

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



17 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Guatemala's Ydigoras again in deep trouble

The anti-Communist opposition parties, joined by several professional groups, have renewed demands that he step down following the clashes late last week which produced 4 student deaths. Ydigoras, declaring his planned US trip cancelled, has pledged cabinet changes in the interest of conciliation. He still has the military behind him, but they, looking at the recurrent crises, could now be wondering if they have been betting on a losing proposition.

2. Congo

a. Adoula plans to begin his provincial tour today, while Tshombé is talking of a trip to Europe, with their talks to be suspended in the meantime.



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3. Sihanouk begins to push South Vietnam proposals

He appears to think that he can play the same kind of role in promoting an international conference on South Vietnam as he did earlier on Laos. His scheme, as outlined so far, foresees the demilitarization of South Vietnam and the ousting of the Diem government. Our Embassy in Saigon warns that the South Vietnamese may begin to think Sihanouk's ideas have some future unless we publicly take a stand against them.

4. President Lleras sends distress appeal to President Kennedy

[redacted] he appeals to the US to join the international coffee agreement now, rather than in July, in order to prevent an interim drop in coffee prices which he contends would be disastrous to the Colombian economy. (With each one cent drop in the price of coffee, Colombia loses \$8 million annually in foreign earnings.) His argument is that Central American producers will, in the meantime, have dumped 500,000 bags of coffee on the US market, causing a loss to Colombia sufficient to imperil Alliance for Progress programs there. [redacted]

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5. Soviet supersonic jets reach Egypt

We believe that delivery of the jets--MIG 21's--which we know had been promised, has now begun, making Egypt the first non-bloc recipient of this aircraft. Indonesia and Iraq--and possibly Finland and Syria--are also scheduled to get some. [redacted]

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NOTES

- A. Argentina's lower house met yesterday and is scheduled to hold another session today to act on Guido's succession. There are rumblings of unhappiness among the members, but McClintock thinks they will end by approving Guido.
- B. Bolivia has suspended diplomatic relations with Chile in the sharpening dispute over water rights to the Lauca River and there were large-scale demonstrations in front of the Chilean embassy in La Paz yesterday. Bolivia has been using the issue, an old one, for domestic political purposes, but Chile has helped to bring on the present flare-up by pressing its claims.

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- D. The transitional civilian government installed by the Syrian military yesterday is made up mostly of technicians but pays some deference to leftist and pro-Nasir sentiment.
- E. Indonesia's rice shortage, due both to crop failure and the build-up over West New Guinea, has become serious enough to cause widespread malnutrition.
- F. The EEC last week reached agreement in principle with the 16 African countries with which it had prior links on new arrangements granting them preferential access to EEC markets.
- G. Our UN delegation reports that the Latin American caucus there, split over Cuba's participation, is in danger of falling apart as a cohesive force.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

For The President Only—Top Secret