

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



26 JULY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. West New Guinea

a. Sukarno showed no relish for being pinned down on his military plans vs. West New Guinea when Ambassador Jones met with him yesterday. Jones reports that Sukarno had the stage so cluttered with extras that he had trouble getting in a few minutes of confidential dialogue. About all he elicited was a profession from Sukarno that the Indonesian military build-up has been carried out just in case talks with the Dutch fail.

b. From Djakarta's point of view, however, the talks have so far held enough promise that Subandrio's original deadline for obtaining a preliminary agreement has been stretched from July 26 to August 1.

c. Dutch evacuation of civilian dependents from New Guinea has gone into high gear. The bulk of them are expected to be out within two months.

2. Dominican Republic

The Dominican government is bracing for trouble today in conjunction with the anniversary of Castro's revolutionary movement. The Dominican navy is on a special alert and has stepped up its coastal patrols against the possibility of landings. The government has also threatened drastic action if disorders develop from a general strike called for today by the public employees' union.

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3. Algeria

[redacted] Ben Bella has interrupted his deliberate and triumphant progress toward Algiers because leaders of one of the military districts are objecting to having his armed legion accompany him through their territory. He

[redacted] Vice Premier Belkacem Krim [redacted] is still defiant and is trying to rally his Berber followers in eastern Algeria to resist.

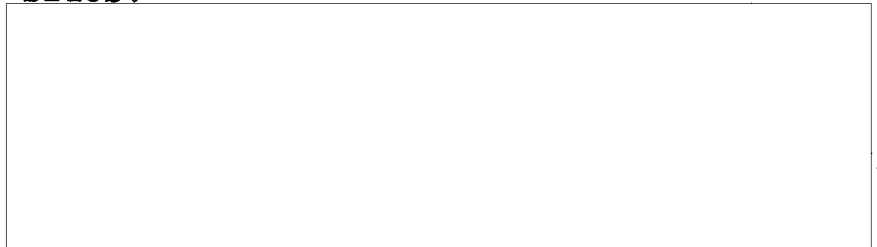
4. Laos

Activity on [redacted] North Vietnam's military forces in Laos has begun to fall off and at some points has stopped altogether. We cannot be sure yet whether this means that the North Vietnamese have begun to pull out or merely that they are ducking into some more remote corners. [redacted]

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5. UAR

a. Nasir is reaping a good propaganda harvest from his recent rocket display, particularly in the Arab world. Those of his fellow Arab leaders who have lately taken to calling him "soft" on Israel have gone suddenly silent. The Israelis are not taking Nasir's rocket claims at face value, but we assume, nevertheless, that they will soon be doing some shopping for Western missiles.



c. Terrorism by pro-UAR elements in Syria has been on the increase in the past few days. The Syrian government has countered with a number of arrests, but the outbreak has given it a good case of nerves.

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6. Burma-Thailand

Burmese-Thai relations will soon go from bad to worse if Shan insurgents operating from Thailand go ahead with an attack across the border.



Although Bangkok is not pushing the Shans, it is not holding them back either; the Burmese will tar Thailand with responsibility for any trouble, with some of it bound to rub off on the US.

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7. Communist China

a.

[redacted] morale in the armed forces has been going downhill ever since 1959. Food shortages among dependents and the ordering of troops into the fields to help out in farm-work are the major causes. [redacted]

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[redacted] discipline has been kept intact and [redacted] if there were any civilian disorders, the troops would follow orders and put them down.

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b. We now have what we regard as convincing evidence that the Chinese Communist inventory of operational jets has been shrinking over the last two years. We have been crediting them with approximately 2,000 jets. There are good indications, however, that the Chinese have not been keeping pace with the normal attrition, both because of halt in Soviet deliveries and curtailment in their own production. [redacted]

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8. Yugoslavia

With Tito now 70, he and his top aides are beginning to look ahead to the time for a changing of the guard. It is expected that Tito will give up the premiership, and thus day-to-day control of the government, later this year. He would keep overall command by remaining in the presidency. Edvard Kardelj is most likely to take over the reins of government but not of the party, where Aleksander Rankovic appears to be in the line of succession.

NOTES

- A. The Shah of Iran is beginning his mediation visit to Afghanistan today in a hopeful mood. Before leaving he received word from Ayub that Pakistan is willing at least to discuss the reopening of the Afghan Consular and trade offices, which improves the outlook for his mission considerably.

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- C. The expectation that Soviet military advisors would be seeping into Morocco together with the increasing flow of military equipment is now being realized. Some of the equipment, with accompanying Soviet "experts," has just been assigned to one of the Moroccan military bases.

Moscow has so far, to our knowledge, supplied 14 MIGs, a number of T-54 tanks, plus artillery, small arms, and ammunition.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--25 JULY 1962

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

There are indications that the Soviets will increase tensions over Berlin, and renewed harassments of Western access may occur.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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I.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE