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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--20 JULY 1963

1. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. DIEM HAS RELAXED POLICE HARASSMENT OF THE BUDDHISTS SOMEWHAT, POSSIBLY ENOUGH TO INDUCE BUDDHIST LEADERS TO MEET WITH A GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON MONDAY.

B. DIEM'S MORE MODERATE MINISTERS THINK HE IS NOW ON THE RIGHT TRACK, BUT STILL SUBJECT TO STRONG, CONTRARY ADVICE. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS POLICIES WILL BE UNDERCUT.

C. THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER YESTERDAY TOLD OUR EMBASSY THAT UNLESS DIEM'S CURRENT EFFORTS DAMPEN DOWN THE CRISIS, THAILAND WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO REACT STRONGLY.

2. CUBA--NAVY:

A. CUBAN CREWS APPEAR READY FOR A FIRING EXERCISE WITH KOMAR GUIDED MISSILES.

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B. [Redacted]

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3. NOTES:

A. USSR - TEST BAN: KHRUSHCHEV'S SPEECH YESTERDAY TREATED A LIMITED TEST BAN AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. THERE WAS NO IMPLICATION THAT THE TEST BAN IS CONDITIONAL ON A NONAGGRESSION PACT: KHRUSHCHEV SIMPLY STATED THAT "WE WOULD LIKE TO HOPE"

(CONT'D)

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THAT THE MOSCOW TALKS WILL PRODUCE AGREEMENT ON SUCH A PACT.

B. SYRIA: NAMES OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THURSDAY'S FIASCO ARE EMERGING, AND THE PRO-NASIR COLORATION IS APPARENT. THE CAIRO PRESS IS NOW GIVING THE SYRIAN REGIME THE FULL TREATMENT. THE BAATHIST GOVERNMENT, DISREGARDING ESTABLISHED RULES FOR SYRIAN COUPS, HAS SUMMARILY SHOT A SCORE OF THE LOSERS, AND REMAINS IN SOMEWHAT SHAKY CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

C. CUBA - BRITISH GUIANA:

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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D. BOLIVIA:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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E. AUSTRIA: AUSTRIA HAS AGREED TO WITHDRAW AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EAST GERMAN AIRLINE TO RUN A WEEKLY EAST BERLIN - VIENNA SERVICE. THIS SEEMS TO END AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH SERVICE TO BERLIN AND ALSO TO END THE FLAP OVER ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR BERLIN ACCESS.

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LATE ITEM

USSR-CHINA:

A. PEIPING, IN ITS FIRST DIRECT PUBLIC REPLY TO LAST SUNDAY'S SOVIET LETTER, TAKES THE WRAPS OFF A LITTLE MORE.

B. TODAY'S PEOPLES DAILY CHARGES "THE LEADER OF THE CPSU" WITH "MALICIOUSLY" CONDEMNING CHINA AND SAYS "HE PARTICULARLY ATTACKED COMRADE MAO TSE-TUNG--THOSE WHO SLANDER COMRADE MAO AND OUR PARTY WILL ONLY MAKE FOOLS OF THEMSELVES" AND EXPOSE "THEIR DIRTY AIMS."

C. THEY SAY THERE ARE "70 OR 80 TRULY SHOCKING INSTANCES OF CALLING WHITE BLACK" IN THE SOVIET LETTER, WHICH THEY WILL CLARIFY IN FURTHER ARTICLES "WITH MATERIAL EVIDENCE."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET