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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--29 JUNE 1962

1. TAIWAN STRAIT:

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A. THE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, ALTHOUGH WE NOTE SOME [REDACTED] ACTIVITY IN THE CANTON AREA. [REDACTED]

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B. TAIPEI'S PUBLIC REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY HAS BEEN LIMITED TO A CAUTIOUS ENDORSEMENT OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE. PEIPING STILL HAS NOT COMMENTED, BUT CAME OUT YESTERDAY WITH A LONG TIRADE ABOUT AMERICAN "MILITARY OCCUPATION" OF, AND "ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION" OF TAIWAN. TASS, HOWEVER, IN A BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT, NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS THAT THE US IS UNCERTAIN OF PEIPING'S INTENTIONS AND THAT AMERICAN "ARRANGEMENTS" ARE DEFENSIVE.

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2. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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3. LAOS:

A. SOUPHANNOUVONG RETURNED TO VIENTIANE YESTERDAY, BRINGING WITH HIM SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN KHANG KHAY. HIS FIRST ACT WAS TO CALL OFF THE SCHEDULED CABINET MEETING TO GET THE NEW GOVERNMENT STARTED, CLAIMING SUCH A SESSION HAD BEEN MADE IMPOSSIBLE BY FOREIGN MINISTER QUINIM'S DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA.

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B. WE NOTE THAT RUMORS OF A RIGHTIST COUP ARE FLOATING AROUND VIENTIANE, AND DISCOUNT THEM. ANY MOVE BY PHOUMI'S HENCHMEN WOULD MEET QUICK RETALIATION; SOUVANNA'S TROOPS DEPLOYED IN THE VICINITY OF VIENTIANE ARE UNDER ORDERS TO "MOVE IN IN FORCE" SHOULD THINGS GO AWRY THERE.

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4. ALGERIA:

A. DE GAULLE PLANS FORMALLY TO ANNOUNCE ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE ON TUESDAY. MEANWHILE, OUR CONSULATE GENERAL, OBSERVING THE RELAXATION IN LOCAL TENSIONS, BELIEVES THAT THE TRANSFER OF POWER WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER REASONABLY TRANQUIL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE LONGER-RANGE PICTURE, HOWEVER, REMAINS BECLOUDED BY FACTIONALISM IN THE ALGERIAN CAMP WHICH TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE LAST NIGHT WHEN BEN BELLA--REPORTEDLY IN A MONUMENTAL HUFF--SUDDENLY LEFT TUNIS FOR TRIPOLI.

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4. NOTES:

A. IN BELGIUM, THE SENIOR PARTNERS IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT MAY BE HEADED FOR AN EARLY FALLING-OUT OVER THE TOUCHY RELIGION-AND-THE-SCHOOLS ISSUE.

B. SUKARNO IS ORGANIZING ANOTHER AFRO-ASIAN CONFERENCE WHICH, LIKE THE 1954 AFFAIR, HE PROPOSES BE HELD IN BANDUNG, INDONESIA. HE ALREADY HAS POSITIVE COMMITMENTS FROM AT LEAST FIFTEEN COUNTRIES.

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C. WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE EVIDENCE THAT THE VIET CONG IS INCREASING ITS FIRE POWER BY THE ACQUISITION OF HEAVY MORTARS AND ARTILLERY PIECES FROM NORTH VIETNAM.

D. THE AFGHANS [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN LOSING A LOT MORE IN THE WAY OF TRADE THAN THEY HAVE GAINED IN THE WAY OF TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF THEIR FEUD WITH PAKISTAN [REDACTED]

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E. OUR MOSCOW EMBASSY REPORTS INSISTENT RUMORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO INCREASE REVENUES WITH ANOTHER ROUND OF PRICE INCREASES AND BY RENEWING THE PRACTICE OF COMPULSORY BOND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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