

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

**ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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8 MAY 1964  
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Cambodia -  
South Vietnam

a. South Vietnamese troops seem to have pursued a group of Viet Cong into their Cambodian sanctuary again yesterday in the same general area as the earlier incident at Chantrea.

b. Phnom Penh charges that 13 South Vietnamese M-113 armored personnel carriers penetrated some two miles into Cambodia, shooting at villagers and Cambodian guards, killing six and wounding four.

c. We do not yet have full details from MACV in Saigon, nor has Sihanouk been heard from.

2. South Vietnam

a. The number of desertions from South Vietnam's armed forces has been rising alarmingly since last November, and their strength has steadily declined.

b. The desertion rate has risen from about 3,000 a month before the coup on 1 November to a peak of 8,500 in March.

c. Most deserters are from the paramilitary units, but so far this year, the average monthly rate from the regular force is now about 1,600, double that of last year.

(Cont'd)

d. Khanh plans some steps to boost morale and step up recruitment, but even if these programs succeed, combat units are likely to stay understrength until August at least.

3. USSR--Wheat

a. There are good reserves of moisture in the ground this year, for a change, in the "New Lands" areas of Kazakhstan and West Siberia.

b. It is too early to say anything about the final grain harvest, but the USSR has at least this important hurdle behind it.

c. Even so, the Soviets are rumored seeking an additional three million tons of wheat from Canada, if the price is right.

d. We find this curious. It may be the Soviets need more grain for seed and reseedling than they originally thought.

4. Lebanon

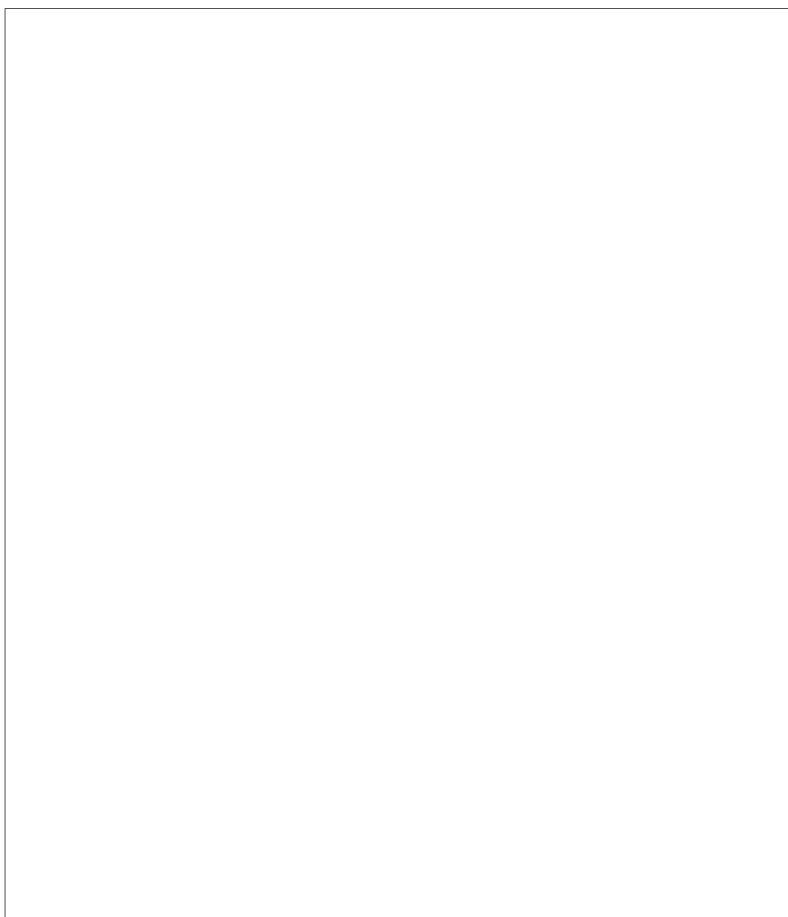
a. President Shihab now says he will not run for re-election in the presidential election this August. If he holds to this decision, another period of religious and political squabbling may develop.

(Cont'd)

b. He had earlier said he would run, and action was under way to remove the constitutional stipulation against a president succeeding himself.

c. These efforts will probably continue and Shihab may yet be persuaded to run in the interests of preserving stability, even though he apparently sincerely wants to quit.

5. Yemen-UK



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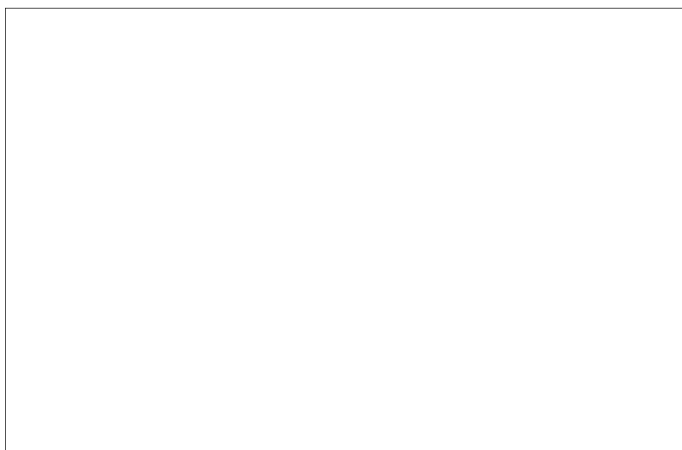


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6. Cuba-USSR



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7. Cyprus-UN

a. Like Gyani, UN mediator Tuomioja is discouraged.

b. He feels he is not getting anywhere and plans to wrap up his on-the-scene activities shortly, submit his report to New York, and return next month to his ambassadorial post in Stockholm.

c. There, he says, he can "mediate in comfort" in case there is any further call for his services.

d. His report will recommend a quasi-federal system under which five of six predominantly Turkish areas would have some autonomy in communal affairs; also, a long-term international observing or supervising role.

e. The island is comparatively quiet.

NOTES

- A. Laos There has been no essential change in the situation in Laos since yesterday.
- B. South Vietnam Plans are for Ngo Dinh Can to be put to death by a firing squad on Sunday in Saigon. Selected witnesses are to be present, but the circumstances are to be carefully controlled to avoid a public spectacle.
- C. Cuba-Brazil [redacted]
- D. Middle East Oil The solid front that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has tried to maintain in bargaining with Western oil companies has collapsed as a result of the Iranian Government's action in independently reaching agreement with the Iranian oil consortium. Kuwait has now informed the Kuwait Oil Company that it wishes to begin direct negotiations.
- E. Kashmir The current talks on the status of Kashmir between Nehru and the recently released Kashmiri leader, Sheikh Abdullah, have not developed much beyond an exchange of generalities. [redacted]

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[redacted] Abdullah has now been officially invited to visit Pakistan, but New Delhi is not likely to permit him to make such a trip in the near future.

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- F. India-US The advance party of the Indian Air Force team is to leave Delhi today en route here for military aid talks. [redacted]

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- G. Communist China Radio Peiping has announced that at 0930 this morning (Washington time) it will begin broadcasting an "important document." The broadcast, a nationwide hook-up, will last an hour and 40 minutes. Preliminary information is that the broadcast will publicize seven heretofore unpublished letters dealing with the Sino-Soviet dispute.



DOCUMENT OF INTEREST



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