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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--14 SEPTEMBER 1963

1. CANADA-USSR:

A.

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THAT A DEAL TO SELL THE USSR ABOUT FIVE MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR, TO BE DELIVERED BY NEXT JULY, WILL PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED MONDAY.

B. WE DO NOT THINK THIS REPRESENTS PRE-EMPTIVE BUYING TO DENY SALES TO COMMUNIST CHINA. PEIPING CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT WITH OTTAWA IN JULY, AND HAS OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, AND FRANCE.

C. THE SOVIETS, IN VIEW OF CROP CONDITIONS IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE, PROBABLY NEED THE WHEAT TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXPORT COMMITMENTS TO THE SATELLITES AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. LAST YEAR SUCH EXPORTS TOTALLED JUST UNDER 5 MILLION TONS.

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E. OUR EMBASSY IN OTTAWA THINKS THIS DEAL WILL HELP RESTORE THE EARLY LUSTER OF THE PEARSON GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO CREATE AN AIR OF CORDIALITY IN CANADIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN OTTAWA'S PREDISPOSITION TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE ANY SOVIET PROPOSITION FOR RELAXING COLD WAR TENSIONS.

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2. CUBA-USSR:

A. WE SEE SOME INDICATIONS THAT MOSCOW IS BECOMING TOUCHY ABOUT SPECULATION IN THE WEST REGARDING SOVIET-CUBAN DIFFERENCES.

B. AN AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA "OBSERVER" ARTICLE ON THURSDAY, ALONG WITH A FLURRY OF MOSCOW BROADCASTS, DENOUNCED ALLEGED US BACKING OF RECENT EXILE RAIDS.

C. THESE BLASTS, ACCOMPANIED BY REAFFIRMATIONS OF THE USSR'S PLEDGES TO SUPPORT CUBA AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION, SUGGEST AN ATTEMPT TO REASSURE CASTRO THAT IMPROVED US-SOVIET RELATIONS DO NOT MEAN A LESSENING OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CUBA.



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4. SOUTH VIETNAM:

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C. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT FEELING IS SPREADING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE BUT DIEM HAS ANNOUNCED MARTIAL LAW WILL END ON MONDAY.

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E. A VATICAN OFFICIAL SHOWED AMBASSADOR RHEINHARDT YESTERDAY A LETTER FROM THE POPE TO THE BISHOP OF SAIGON DESIGNED TO COUNTER, AS FAR AS THE CHURCH COULD, THE REGIME'S REPRESSIVE POLICIES.

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5. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

A. BOSCH'S OPPONENTS

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TO FIRM UP PLANS TO OUST HIM.

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B. THE ARMED FORCES MINISTER APPEARS TO BE LOSING HIS RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON MILITARY LEADERS HOSTILE TO BOSCH, AND THE NAVY COMMANDER SOUNDED OUT OUR NAVAL ATTACHE THIS WEEK ON THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD A MILITARY JUNTA.

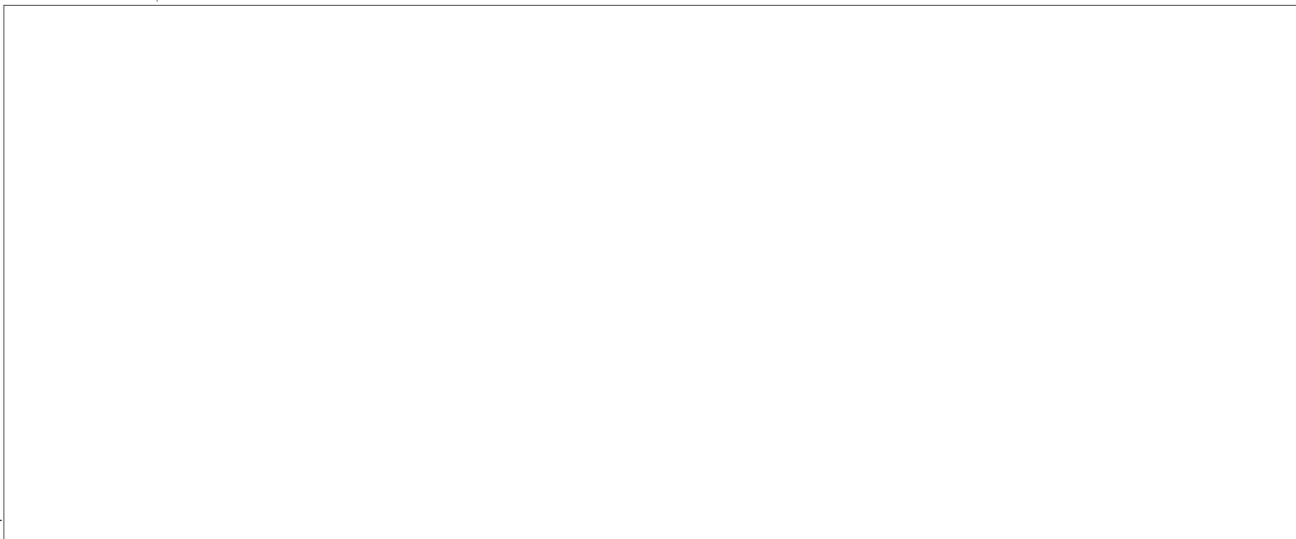
C. OPPOSITION "ANTI-COMMUNISTS" HAVE PUBLICLY THREATENED "DEFINITIVE MEASURES" UNLESS BOSCH ANSWERED, BEFORE HE LEFT,, THEIR DEMAND TO "ERADICATE COMMUNISM."

D. MUCH OF THE AGITATION ABOUT COMMUNISM COMES FROM THOSE FAVORING A COUP. HOWEVER, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GENUINE CONCERN, APPARENTLY SHARED BY BOSCH'S LONG-TIME FRIEND BETAN-COURT, OVER HIS TOLERANCE TOWARD COMMUNISM.

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6. SAUDI ARABIA:



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7. NOTES:

A. MALAYSIA: SUKARNO, IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JONES YESTERDAY, GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF TRYING TO AVOID SERIOUS TALK ABOUT MALAYSIA, ALTHOUGH HE DID GIVE SOME ASSURANCE THAT HIS REACTION TO WHATEVER THE UN REPORT MIGHT CONCLUDE WOULD BE "TEMPERATE." HE MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT AS CONCLUSIVE A RESULT FAVORABLE TO MALAYSIA BASED ON SO SMALL A SAMPLE.

B. PAKISTAN - COMMUNIST CHINA: FOREIGN MINISTER BHUTTO ASSURED AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY ON THURSDAY THAT PAKISTAN WOULD KEEP CHINA AT ARM'S LENGTH, AND SEEK ONLY "OPPORTUNE" NON-POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS.

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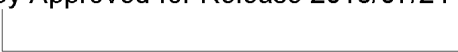
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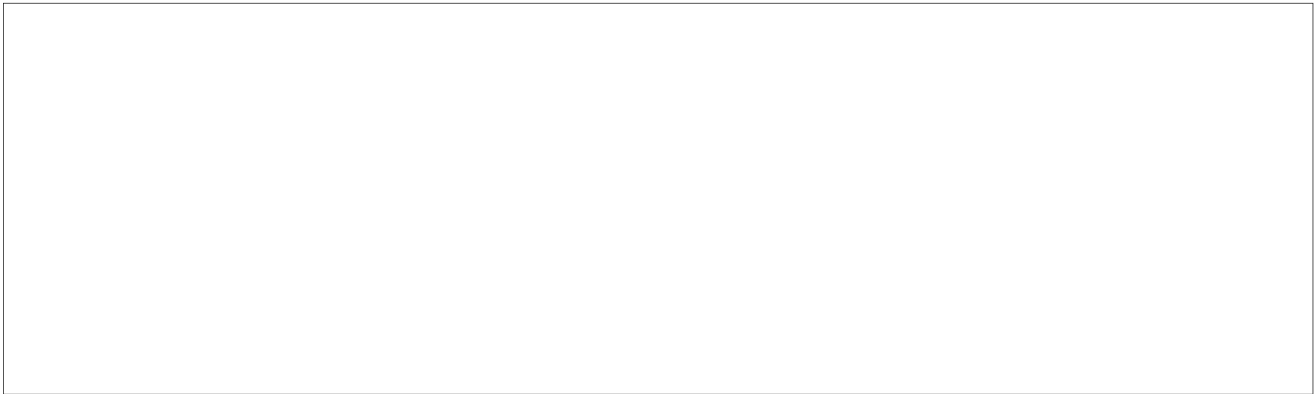
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D. EGYPT: NASIR FACES A SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO SEEK EXTENSIVE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. ALMOST \$113 MILLION OBTAINED FROM THE IMF LAST YEAR HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED WITHOUT REMEDYING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS, AND THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW.



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