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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

15 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE NOTE

Moscow this morning pulled out the propaganda stops on Laos. We are accused of "sabre rattling," and the movement of our forces in Southeast Asia is described as a "reckless and dangerous provocation" which could lead to "serious consequences" for peace in the area.



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1. Laos



a. Phoumi and Boun Oum took off yesterday on their latest junket in search of aid and sympathy, this time to Taipei. Given the existing atmosphere of uncertainty in Vientiane, we do not rule out the possibility of a sudden move to oust Phoumi before he returns.

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b. In Paris, Souvanna has said he will fly home at the end of the week, [redacted]

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As a gesture probably aimed at making it possible for Phoumi to attend a meeting of the three-princes at Khang Khay without loss of face, Souvanna also stated that he will first seek to lay his plans before the king in Luang Prabang.

c. Khrushchev and Gromyko had nothing to say about the movement of US forces in Southeast Asia during their meeting with Ambassador Thompson on Sunday. Their silence, plus the low-key treatment so far accorded Laotian developments by the Moscow press, leads Thompson to believe that the Soviets do not intend seriously to oppose us in this area.

d. The Thai, nervous about the exposure of their border in the Ban Houei Sai area, are playing hard on the theme that they will soon be the victim of indirect aggression from that direction and want us to deploy our forces accordingly.

2. Sino-Indian border dispute

Peiping has accused India of a new "aggression" in southeastern Ladakh and has demanded that Indian troops be withdrawn. [redacted]

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[redacted] Chinese reinforcements have probably been moving into the area via the Lhasa-Ladakh road since the spring thaw, which suggests they will soon be "defending" themselves with something more damaging than diplomatic notes. [redacted]

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3. Prospects for USSR-Sudan air agreement improve

[redacted] a high-powered Soviet delegation will be arriving in the Sudan on Friday. Our Embassy does not think the Sudanese can withstand the pressure of this delegation and that they will conclude the air agreement that will open the door for the extension of Soviet air routes to east and west Africa.

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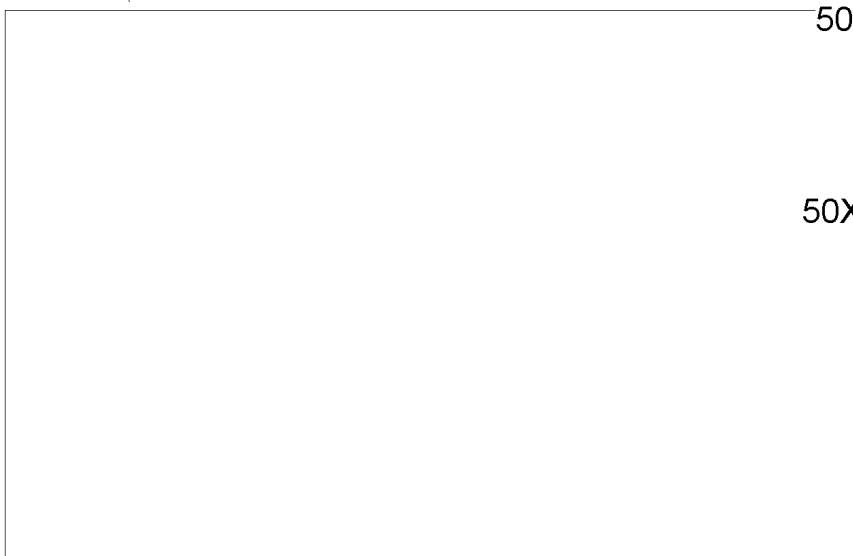
4. British accession to the EEC

Some progress appears to have been achieved at the ministerial meeting in Brussels last week [redacted]

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5. India-South Vietnam



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NOTES

- A. Our Embassy in Manila appears to be in for some heavy weather this week as student and labor leaders have scheduled demonstrations for today and Saturday in protest against the defeat of the war claims bill. [redacted] 50X1
- B. Tunisia intends to reheat its Bizerte base argument with France, at least on the diplomatic front. Ambassador Bourguiba is returning to Washington with warnings to this effect, hoping that Paris can somehow be pressed to commit itself to an evacuation schedule. [redacted] 50X1
- C. [redacted]
- D. Chiang Kai-shek [redacted] 50X1
has been pronounced to be in excellent health and has resumed his official duties. [redacted] 50X1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE