

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



25 MAY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. France

a. French military officials say privately that De Gaulle--who wants France to make its own decision on war without being drawn into it by NATO actions--has decided to eliminate all "earmarking" of French forces to NATO. He would not, however, change French commitments relating to "assigned" forces.

b. Most immediately this would affect the Light Squadron of seven destroyers operating from Brest, which has recently been exercising in the Caribbean area.

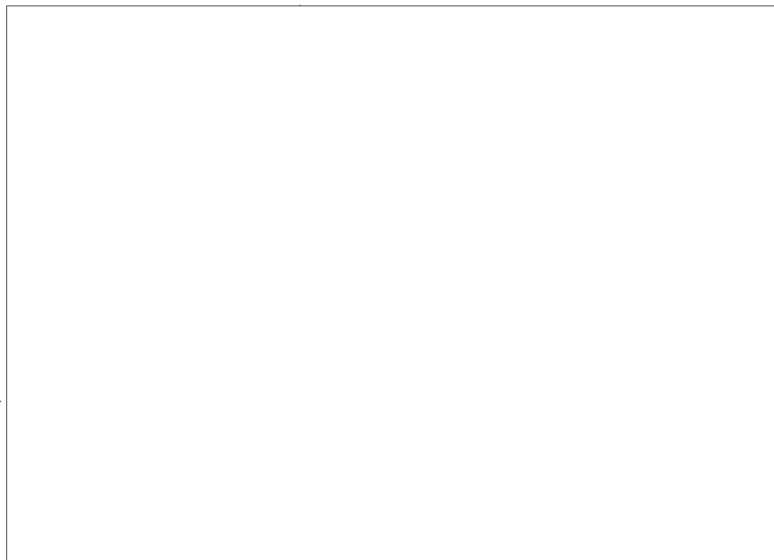
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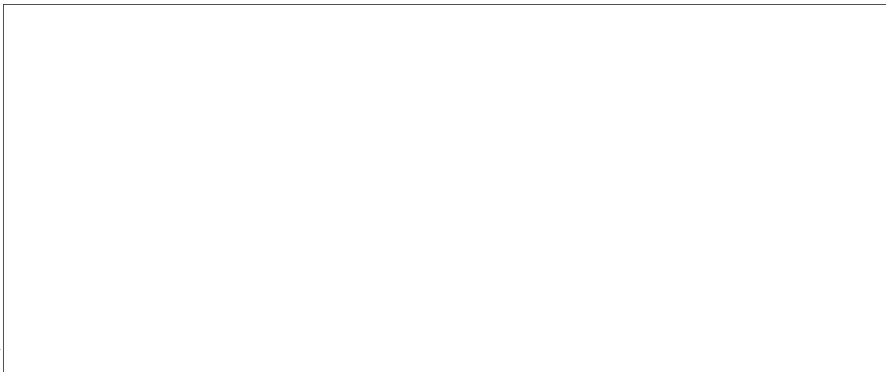
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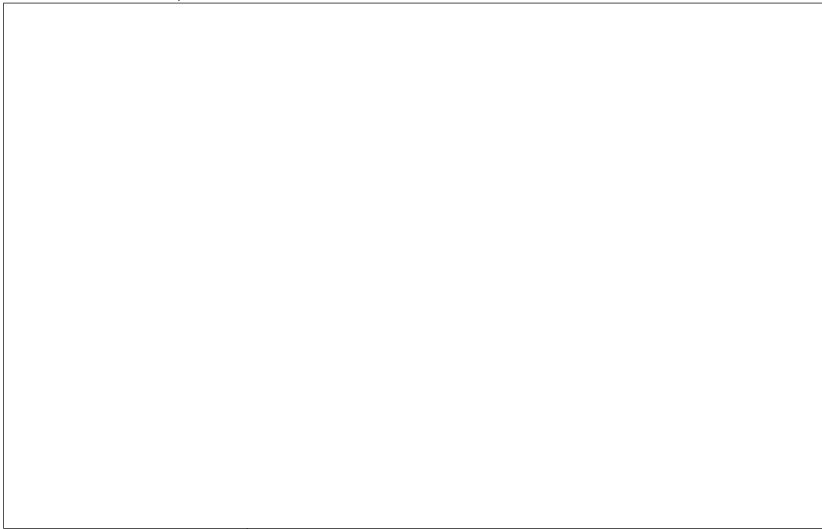


2. Cuba-USSR

a. The Russians may now be out of one of their four armored camps--Santiago de las Vegas, south of Havana.


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e. Castro, meanwhile, may now be down on the Black Sea coast. 


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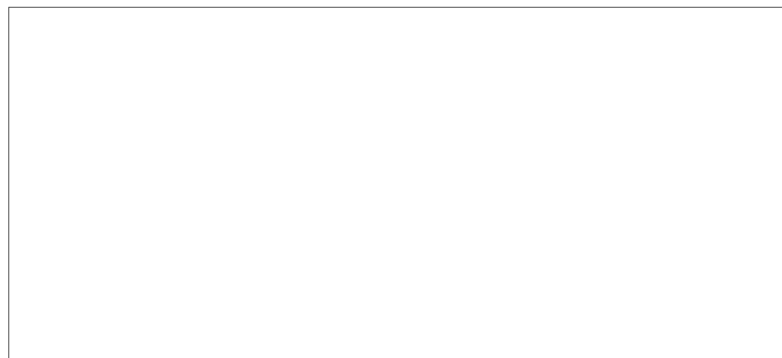
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 Castro may return Monday. A Mexican journalist has been asked to come and interview him.

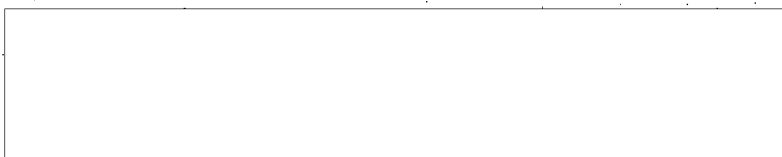
3. Cuba

a. The US embassy in Tokyo hears that Cuban representatives are coming to Japan to look at electronic equipment plants and food processing plants.

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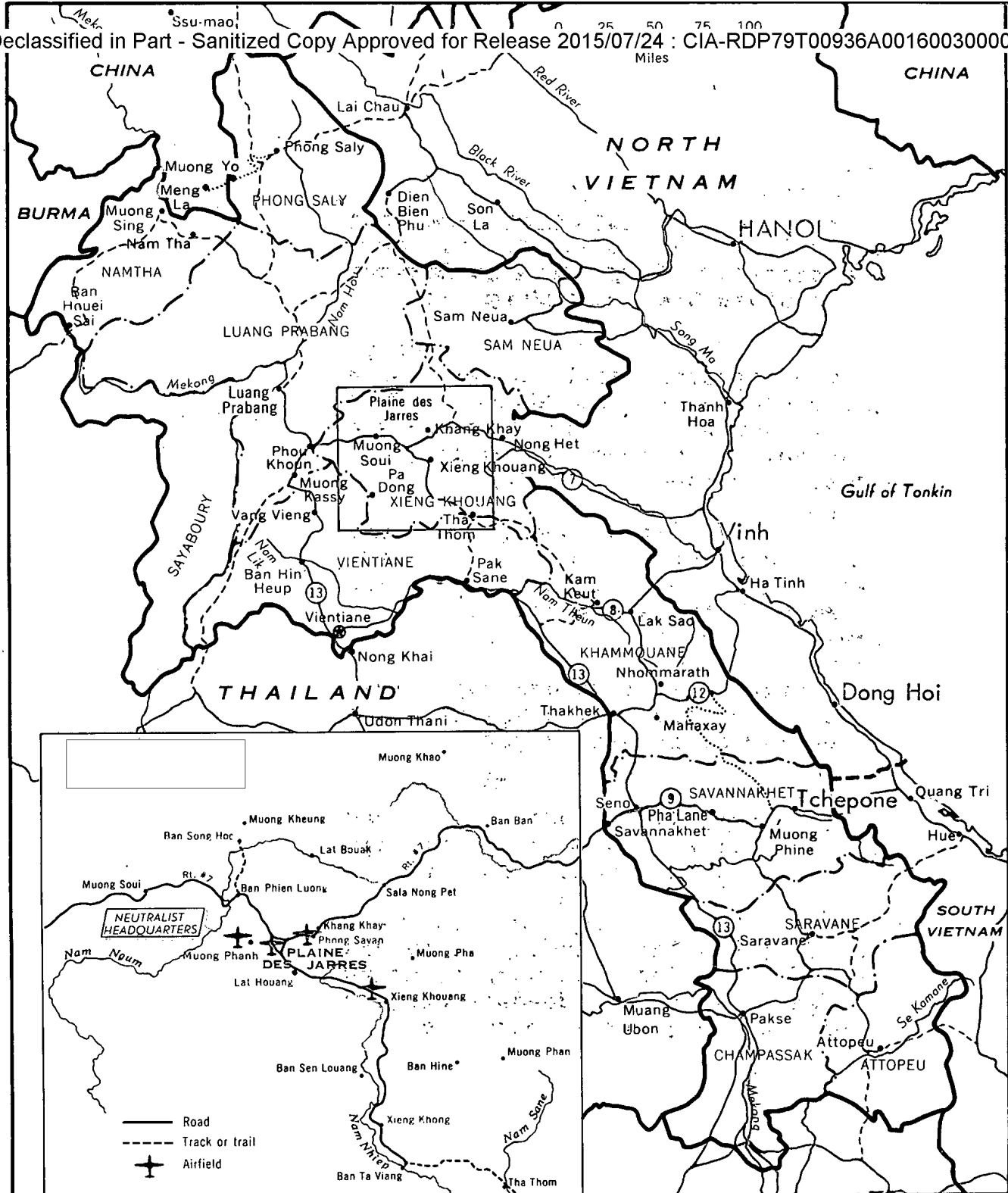
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d. Havana last night announced the nationalization and expropriation of the Cuban properties of the Merck, Sharp and Dohme Corporation.

4. North Vietnam

a. We have yet another sign of activity which could reflect either increasing North Vietnamese activity in south-central Laos or increasing infiltration into South Vietnam via Laos.

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b. Since 7 May there has been a sharp step-up in flights from Hanoi to Vinh and Dong Hoi in southern North Vietnam; trucks can move from both into Laos.

c. We suspect that there may also have been some flights into Laos--to Tchepone.

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5. Laos

a. For a time at least, unless the Pathet Lao lash out again, the Plaine des Jarres may be quieter.



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c. However, a political accommodation seems no closer. Souvanna has had some limited contact with Souphannouvong but is dubious about prospects for reestablishing relations.



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6. Congo

a. The Congolese yesterday began rounding up the Katangan gendarmerie company which has been serving as Tshombe's personal guard. This may persuade him to reconsider his long-contemplated trip to France.

b. Parliament in Leopoldville, meanwhile, appears close to passing legislation providing for slicing off a new province in western Katanga which in effect would remove the larger part of Katangese resources (two thirds of the copper, for example) from Elisabethville control.

c. Tribal rivalries are already growing in this area and the limited UN force available would be hard put to control any major eruption.

d. In New York, Ralph Bunche, who agrees with US representatives that even the end of 1963 would be too early to close out the UN operation, says that U Thant is obsessed by the financial crisis and is now talking of withdrawing UN forces this October.

7. Pakistan

a. The Indians may soon have a new issue.

b. The head of the Pakistani airline is off to Hong Kong and Peiping next week to explore the possibilities for Pakistani air service to China.

c. In talking to our embassy, he bent over backwards to stress that this was "commercial and exploratory." He said Ayub had to make certain concessions to "pro-Chinese public feeling" in Pakistan.

8. Iraq-USSR-UAR

a. The Iraqis, [redacted] have canceled Qasim's \$15 million deal for Soviet SAMs even though the first of three scheduled shipments has already arrived.

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[redacted] The Soviets, [redacted] may offer

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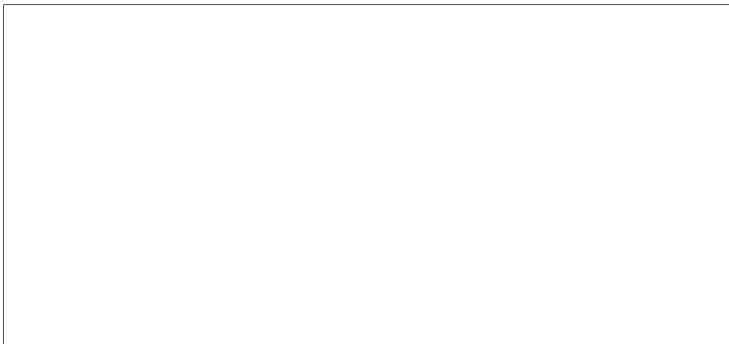
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inducement to reconsider.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1963.

Polish Sabotage in Laos

Now that neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma and his commanding general Kong Le have awakened to the real aims of their former pro-Communist allies and are seeking to keep Laos out of Communist hands, one of the chief blockers of peace in that troubled land is, of all people, a member of the International Control Commission. He is Marek Thee, representing Communist-dominated Poland, who is doing his best, or worst, to clear the way for a Communist conquest of Laos.

As a result of continued pro-Communist attacks on the neutralist forces in the strategic Plaine des Jarres, the Premier has requested the commission to establish its presence at the point of conflict. The Indian and Canadian members of the three-man commission have done so. They have been unable to stop all shooting, but they have succeeded in limiting it. Specifically, they are credited with having kept Communist reinforcements from North Vietnam from moving into the battle line. The Polish member not only refuses to join them, but sabotages their work by persuading the pro-Communists to withdraw their consent to the commission's presence.

His position goes beyond that of Soviet Russia, which is dragging its feet on joining Britain and the United States in efforts to preserve the Geneva accords for a neutral Laos. He is siding with the Chinese and North Vietnamese in espousing aggressive "revolutionary" wars. The United States has warned Poland that Thee's conduct is arousing such resentment here as to imperil President Kennedy's effort to lift the trade barriers against Polish goods.

This may not be the best method of meeting the problem, but it reflects Washington's determination to hold Poland accountable if the irresponsibility of its representative shatters hopes for peace in this critical area.

NOTES

- A. Poland Polish government officials can have little doubt as to the US attitude on the activities of Polish ICC Commissioner Thee in Laos (now en route to Poland for, he says, ten days). On Wednesday, the Polish Press Agency "special bulletin," which reprints selected foreign press items bearing on Poland and which is put on the desks of some 500 officials each morning, carried the text of a New York Times editorial entitled "Polish Sabotage in Laos."

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