

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



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9 AUGUST 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Congo

a. Leopoldville's efforts to restrict air service and communications to Katanga have enraged Katangan officials and have precipitated some alarm among the European community there. The UN representative in Elisabethville, who says he was caught flat-footed by the restrictions, fears that the Katangans will retaliate violently against UN personnel or will cut off UN provisions and services.

b. The prospects are not good that West European governments will be able to persuade business to comply with economic sanctions against Katanga. The Germans have told us they won't even try.

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2. Algeria

Ben Bella's move to dissolve Algeria's six military districts and merge them with civil administrations is designed to expand his political control and to hobble those in the military who hope they can constitute an independent force. Meanwhile, Abdurrahman Fares, President of the Provisional Executive, has been in France looking for ready cash but apparently has failed. He has urgently asked to talk with Porter on his return today; very likely he will make a pitch to us for funds.

3. Argentina

The situation is touch and go at the moment and there is a real possibility that certain groups (both military and civilian) who favor a military takeover, will see their chance to move.

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4. Laos

During a tour d'horizon of the problems confronting his government, Souvanna assured Ambassador Unger that the question of Viet Minh withdrawal will be "satisfactorily solved." Souvanna, who says he is concerning himself directly with the matter, has indicated he may go to Hanoi and Peiping himself to request the withdrawals. Nothing Souvanna has said, however, enhances our confidence regarding our ability to verify such withdrawals when and if they take place.

USIB WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--8 August 1962

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

During the past week we have noted an increase in the tempo of internal security preparations in East Germany. There are indications that the Soviets may be preparing East Germans for some active participation in the control of Allied surface access to West Berlin. Renewed harassments of Western access may occur at any time. We have no firm evidence that Moscow has moved toward signing a separate peace treaty.

NOTES

A. Trouble is again brewing for President Arosemena: the government has been unable to stop a wave of strikes and the internal security situation has deteriorated. A hostile Congress convenes at the end of this week and a conservative-led move against him will probably ensue.

B. Kurdish guerrillas retain the initiative in northern Iraq and continue to register local successes against government forces despite reinforcements sent in from central Iraq. These successes have the Iranians worried.

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D. Soviet shipments to Cuba have been arriving on an unprecedented scale since mid-July. Some 32 vessels are involved; at least half of these we believe to be carrying arms. Five passenger ships with a total capacity of about 3,000 persons have already arrived. Some of the personnel are said to be Soviet technicians, and we have no reason to doubt this. We do not believe there are any combat troops among them. 50X1

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE