

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



27 AUGUST 1964^{50X1}
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam
(As of 0800 EDT)

a. The Military Revolutionary Council (MRC) early this morning named a temporary triumvirate to run the government and then voted to dissolve itself.

b. The three men--Generals Khanh, Minh, and Khiem--are to oversee the election within 60 days of a national congress, which would then select a new chief of state.

c. The MRC's failure to agree on a new chief of state is an indication of serious differences within the group.

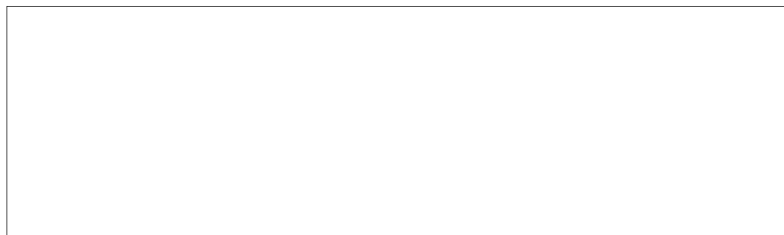
d. Khanh told Ambassador Taylor after Tuesday's MRC session that opposition had developed early to his plan to have the MRC dissolve itself. The opposition came mainly from officers linked with the Dai Viet party. General Khiem played both sides.

e. Selection of a triumvirate apparently is a stop-gap solution. It seems to be an effort to reconcile three factions within the MRC while at the same time promising a more popularly representative government.

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f. We are not at all sure that the MRC's action will stabilize the situation. Khiem's political influence is probably unacceptable to the Buddhist leadership.

g. Violence has persisted in Danang and demonstrations yesterday in Danang and Hué are indicative of strong suspicions of the MRC's intentions. This morning's reported firing by troops at Catholic demonstrators in Saigon is likely to increase tensions. The demonstrators were demanding retention of the MRC under Khanh.



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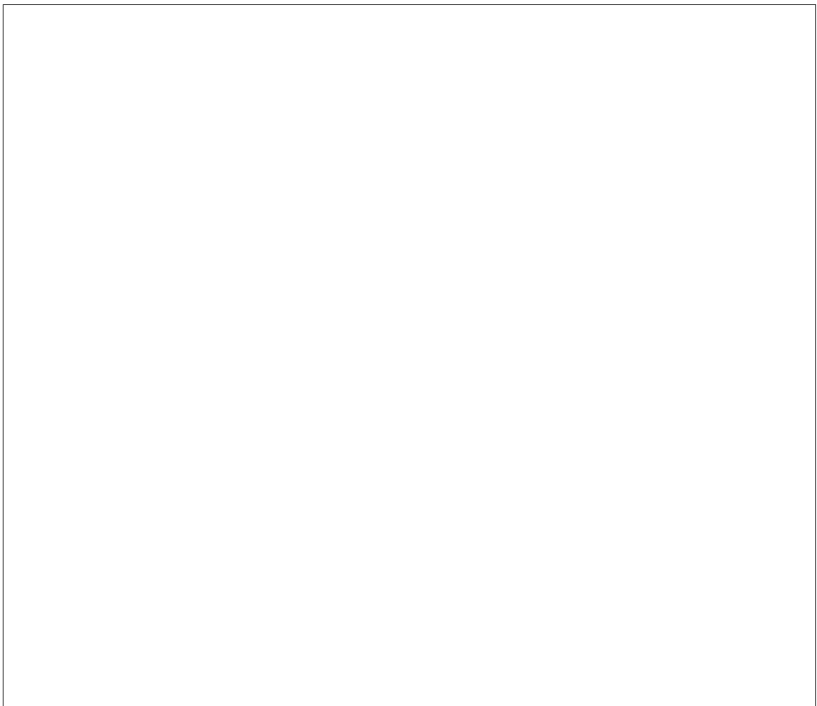
i. We still have noted no specific efforts by the Viet Cong to exploit the governmental crisis. Communist military activity has, however, continued to increase gradually.

2. Cyprus

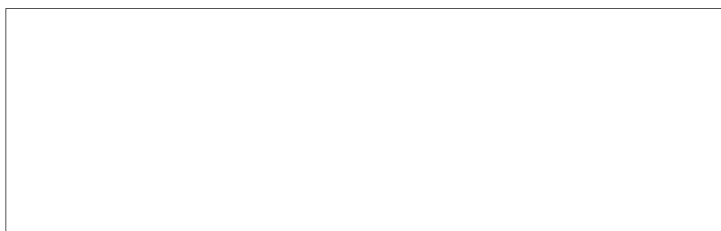
a. Makarios apparently is getting nervous over the possibility of plots to overthrow his regime.

b. Perhaps in an effort to counter any such plots, he publicly said yesterday that he hoped enosis "without conditions or exchanges" would take place soon. Makarios has been hostile to the idea of enosis, and there was no mention of it in the communiqué issued after his 25 August meeting with Papandreou in Athens.

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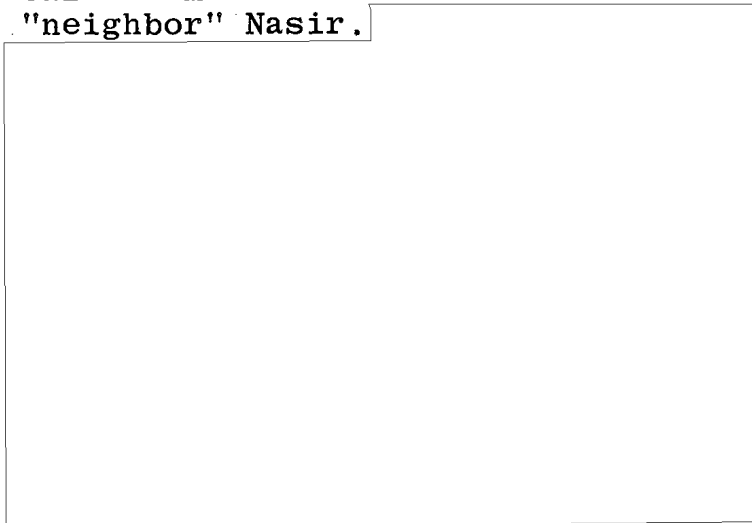


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f. Nicosia announced last night that Makarios and his foreign minister, Kyprianou, would go to Cairo tomorrow for talks with "neighbor" Nasir.



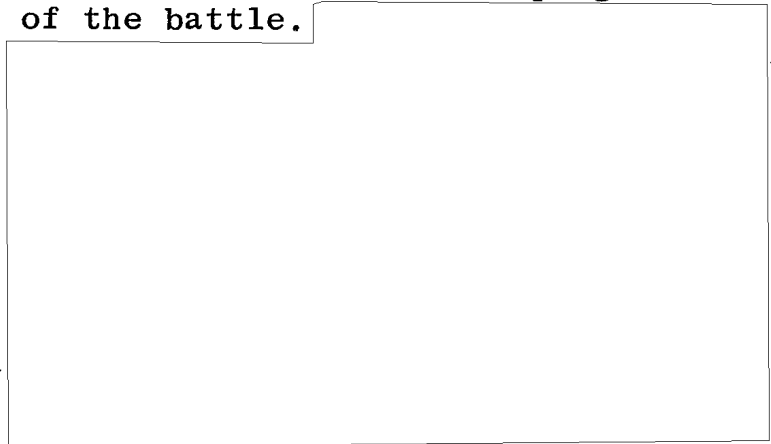
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h. A week-long Soviet joint military exercise held in Transcaucasus military district ended on 23 August. There is no evidence that it was intended to be related to the Cyprus developments.

3. Congo

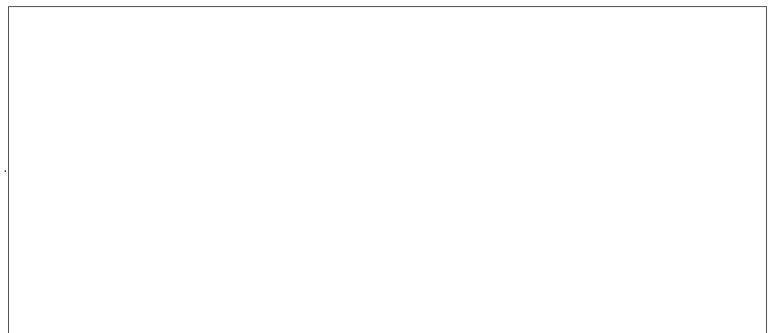
a. Government troops now have Albertville under attack.

b. Air attacks have been carried out and there are reports of street fighting. We do not yet have firm details on the progress of the battle.



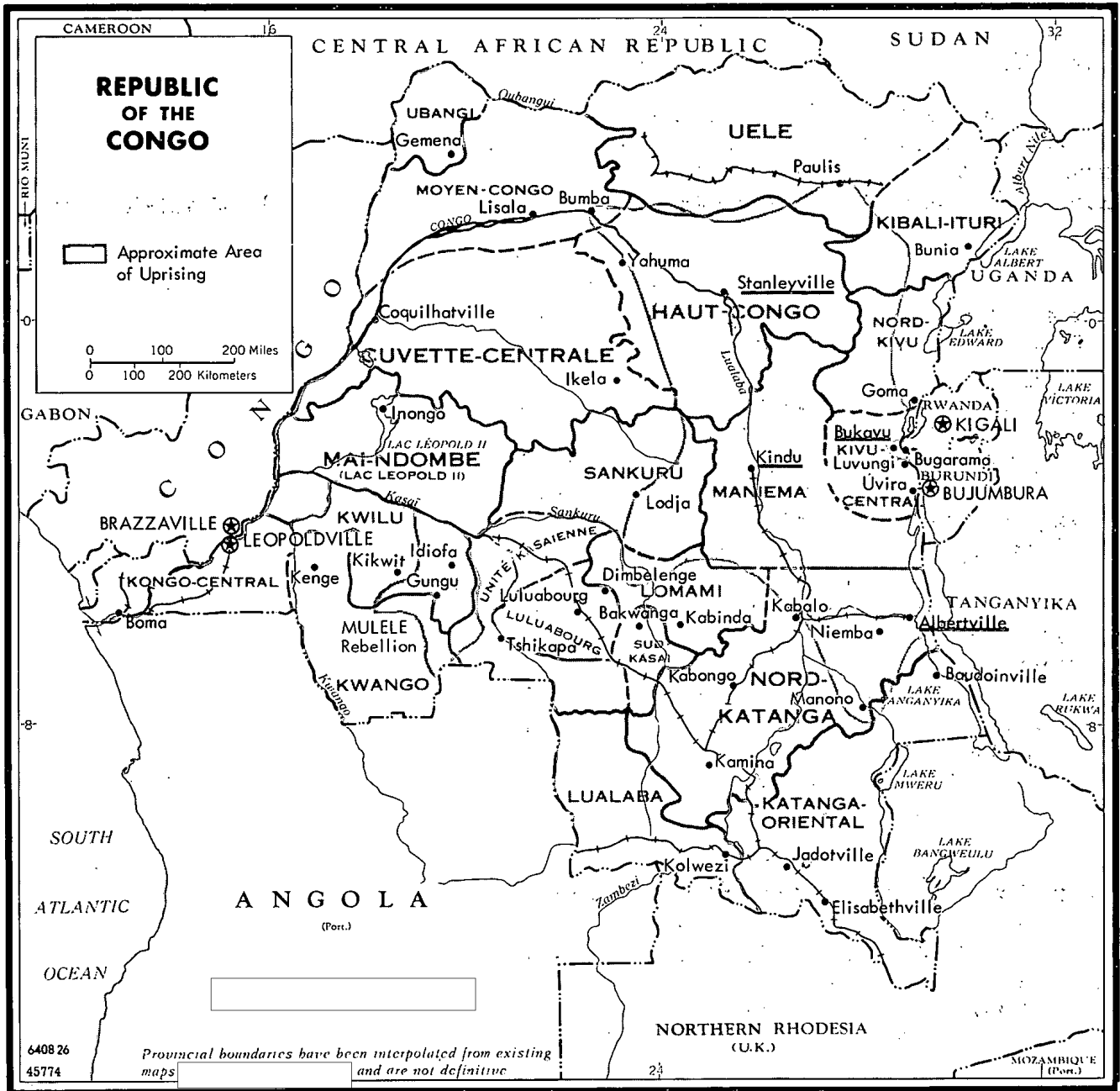
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d. We have been expecting a new rebel attack on Bukavu but thus far have no word that it has come off. The US consul there has asked for a C-130 to stand by if evacuation of Americans becomes necessary.



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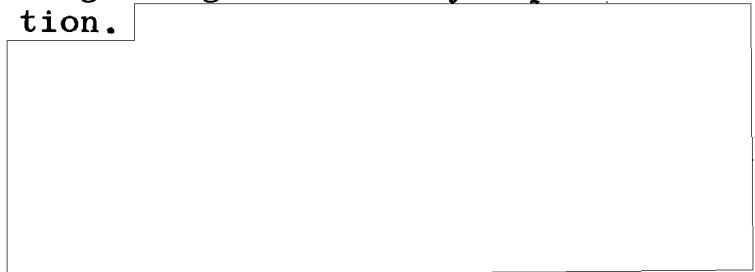




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g. It is now clear that rebels operate far from their native areas. Many insurgents in Stanleyville have been heard speaking Swahili, which is not normally used there. Some attacking Bukavu came from Albertville, over 200 miles away.

h. The rebels also appear to be gaining in military sophistication.



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4. USSR-Cuba

a. Moscow is apparently shifting tactics in trying to muster diplomatic support for a relaxation of US pressures against Cuba.

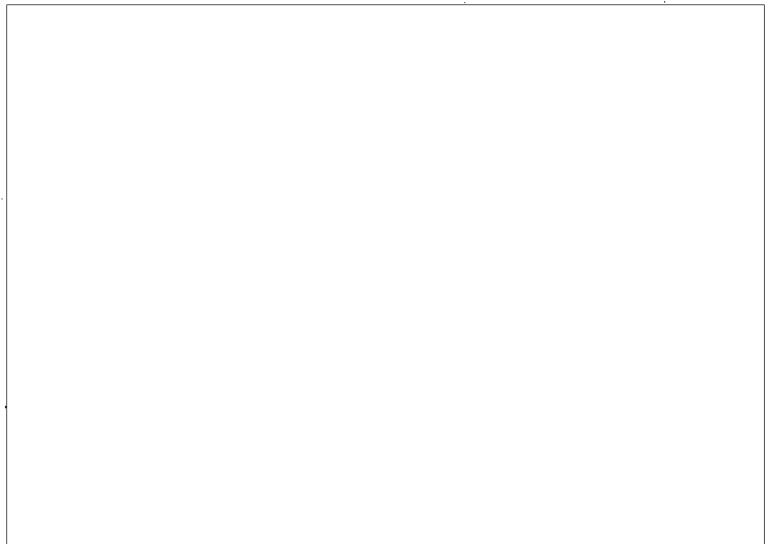
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b. The Soviets have begun a cautious campaign to arouse concern among UN members over the recent OAS resolution. They have implied that they intend to take some action in the UN General Assembly this fall to isolate the US on the issue.

c. Moscow's case is based on claim that the OAS action was illegal since it was taken by a regional group under UN aegis and that prior Security Council consent was required under the UN charter.

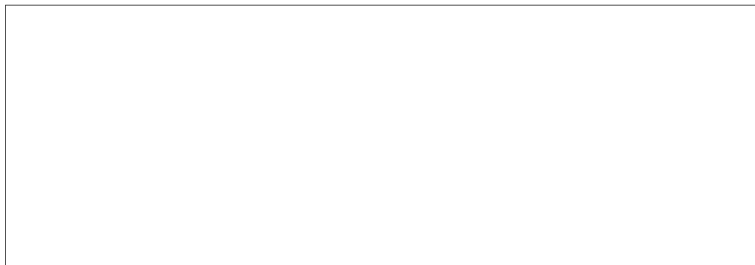
d. Soviet leaders may reason that this approach is less risky for Soviet-US relations than a head-on attack on the issue of US overflights of Cuba.

5. North Vietnam



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NOTES

- A. Laos Right-wing and neutralist forces continue to consolidate their positions along Route 13 between Vang Vieng and Luang Prabang and to clear scattered Pathet Lao units to the west of Route 13. In the Plaine des Jarres area, the Communists still control key positions at Phou Kout. Company-size probing actions by Pathet Lao forces have been reported in the area, but we have seen no indications that a major move is in the making.
- B. USSR-Czechoslovakia Khrushchev's visit to Czechoslovakia is apparently to be longer than we had expected. He arrived in Prague this morning and reportedly will stay until 5 September. Our embassy says that this allows ample time for party-government consultations as well as a "grass-roots" tour of the country.
- C. USSR-URTZ In addition to stepping up its military assistance, Moscow has agreed to provide economic and technical assistance to Tanganyika-Zanzibar. Details are not available, but a Soviet delegation will probably be sent to the country to make a survey and work out a specific program and determine amounts of credit.