

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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28 OCTOBER 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. As Suu, the new chief of state, edges into choosing his cabinet slate for submission to the High National Council--a process which may take a week--Khanh's government acts in a caretaker capacity.

b. Khanh has been ensuring his own future role. On Sunday he got 32 of 40 senior generals to indicate they wanted him to stay on as armed forces chief.

c. General Minh seems slated for a sinecure, possibly as "supreme counselor" to Suu. Khanh has told Ambassador Taylor that Minh needed medical attention and "would do well" to take a long trip. Minh tells Taylor he would indeed like medical attention in the US or Hawaii.

d. On Sunday, a Hanoi broadcast predicted ominously that the situation in South Vietnam would "soon" resemble that in the north following Dien Bien Phu in 1954. It foresaw a drastic desertion rate in "a few weeks" with battalions "reduced to a score of men" and called on South Vietnamese military personnel to "rise up" against the US "commanders."

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e. We have no evidence that Hanoi actually expects, or has any specific plans to effect, disintegration in the south in a matter of weeks, but its language has been growingly optimistic.



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2. Cambodia -
South Vietnam -
Thailand

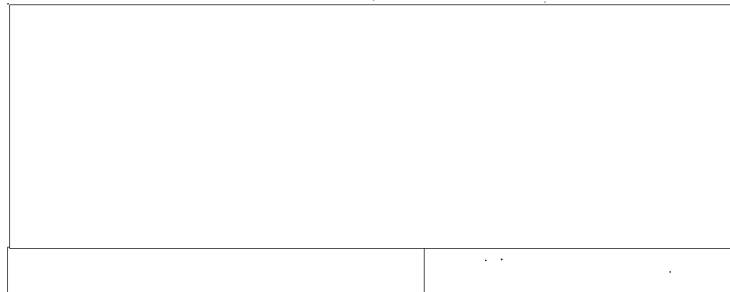


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c. [redacted] Phnom Penh claims that the three Cambodian MIGs which strafed a South Vietnamese border post on Monday did so after they received fire while chasing South Vietnamese aerial violators.

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3. India

a. The public debate on whether India should now develop nuclear weapons appears to be gathering steam. While the present policy still has widespread support, a number of newspapers, particularly in the vernacular press, are speaking editorially in favor of a weapons program.

b. Defense Minister Chavan, speaking to a US official recently, criticized repeated statements by other Indian officials to the effect that India would never develop a nuclear bomb. "Never," he said, is a long time and a word "too frequently repeated."

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4. Bolivia

a. The wave of disorders has continued in several cities. In La Paz, however, security forces appear to be handling it.

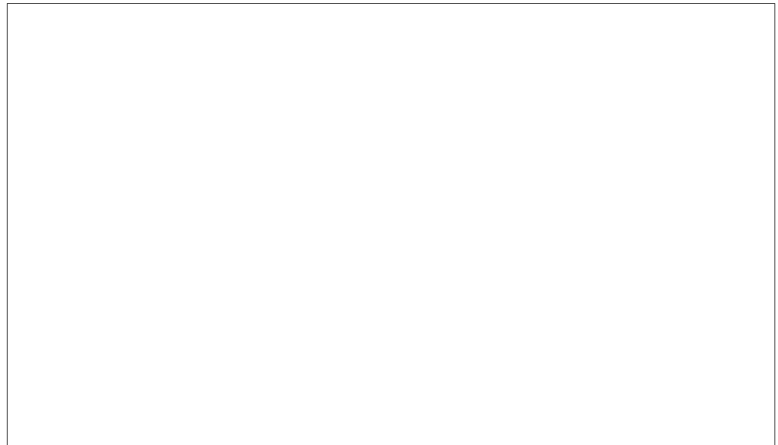
b. Ambassador Henderson sees the demonstrations as possibly the result of a conspiracy among the various opposition groups. Vice President Barrientos does not appear to be behind them but is eagerly waiting in the wings.

c. Pleading a "medical emergency," Barrientos yesterday put in a bid to the US Embassy for possible evacuation Thursday. Henderson thinks Barrientos wants to be out of the way during any showdown with President Paz so that he could return either as Paz' successor or as his vice president if Paz manages to keep the lid on.

d. So far the military leaders are sticking with Paz, but they might not be averse to the idea of a military takeover, with or without Barrientos, if Paz seems to be losing his grip.

5. Sudan

a. Prime Minister Abboud's conciliation moves have so far failed to quiet demands for a civilian government. The opposition is continuing the public demonstrations, hoping to force Abboud out.

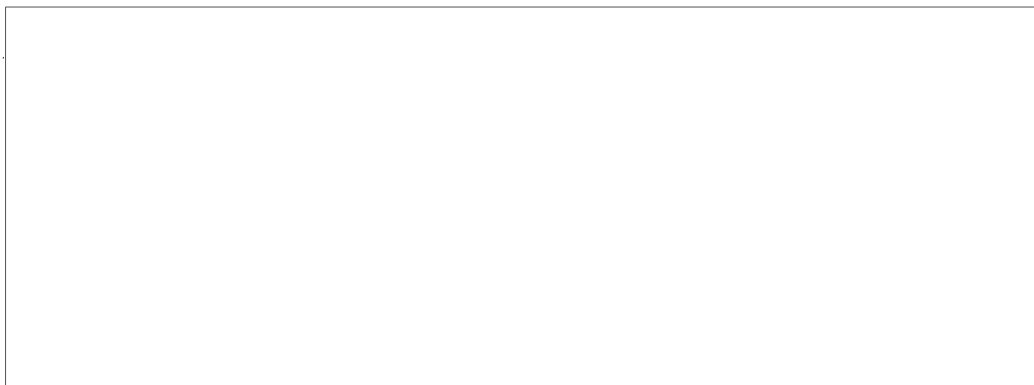


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B. USSR-Germany Bonn officials say [redacted] the West German Government is still ready for high-level talks with the Soviets. German officials have publicly affirmed that the invitation to the Soviet "leadership" is still in effect, and that, if the new Soviet Government considers an exchange of views worthwhile, Bonn is ready for such conversations.

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C. Communist China Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen I is going to attend the Algerian national day celebrations on 1 November. In this instance, Algiers may only be serving as the springboard for another high-level Chinese tour of Africa. We also note, according to an interview published in a French leftist weekly, that Chen I may have been fishing recently for an invitation to Paris.

(Cont'd)

D. The Vatican-US The papal nuncio to the Dominican Republic, for eight years private secretary to Pope Paul, says it is not "impossible" that the Pope will visit the Dominican Republic during the Marian Congress next March. Moreover, he says, this would assist in enabling arrangements for a visit to the US.

E. USSR This morning another satellite was launched from Tyuratam. We think it a Cosmos type, probably with a photographic mission.

[Redacted]

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F. USSR-India [Redacted] Soviet [Redacted] is encouraging the Indian Government to ask Moscow for submarines.

[Redacted]

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Communist China

a. [] mission [] 1
showed a 70-foot missile erected at
one of the pads at the Shuangchengtzu
missile test center []

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b. Mission [] 2 showed
that it had either been fired or
removed [] The missile
was missing, but propellant vehicles
and an erector were grouped on the
pad in a manner similar to that
which we have noted at Kapustin Yar
during Soviet MRBM exercises.

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