

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



17 JAN. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Dominican Republic

A. Yesterday's changeover, engineered by a military group led by General Rodriguez Echavarria to forestall a feared move by the UCN against the military, has produced a new 7-man civilian-military Council of State. Balaguer is out, (a new president has apparently not yet been named) but so is Bonnelly, who was slated to succeed him. The build-up in tension in Santo Domingo all day yesterday triggered the move.

B. The ousted members of the Council are under arrest

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C. The new Council has announced that it will remain in power until February 1963 and that, in the meantime, it will work to achieve "real democracy."

D. Although Balaguer is gone, Rodriguez remains, though not a member of the Council, and a new round of violence is in the offing.

2. Cuban action against
Guantanamo rumored

[redacted] 50X1
the Cubans have scheduled some kind of operation against the Base [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] While Castro would like to 50X1
dramatize the issue on the eve of the OAS meeting, the kind of military move which the rumors point to would hardly serve his purpose. More probably, they are of a piece with other harrassment moves, which have been on the increase lately, against the Base's Cuban employees.

3. Soviets begin partial
release of conscripts

Evidence has begun to appear [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] in East Germany 50X1
that at least some of the conscripts who have completed their 3-year terms are being demobilized and sent home. While the move does suggest some relaxation of the abnormally high state of readiness which has been in effect in Soviet forces in East Germany, the number of troops we think are thus far involved is too small to warrant any speculation regarding possible change in the Soviet negotiating position or tactics on Berlin. 50X1
[redacted]

4. Key Ecuadorean elements seek Arosomena resignation

Military leaders, joined by the Defense and Foreign Ministers, are insisting that he shift direction or step down in favor of Vice President Varea, a middle-of-the-roader. Their chief demands are for a break with Cuba and the removal of leftists from the government. Arosomena's popular support, except from the left, has gone downhill steadily since he took over in November, and it looks as though he no longer has the political resources to hold out.

5. Congo

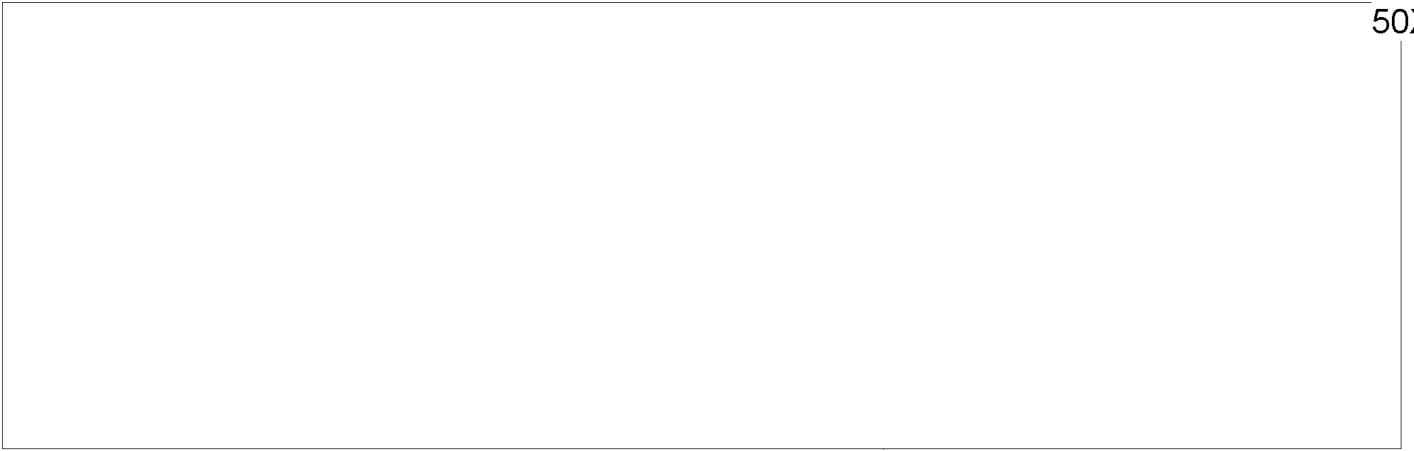
A. Gizenga has informed his representative in Cairo that he plans to leave for Leopoldville on Saturday, which, in the circumstances, is probably a firmer assurance than those he gave earlier.

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B. Our Embassy in Moscow sees signs that Soviet disenchantment with U Thant has begun to set in as a result of the UN's position on Gizenga. At the same time, Moscow's continuing "go-easy" tack toward the Adoula government seems to reflect "Soviet appreciation of the realities of the current situation."

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NOTES

- A. Harriman saw Souvanna in Geneva yesterday to sound out his ideas on breaking the Boun Oum-Phoumi impasse. Souvanna agreed to come up with more concrete proposals on composition of a government, which if acceptable to us, would give us more leverage against Boun Oum.
- B. New Delhi, maneuvering to sidetrack Pakistan's move to bring the Kashmir issue before the Security Council, at least until after the Indian elections, is hinting that, if debate does take place, Krishna Menon will be India's man and that tempers on both sides would be bound to flare.
- C. The East German regime is making little or no headway in getting its population's morale out of the doldrums. [redacted] the party still much troubled by the amount of static it is picking up, particularly as a result of worsening economic conditions. [redacted]
- D. Uruguayan Communists are planning "gigantic" demonstrations, accompanied by strikes, during the Punta del Este conference. An influx of comrades from Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, and Brazil may give them a pretty good turn-out, but Uruguayan security officials are not looking for any unmanageable problems.
- E. The Saudis, with some urging from us, are considering an effort to mediate the Pakistan-Afghan dispute, based on an appeal from King Saud to both "Muslim brothers."
- F. An aide of Lebanese President Shihab, whose nerves remain very much on edge, has hinted to a US representative in Beirut that Lebanon would appreciate help from the US in getting the British and Jordanians "off Lebanon's back."

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

II.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE