

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

21 JULY 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Tunisian developments

a) Fighting broke out again late yesterday in the Bizerte area following a lull. The Tunis radio this morning claims that French and Tunisian units are fighting in the streets of Bizerte. The Tunisians also claim that a tank-supported French force moved in to occupy the city of Bizerte after the Tunisian garrison there had rejected a French ultimatum to withdraw.

b) Tunisia is trying to get the UN Security Council today to brand France as the aggressor at Bizerte. The Tunisian Foreign Minister told the US Ambassador that France's reinforcement of the base despite Tunisia's warning was an aggressive act which brought on the bloodshed.

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d) The French sent more reinforcements to Bizerte yesterday. French troops are under orders to defend themselves but to take no aggressive action, according to a French official.

e) President Bourguiba announced this morning that Tunisia will accept the principle of enrolling foreign volunteers in its fight against France, adding that friendly countries had offered assistance.

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2. Sequel to Ayub Khan's visit to US

b) An influential Pakistani newspaper carried a story, probably deliberately leaked, that the Kashmir dispute will probably be referred back to the UN in 1962 unless India is willing to resolve the issue in direct talks with Pakistan. Also that "broad agreement" had been reached between the US and Pakistan on the next diplomatic steps to be taken on Kashmir.

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3. Outer Mongolia soliciting diplomatic recognition from non-bloc nations

A Foreign Ministry official said Ulan Bator is "ready to establish diplomatic relations with the US, Britain, Japan, and other Western countries."

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4. Cuba prepares for 26
July celebrations

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The foreign guest list will include sizeable delegations from the Sino-Soviet bloc and Soviet astronaut Gagarin will be accorded red carpet honors. The Cuban government has announced that "a great surprise will be given to the Cuban people." We suggest that the "surprise" could include:

- a) a display of MIG fighter aircraft and other military hardware;
- b) the announcement of a new "Socialist" constitution or of a single political party;
- c) the release of prisoners taken in the invasion attempt (with the foreknowledge that many would elect to remain in Cuba);
- d) the announcement of plans for a free election (but with no definite date given).

Pro-Castro sympathizers in other Latin American countries are organizing demonstrations which could lead to some violence.

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5. Soviet space shot preparations

Advanced stage reached. The USSR is technically capable of:

- a) launching a manned satellite which would orbit the earth more than once prior to recovery; 50X1
- b) orbitting an instrumented reconnaissance vehicle around the moon;
- c) making a soft landing of an instrumented package on the moon.

Possible, of course, that the event will be less spectacular than any of these three. 50X1

NOTES

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- A. Indonesian Air Force crews will begin transition training next week in TU-16 medium jet bombers recently acquired from the USSR. Two of the bombers arrived in Indonesia early this month and 18 more are to be delivered between now and end of 1962. Indonesia is the only country outside the USSR which has TU-16's. [REDACTED]
- B. The Soviet navy may be operating as many as 28 submarines capable of launching missiles up to a range of 350 nautical miles. Seven of these--all based in the Murmansk area--may be nuclear-powered. [REDACTED]
- C. The Arab League Council yesterday adopted a resolution providing for the admission of Kuwait to the Arab League and for military aid by member states to preserve Kuwait's independence. Qasim, who tried to block the council's action, will probably brand it "illegal" and try to prevent its implementation.

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