of Souvanna's talks with Souphannouvong. If Souvanna and Souphannouvong reach agreement on a cabinet, continued RLG opposition could lead to a significant step-up in military activities.

SOUTH VIETNAM: The increased rate of Viet Cong incidents in the past week and growing bloc criticism of US military assistance to South Vietnam may presage a general step-up in the level of Viet Cong activities, especially in the countryside. It is not yet clear whether the air attack on Diem's palace on 27 February was an isolated act by officers disaffected with the Diem regime or whether it was part of a broader coup plot, but there is no evidence of widespread complicity. The Viet Cong apparently were not connected with the planning for this attack.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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II.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE