

FILE

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

26 JULY 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Ceasefire efforts in Tunisia deadlocked



The French and Tunisians have failed to agree on a site for talks to arrange an official truce. The ceasefire is still in effect, but Bourguiba is talking of a long and bitter guerrilla war to oust the French from the base. He continues to call for military aid, and several Arab states are actively preparing to send small contingents. He has also asked for another Security Council meeting later this week.



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2. Laotian developments



- a) The King has come to Vientiane to discuss a coalition government; he is willing to appoint one but unlikely to assume the premiership.
- b) Boun Oum and Souvanna still hope to meet in Phnom Penh; we doubt if much will come of it as long as Souphannou-vong refuses to attend and Phoumi refuses to accept Souvanna as premier.
- c) Phoumi, in one of his more confident moods, is working out contingency plans for resuming hostilities. He has asked Thailand and South Vietnam for a light infantry division each.



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3. Thompson reports cryptic conversation which may be Soviet feeler on Berlin

[REDACTED]

The head of the American Desk in the Soviet Foreign Ministry told an Embassy official that the question of boundaries was more important to the USSR than the question of Berlin, although a decision was needed on the latter. When asked what boundaries he had in mind, the Soviet official replied "northern, eastern, and southern". [REDACTED]

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4. Situation in the Dominican Republic

[REDACTED]

President Balaguer still seems to be easing the regime toward liberalization, with elections promised for next year. In this, he is receiving the support of Trujillo's son Ramfis, who controls most of the armed forces, although Ramfis' motives are probably opportunistic. Even with Ramfis' support Balaguer is unable to act freely, however, in the face of remnants of Trujillo's machine, notably the old man's brothers, who have private armies of their own. There is no love lost between Ramfis and his uncles, and a showdown may be in the making. [REDACTED]

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5. **Brazil to restore relations with the USSR**

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Quadros made the announcement Monday. In an earlier personal letter Khrushchev had implied that this step would be followed by a Soviet aid offer, and we suspect the Soviet goodwill mission now touring Latin America to have made specific proposals, perhaps for development of the depressed northeast. President Goulart left on a trip to Communist China yesterday.



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NOTES

- A. Next Sunday is Soviet Navy Day, usually celebrated with a rather dull naval exhibition in Leningrad. There are suggestions, however, that this year the occasion--like the air show--may be used for muscle-flexing. "G-class" (conventionally-powered ballistic missile) submarines and guided missile-carrying destroyers may be shown. [redacted] 50X1
- B. The refugee figure for Monday was considerably higher than Sunday's. We believe, however, that many of those who registered on Monday had actually crossed into West Berlin earlier to attend the Church Congress. [redacted] 50X1
- C. Another test vehicle was successfully fired from Tyura Tam to Kamchatka yesterday. The score for this year is now 13 successes, nine failures, two undetermined. Preparations for a space shot continue. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted]
- E. Italian Prime Minister Fanfani will visit Moscow August 2-5. [redacted] 50X1
- F. The Congolese parliament is now in session; local UN officials believe Gizenga's group is winning out. The Katanga delegation is still absent and the political situation in Elisabethville is muddier than ever. [redacted] 50X1
- G. When Sukarno visited Moscow, Khrushchev is said to have offended him by asking "Now that we have given you all this aid, what are you going to do for us?" We have seen no reflection of Sukarno's displeasure in Indonesian policy, but [redacted] he may ask the US to undertake the Asahan project (major hydroelectric development in North Sumatra). [redacted] 50X1

- H. Sukarno plans to attend the UN General Assembly session after the Non-Aligned Nations Conference in Yugoslavia. A number of other heads of state may get the same idea. [REDACTED] 50X1
- I. Afghanistan has probably asked the USSR for fighters [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED]
- J. The Algerian delegation at Evian agreed yesterday to the French proposal to split into working groups and talk details. [REDACTED] 50X1
- LATE NOTE
- K. As of 0800 we have no information on today's activities in Havana.

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Berlin

--- 27 June to 24 July

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1. During the reporting period, Khrushchev and other Soviet officials have used forceful terms in attempting to impress on the West that the USSR will not be deterred from its announced policy on Germany and Berlin by any Western military measures and will be prepared to match such Western moves. At the same time, the USSR's preference for early negotiations, apparently at a high-level four-power conference, has been evident in Khrushchev's statements and in [redacted] remarks by bloc spokesmen.

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2. Despite hints that a separate treaty with East Germany might be signed as early as September, there is no convincing evidence that Khrushchev has altered his expressed intention to wait until the West German elections and probably until after the CPSU congress in October.

[redacted] if50X1 negotiations are begun before the end of the year, Khrushchev's 1961 deadline will not apply.

3. Since our last report a combination of events have coincided to produce an increasingly serious internal situation for the East German regime. A further deterioration in the economic situation and the effect of the bloc's more threatening tone on Berlin have increased popular discontent and apprehension. These factors have been added to the usual preference of refugees to flee during the summer months. East German moves to curtail the flow of refugees and warnings to the populace that it can expect no improvements in living standards increase the possibility of spontaneous local outbreaks.