

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

28 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~



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1. Brazil developments



a) Tension remains high over whether Vice President Goulart should assume the presidency. The armed forces are split within their own ranks (the leader of the faction supporting Goulart--former presidential candidate Marshal Lott--is under arrest) and civilian officials throughout Brazil as well as labor and student leaders are expressing varying opinions as to how the presidential succession should be handled. It is not possible to predict what might develop in the next 48 hours or so. The situation could even deteriorate into civil war.

b) Provisions in the Brazilian constitution for succession to the presidency are rather complicated. A legal solution by congress--and acceptable to military leaders--could consist of amending the constitution to bar Goulart from office and provide for a suitable successor. Goulart's Labor Party would be unable by itself to block such an amendment even if it stayed united.

c)

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[redacted] War Minister Denys--confronted with lack of support outside the armed forces for his "stop Goulart" movement--has agreed to permit Goulart to assume the presidency provided he submits his cabinet nominations to the military for prior approval and severs all ties with the Communists.

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2. Berlin

Pending Moscow's reply to the Western protests over threats to the air access routes to the city, the East Germans and the Soviet military commander in Berlin have attempted to maintain the impression of moderation which first appeared in Ulbricht's speech last Friday. The East Germans, in commenting on the closing by West Berlin of their "permit" offices which were to be set up to issue permits to West Berliners to enter East Berlin, have tried to pin the blame on West Berlin authorities for closing travel to the east sector. The Soviet commandant in Berlin, rejecting in mild terms the US commandant's protest over East German restrictions on freedom of movement in Berlin, termed them "an entirely East German decision" and pointed out that US personnel continue to enjoy free access to East Berlin.

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3. Algerian Provisional Government reorganized

Pro-Western, moderate Ferhat Abbas' replacement as premier by Ben Youssef Ben Khedda--who has favored a more vigorous prosecution of the Algerian war--reflects rebel dissatisfaction, chiefly among military elements, over failure of negotiations with the French. The new rebel government will be even less compromising than its predecessor in any future negotiations with France and more willing to accept aid from the bloc.

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4. French defense chief
may be replaced



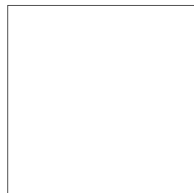
General Jean Olié, who succeeded General Ely as Chief of the National Defense Staff in March, is rumored to be at odds with De Gaulle over Algerian policy. Olié's departure would have an adverse effect on De Gaulle's relationship with the military. One of the key elements in the armed services' acquiescence in De Gaulle's policies-- particularly on Algeria--is the prestige of the Defense Staff chief.



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5. Cholera in Communist
China



The outbreak has reached epidemic proportions in the southern provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. Although Peiping has not admitted to the epidemic, we know that large amounts of cholera vaccine have been air shipped to several major southern cities, and supplies of vaccine are being drawn from as far away as Manchuria. Food shortages during the last two years have caused widespread poor health, making the people unusually susceptible to the disease; it is almost certain that the death toll will be high.



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6. Congo developments

- a) UN representatives, in collaboration with Adoula, are stepping up pressure on Tshombé to reintegrate Katanga with the rest of the Congo;
- b) UN military authorities now see as their primary mission support of the central government in its efforts to reintegrate both Katanga and Orientale Provinces;
- c) UN soldiers early this morning occupied key posts in Elizabethville in a move to enforce a central government decree requiring immediate removal of all foreign military personnel who had not signed contracts with the Leopoldville regime;
- d) UN authorities are beginning to discuss with Congolese officials in Leopoldville the progressive reduction of the UN force in the coming months. Hammarskjold's military advisor on the Congo has indicated that if the political climate continues to improve, the UN force, now numbering about 17,000, would be cut to 14,000 by 1 November and to 8,000 by 1 April 1962;
- e) Adoula has announced he hopes to attend the non-aligned nations conference as an observer and that Gizenga would accompany him.

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7. Chinese Nationalist plans for operations on the mainland

Taipei continues preparations for supporting any resistance which might occur on the mainland, whether spontaneous or triggered by Nationalist unconventional warfare teams. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Nationalists consider such support their own responsibility, but realized that use of large military forces would call for high level discussion with the US within the provisions of the bilateral military pact. (CIA Taipei)

NOTES

A. The unusually vague communiqué issued by the USSR and Communist China Saturday after three weeks of trade talks in Peiping suggests that little was accomplished toward improving economic relations between the two countries. The communiqué implicitly referred to the serious shortfalls in Chinese exports to the USSR, [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

B. A meeting of the Prime Ministers of Malaya and Singapore produced a communiqué Saturday in which it was noted that the question of a merger was frankly discussed and agreement in principle reached on what Malaya's responsibilities would be vis-a-vis Singapore and how much autonomy would be retained by Singapore within a greater Malaya including the present British colonies on Borneo. A working party is to examine other aspects of a possible merger. [redacted] 50X1

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