

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

8 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

Ambassador Brown, commenting on Phoumi's account of the recent Phnom Penh talks between rival Laotian factions, states that it is evident no real effort to reach agreement on a new government or exchange ideas in any detail was made by either side. Souvanna's failure to be more specific may have resulted in part from his subservience to Souphannouvong and his desire to get prior acceptance of himself as prime minister. Phoumi's strategy, Brown states, is now emerging more clearly. In Brown's opinion, Phoumi believes that a peaceful solution is impossible and does not intend to press negotiations. Phoumi probably hopes, according to Brown, that Souvanna's actions, or a resurgence of military activity following the rainy season, will bring the US to see that its only course is to abandon hope of Souvanna and support Phoumi by force if necessary.

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2. Cuban-Brazilian trade negotiations

Talks were scheduled to begin yesterday in Havana. Che Guevara told the Brazilians beforehand that any agreement reached would have to be modest because of Cuba's economic troubles. He said that Cuba's ability to make payment in strong currency is limited and there would be difficulties in furnishing Cuban exports to balance imports from Brazil. The Brazilians were also told not to expect Cuban copper or nickel in 1961 or 1962, since all stocks were already committed to the Sino-Soviet bloc.

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NOTES

- A. East German border police were given a deadline of 1 September to bring their ranks up to full strength. This is to be done by intensified recruiting. [redacted] 50X1
1,308 East German refugees registered in West Berlin on Sunday. 9,624 registered during the preceding seven days--the highest weekly total since 1953. [redacted] 50X1
- B. The South Korean military regime is expected to announce a program soon for the reestablishment of civilian authority. Pak Chong-hui may be paving the way to assume the presidency when civil government is restored. [redacted] 50X1
- C. Southern Cameroon is scheduled to be federated with the adjoining Cameroun Republic on 1 October and British forces are to be withdrawn. There are signs that the terrorist National Army of Liberation of the Cameroun Republic is preparing to try to seize control of Southern Cameroons [redacted] (MAP) 50X1
- D. The probable landing point of the Soviet manned space vehicle has been fixed. (MAP) [redacted] 50X1

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