

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

14 FEB. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin air corridors

The Soviets again scheduled use of the northern and central corridors up to 7,500 feet for their military transports between 0415 and 0630 EST this morning. The Soviet controller at the Berlin Air Safety Center also warned that our flights in the reserved altitudes would be considered trespassers "with resulting consequences." Scheduled allied flights all arrived safely. However, one British commercial flight was escorted to Berlin by Soviet MIGs and Soviet fighter aircraft made identification passes at two allied transports. Only a few Soviet military transports were noted active in flight patterns within the restricted areas.

After the restricted period had ended, the Soviets lodged a protest at BASC claiming that five allied aircraft had flown in the northern and central corridors during the restricted period without having filed flight plans. He said such violations could lead to undesirable consequences responsibility for which would rest with the Western Powers.

2. Latin American cross-currents

a. Castro's reported "get Betancourt" order to Venezuelan Communists produced few results yesterday. The bomb detonated during the President's Caracas speech caused no injuries and Betancourt came through with flying colors. His speech was in effect an acceptance of Castro's challenge before a Havana mass meeting early this month where he "dared" any of the presidents of the 14 Latin American countries voting for Cuba's OAS exclusion to appear before a similar public assembly in their countries. The government, aware of reported Cuban assassination instructions, had earlier alerted the armed forces against possible extremist action. [redacted] 50X1

b. Even the Brazilians may be due for second thoughts on Cuba. [redacted] 50X1

c. Rebel activity in Guatemala continues. They now claim a strength of 500 with "more joining every day." President Ydigoras has sought Honduras' assistance in denying the insurgents use of the border area and has asked that US forces patrol the coasts and air space against foreign assistance to the rebels. [redacted]

[redacted] Cuban and Communists interest in exploiting the situation. 50X1

3. Laos

Souvanna Phouma now has the King's permission for an audience in Luang Prabang and suggests it be scheduled for Friday. Phoumi will go to the Royal capital if and when invited by Souvanna. Phoumi shows no evidence of relenting in his opposition to Souvanna and his associates in Vientiane continue to push his "solution" that the King himself organize a coalition government. They appear to be lining up support in the National Assembly for some sort of resolution along this line.

Sarit, charging that Thailand's security is jeopardized by Communist military activity in Laos, yesterday ordered troops deployed along the Laotian border. We suspect Sarit's gesture will encourage Phoumi's intransigence in negotiating with Souvanna.

4. Rebels resume large scale attacks in Angola

[redacted] 50X1
one engagement with a 300-man rebel force and we believe there may have been others of similar magnitude last week. These are the first attacks on this scale we have seen since last summer.

The Salazar regime, its colonial back to the wall, can be expected to take vigorous countermeasures against the rebels and their outside sources of support.

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5. De Gaulle-Adenauer
to meet

The French have informed Ambassador Gavin in strictest confidence that De Gaulle is planning to meet Adenauer on Thursday somewhere in Germany. The French say De Gaulle wants to iron out differences over the latest French draft for political union among the EEC countries. Gavin suspects that De Gaulle also wants to dramatize Franco-German solidarity in the face of the US-UK initiative for high level discussions with the USSR on disarmament. De Gaulle may also wish to buttress Adenauer's position against separate German-Soviet talks.

NOTES

- A. Qasim, already domestically pre-occupied with Arab opposition elements and suppression of the long-festering Kurdish revolt, is now tangling with the Iraqi Communists. They are openly and sharply criticising him and have engaged in violent anti-government demonstrations.
- B. The disturbances in Nepal have subsided. The government, expressing a desire for improved relations with New Delhi and hoping to end India-based rebel activity, has stated it would welcome "anything the US might be able to do to further this end."
- C. Tshombe has indicated willingness to meet with Adoula's representative at Kamina on February 24th to discuss Katanga's future relations with the central government. [REDACTED]

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

II.

[Redacted content]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE