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# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

5 JULY 1961  
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Iraq-Kuwait developments

[Redacted]

a) Likelihood of military action by Qasim believed much diminished with British military strength in Kuwait now superior to Iraqi forces in border area;

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b) Baghdad has cancelled all military leaves until further notice but on 3 July units at Basra were instructed "not to undertake any operation which would incite Kuwait";

[Redacted]

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d) Top Arab League official is working hard on mediation effort.

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[Redacted]

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50X1

2. Laotian situation

[Redacted]

The contending factions in Laos continue to mark time pending the opening of talks on a coalition government. On a brief stopover in Bangkok before returning to Vientiane on 4 July, Phoumi declared out-of-the-blue that the Zurich meeting had agreed that Souvanna and Souphannouvong both unsuitable as premier because they had been "too much involved."

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[Redacted]

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50X1

50X1

3. Hammarskjold alarmed over planned Congo coup. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] 50X1  
[redacted] Mobutu and Bomboko, with French encouragement, are considering a military coup against the Ileo government. The attempt would allegedly take place in the next week if Kasavubu's support can be assured. The Secretary General believes that such a coup would play into Soviet hands by enhancing Gizenga's support among the neutralist African states and would destroy hopes for a moderate Congo solution. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

4. Chinese Communists put out feeler on private talks with US

[redacted]

An intimation of Peiping's desire for a series of informal, private conversations with US officials came at a recent meeting between US and Chinese Ambassadors in Warsaw. The Chinese, taking an unusually affable tack, urged an extension of such contacts, but took pains to hold the Peiping line on Laos, Taiwan and the UN. In recent months, Peiping has made similar approaches through other channels, always insisting, however, that Washington must take the first step toward improved relations. [redacted] 50X1

NOTES

- A. The USSR launched two test ICBM's within a 16-hour period on 4 July, [redacted]

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- C. An impending influx of Soviet aircraft technicians into Mali has been reported. Their assignment would include setting up a central maintenance base for Soviet-built aircraft supplied to Ghana, Guinea, and Mali. [redacted]

- D. UN observer on the spot reports extensive armed exchanges along India-Pakistan cease-fire line during June. [redacted]

- E. There is as yet no significant indication of public reaction to the South Korean coup within a coup. Pak is moving fast in attempt to nail down No. 1 place in regime. [redacted]

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- F. Speeches yesterday by Khrushchev in Moscow and Party Secretary Suslov in Ulan Bator developed no new lines, according to available excerpts. [redacted]

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