

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 AUGUST 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

LATE NOTE

A Reuters dispatch just in from London cites Cairo radio as saying that the UAR has withdrawn from the Arab League. The League has been in session to hear Syrian charges of Egyptian subversion and it may be that the Egyptians have walked out of the meeting. Withdrawal from the League would be something else again and we would like to know more before accepting the report whole-hog.

For The President Only—Top Secret

1. Laos

a. The Soviet airlift into Laos has fallen off sharply since late last week. We cannot say with such a limited sampling that it is about to end, but think it entirely possible that future flights will be on a spot basis.

b. Soviet flights had been averaging 7 daily since the first of this month. On Saturday there was one flight, none on Sunday, two yesterday, and none again today. Yesterday's flights, both to the Plaine des Jarres, were engaged in the ritual withdrawal of the handful of North Vietnamese "technicians." [redacted]

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c. We continue to see activity on the communications networks serving North Vietnamese military units elsewhere in Laos. [redacted]

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2. Cambodia

a. Moscow yesterday put itself on record in support of Sihanouk's appeal for an international conference on Cambodia.

b. The French foreign ministry has drafted a reply to Sihanouk's letter for De Gaulle's approval which says that Paris is ready to declare solemnly for Cambodian independence and neutrality, but attempts to convey by omission that it is unenthusiastic about a great-power conference.

3. USSR

a. Soviet authorities are continuing to keep a tight security lid on the Rostov area, which has been giving Moscow fits for the last two months.

b. There was rioting there in June over living conditions generally and food prices in particular, and the area has been almost totally out of bounds to foreigners since then. We now have word that there was another flare-up earlier this month and that the government ordered in troops and tanks.

c. To nail the point down further, the local Soviet press has published notice that a curfew on youths in the area will be in force for the next two years.

4. Haiti

a. It looks very much as though President Duvalier and the military leaders, who are the last remaining curb on his dictatorship, are moving relentlessly toward a final reckoning.

b. The pivotal question seems to be whether the Haitian general staff can act against Duvalier before he carries through on plans to merge the regular army with the more numerous civil militia, his personal Janissary corps.

c. The smell of trouble seems to be having an invigorating effect on the underground opposition to Duvalier which, up till now, has been too badly divided to amount to anything.

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5. Cuba

a. The Soviet Chief Engineering Directorate in Moscow has raised the budget of its representative in Cuba from \$80,000 in July to at least \$175,000 for August. [redacted]

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b. The US Guantanamo base has been receiving a steady flow of reports that large numbers of Bloc personnel are engaged in construction activity near Banes on the north coast of Oriente Province.

c. A study of Cuban Air Force communications reveals that Bloc pilots, very probably Russian, have taken part with the Cubans in just about every major air force operation or new training exercise since last May. [redacted]

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d. Guatemala's foreign minister announced yesterday that he intended to propose an OAS foreign ministers' meeting to examine the Soviet influx into Cuba.

NOTES

- A. Algeria Ben Bella, last reported to be still in Oran, seems to have succeeded in lining up four of the six military district chiefs behind him. In Algiers, the unsettled state of affairs this morning produced the first serious clash between French and Algerian armed forces since the ceasefire.
- B. Syria A Soviet delegation has been in Damascus the past several days negotiating a cultural agreement, but it is reported that the two sides are also mulling over a Treaty of Friendship.
- C. Peru The military junta--probably with some thought to strengthening its plea for the renewal of US military aid--is moving toward a clean break with the Communist labor leaders who rendered yeoman service last month in preventing the APRA-called general strike from going anywhere.
- D. Panama The government has captured the leader of the National Guard rebels who it had feared might become the nucleus of a revolt.
- E. Dominican Republic President Bonnelly is thinking about a trip to New York next month for the UNGA, coupled with a visit to Washington. He would be coming here to address the OAS, but would also have in mind a White House invitation.
- F. Ghana [redacted] Nkrumah [redacted] he cannot get his mind off the near-miss on his life early this month [redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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