

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

4 OCTOBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. The Soviets jumped at the chance to meet Souvanna's request for help in supplying his forces.

b. As a starter, Souvanna says they presented him with some twelve transports which will be flown by Russian pilots.

c. His troops in the field have complained that the airlift from Hanoi is supplying only Pathet Lao troops--that they have been without supplies for months. They threaten to disperse unless supplied, if not from Hanoi, "then from another country."

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d. Souvanna is obviously worried by the foreign troop problem and is doing his best to get Hanoi and Peiping to withdraw their forces. He has told us he is not sure all of them will have left by the Sunday withdrawal deadline.

e. In this event, he plans to say that he trusts all have done what they said they would do about withdrawing troops and that he will take responsibility for making sure this is the case by travelling throughout the country with the help of the International Control Commission.

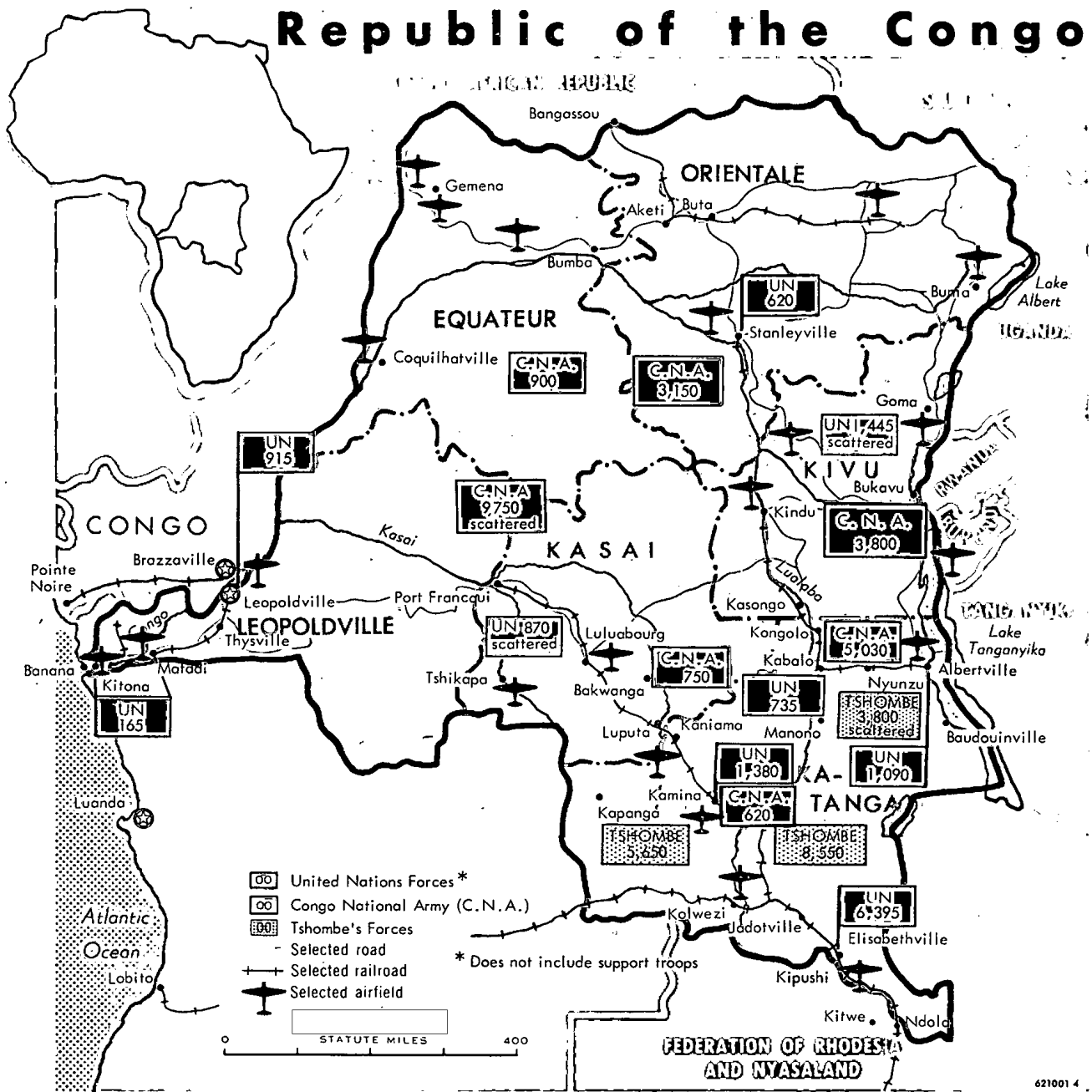
f. Pathet Lao radio broadcasts make it clear what the Communists plan to say: they name places and numbers where they contend our military advisers remain with Phoumi's forces and again charge us with supplying arms to the Meos. Curiously enough, they now say the deadline is 10 October.

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2. USSR-US

a. The Soviets responded Tuesday night to our expulsion of two of their nationals from New York by seizing, roughing up and detaining our assistant Naval attaché. He was on a routine trip to Leningrad with the Canadian Naval attaché who was not molested. We anticipate they will declare him persona non grata.

b. TASS photographers took pictures of the whole episode during which the Soviets seized and kept Commander Smith's Minox camera (no pictures), miniature tape recorder and notes.



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3. Yemen

a. The situation in Yemen remains about where it was yesterday.



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c. The Cairo press is already giving big play to the defection of two Saudi pilots [redacted] in a C-123 loaded with MDAP crates of US arms [redacted]

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d. Chargé Stookey recommends we move quickly to recognize the new regime. He sees nothing better in the offing and feels the new regime has both popular support and control.



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4. Congo

a. Two more battalions of central government troops have been moved into Bakwanga in South Kasai to reinforce the government's hold on things there. [redacted]

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b. The government's success
in the Kasai operation [redacted]

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[redacted] has given Adoula and the army
a needed boost in morale. It has
also undercut some opposition in
parliament.

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c. The government will prob-
ably feel encouraged to act more
forcefully in Katanga.

d. Tshombé, meanwhile, behind
a pose of injured innocence, con-
tinues to strengthen his forces for
a showdown.

e. We know [redacted]
that he has been actively recruiting
Belgian and French mercenaries in
Europe during the past two months.
By next month he will probably have
doubled the number he had in July
(300).

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f. [redacted] materiel flow-
ing into Katanga from Angola. Reports
are that this includes some crated
aircraft. [redacted]

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5. Thailand-US

a. Sarit has asked us to pull out our remaining battle group.

b. With all the sweetness he could muster, he told Ambassador Young that this did not signal a change in Thai foreign or defense policy. He argued the move was needed to deflate propaganda by the Communist underground.

c. Be that as it may, we expect he will still use the withdrawal to demonstrate Thai independence from the US.

d. He wants our air, logistic and construction units to remain.

6. France

a. De Gaulle has just concluded a nation-wide TV and radio speech. We do not have the full text yet, but it is clear his purpose was to upstage and confuse opposition leaders in the assembly who plan a censure motion against Pompidou today.



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c. If they fail, their prestige suffers; if they succeed, he can dissolve the assembly and combine new elections with the popular referendum on direct election of the President (scheduled for late this month).

NOTES

[Redacted]

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B. Finland Britain has agreed to allow Finland de-
fensive missiles provided at least half come from
the West. The Finns are under the impression the
Soviets will also be agreeable. Kekkonen is now in
the USSR and will be meeting with Khrushchev next
week.

C. USSR The Soviet range instrumentation ships are
again apparently on their way to station in the
Pacific, but we cannot tell yet whether a space
probe or earth satellite attempt is indicated.

[Redacted]

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D. USSR-Afghanistan

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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