

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

11 MARCH 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

Page Denied

1. Cuba-Soviet
personnel

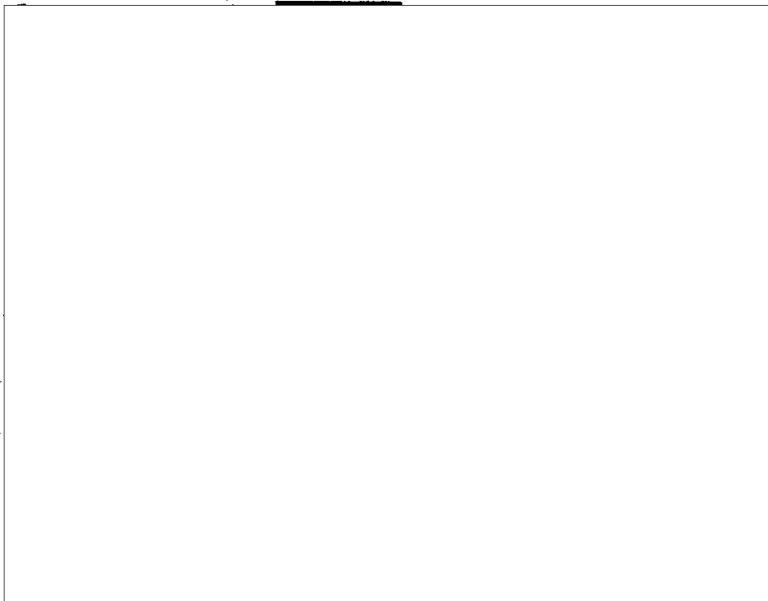
a. [redacted]

[redacted] photography showed no significant new activity at any of the Soviet military camps.

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b. The Gruzia departed Havana

50X1



d. The Gruzia has a normal passenger capacity of about 770, but during the withdrawal of Soviet missile personnel from Cuba last year it carried at least 1,000 back to the USSR.

e. There was no activity dockside at the Admiral Nakhimov [redacted]

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50X1

2. Syria

a. The new regime initially tolerated but finally had to put down pro-Nasir demonstrations which nearly got out of hand yesterday in Damascus.

b. Officially and publicly, Cairo is jubilant over the coup, but [redacted] suspicions that the regime is a Baathist creature of Baghdad's making. An official close to Nasir, speaking of Cairo's early recognition to a US Embassy contact on Saturday, let the cat out of the bag saying "we did not want Iraq to have this all to themselves."

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c. The cabinet is indeed Baathist dominated (12 out of 20), and the military command, while not Baathist, is known to favor Arab unity, but not under Nasir's leadership.

d. A roundup of known Communists is underway, but in a less violent manner than in Iraq where several top party members have been put to death. Syrian extremists on the right are also being rounded up.

3. USSR

Friday

a. Khrushchev made another major speech on cultural questions ~~yesterday~~ to a gathering of top party officials and intelligentsia from all over the USSR--the second big gathering on cultural matters in three months to be attended by Khrushchev.

b. Khrushchev denounced the current preoccupation in Soviet literature with suffering under Stalin.

c. Curiously, he also felt compelled to defend publicly and for the first time his own actions during the Stalin years when, to hear him tell it, he personally averted miscarriages of justice on a number of occasions.

d. A competent observer of the current Moscow scene notes that Soviet intellectuals who have long praised Khrushchev's political acumen, are now, for the first time, criticizing him. He has, they claim, mishandled the dispute with the Chinese and failed to deal adequately with the cultural conflict.

4. Iraq

a. Negotiations with the Kurds have finally produced an agreement under which Iraqi Kurds will be allowed to conduct many of their own affairs under a "decentralized government."

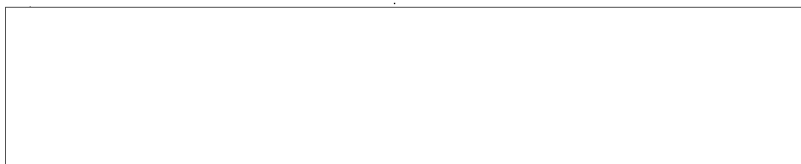
b. Neither side has a clear understanding yet of what is meant by this phrase, but Baghdad, at least, feels it is something short of the autonomy the Kurds had been demanding.

c. The remaining details may prove sticky, but the atmosphere has improved and a new round of fighting has been averted.

5. Somalia-
Kenya-UK

a. Somalia has broken relations with Britain in the dispute over the Northern Frontier District of Kenya which it claims.

b. Britain announced on Friday that Nairobi would continue to administer the district under a plan for regional autonomy.



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6. **Multilateral Force**

a. Some views of NATO members on multilateral force questions are beginning to crystalize.

b. The Germans strongly favor submarines rather than surface ships as being militarily more sound and therefore worth the extra time and cost.

c. Norway, we understand from Foreign Minister Lange, will not participate.



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7. **Sino-Soviet Dispute**

a. Peiping and Moscow have exchanged letters affirming the need to hold bilateral talks on matters at issue between the two parties.

b. There has been no other external sign recently of anything but a worsening of relations between the two parties.

c. The announcement from Peiping was vaguely worded and contained no clue as to when such a meeting might be held or even that agreement had been reached on conditions for holding talks.

NOTES

- A. Panama-Costa Rica Conferences Panama is pressing us for a specific response to President Chiari's request for a \$50 million program for his country. Chiari, it seems, wants to go back from the Costa Rican conference with something tangible to show on this. Generalities will not do. Panama wants special treatment because "Panama is something special...it has canal cutting its country in two."
- B. Laos Peiping says the road it is building in northern Laos will be completed next month after which all Chinese personnel will be immediately withdrawn.
- C. Costa Rica-Cuba The impounded B-26 is at San Jose airport, and now in flyable condition. President Orlich says it will not be released until after the Presidential meeting, but our air attache there has noted guard procedures are lax and one could easily make off with it.