

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

4 NOVEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

LATE ITEM

Berlin

a. As of 0900 this morning the first US "non-dismountable" test convoy with 12 vehicles and 44 men is being held up by the Soviets at the Marienborn checkpoint.

b. The Soviets are apparently not willing to buy gracefully the new harmonized procedures which we communicated to them last week. At one point they told the convoy commander that they and not the Americans or their allies dictate regulations on the Autobahn.

c. At last report, the Soviets at Marienborn had retreated from their demand that the troops dismount to an argument over dropping tailgates. On this basis, we suspect the episode may be cooling off.

d. A second convoy scheduled for today is being held up.

1. South Vietnam

a. The generals have restored order to Saigon, released non-Communist political prisoners, reopened the schools and promised that there would be no reprisals against the troops which defended Diem.

b. They are wrestling with the formation of a largely civilian cabinet with former Vice President Tho as prime minister and some of Diem's former ministers for continuity. This cabinet will of course be under the generals' committee headed by coup leader "Big" Minh.

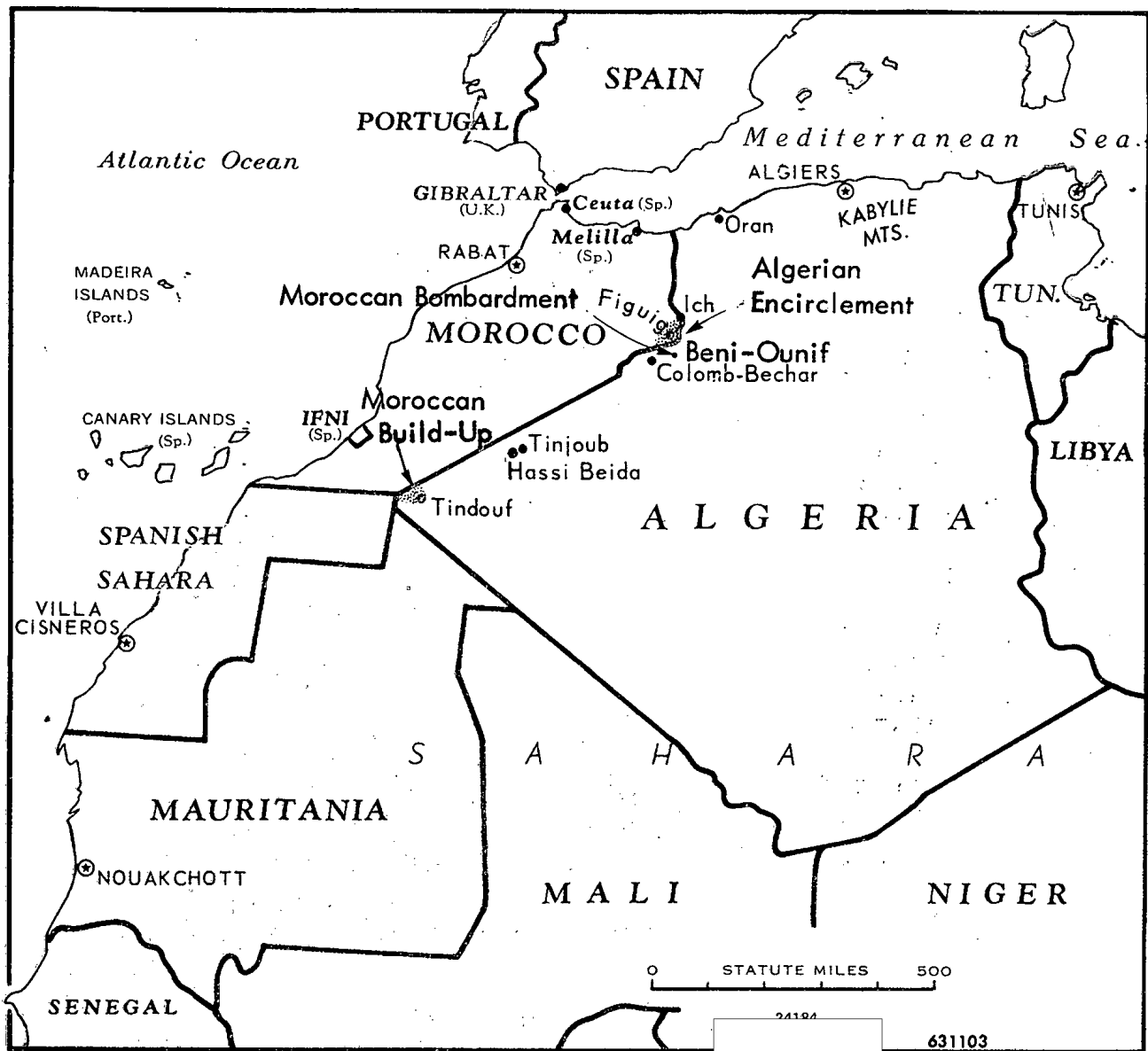
c. We see a few disquieting signs. Two civilian leaders, both known by the generals to have been privately critical of the Diem/Nhu regime, have been arrested.

d. All may not be well among the generals, most of whom are exceedingly distrustful of General Ton That Dinh, Saigon military governor and aspirant to the interior post. They consider him opportunistic and perhaps insane.

e. At last report Dinh was giving interviews claiming sole credit for the coup, and may be thinking of trying to seize power.

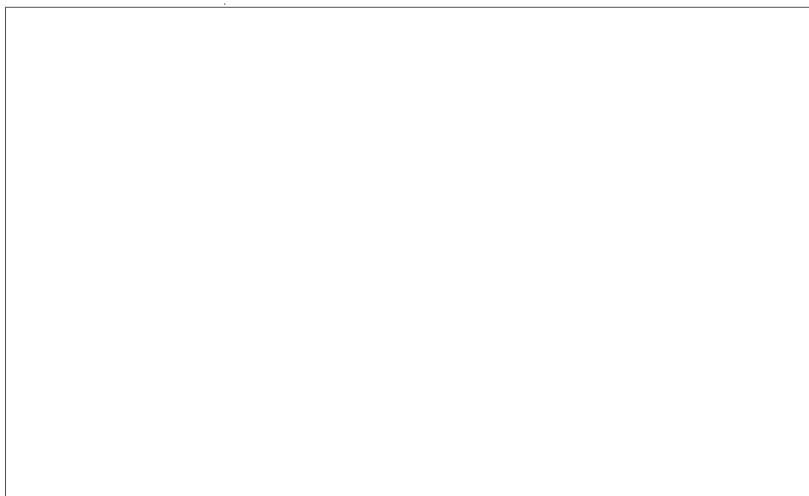
f. We have seen no signs of a significant military reaction from the Viet Cong.

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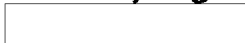
2. Morocco-
Algeria

a. The Bamako cease-fire is not yet effective, and intermittent fighting continued last night.



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d. All of this leads us to suspect that Ben Bella is having trouble in damping down the war scare which he was fanning so vigorously a short time ago. During the weekend celebrations of the Algerian revolution, he stayed away from the more violent themes, ignoring Cuba entirely.



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3. Greece

a. Papandreou's thin victory yesterday and the defeated Karamanlis' announcement he is retiring will hardly contribute to political stability in Greece.

(Cont'd)

b. Our latest figures give Papandreou's party 42.2 percent, Karamanlis' 39.4, and the Communists 14. Papandreou will try to work out a coalition with Karamanlis' successors, but we would not rate its chances for long-term success as very good.

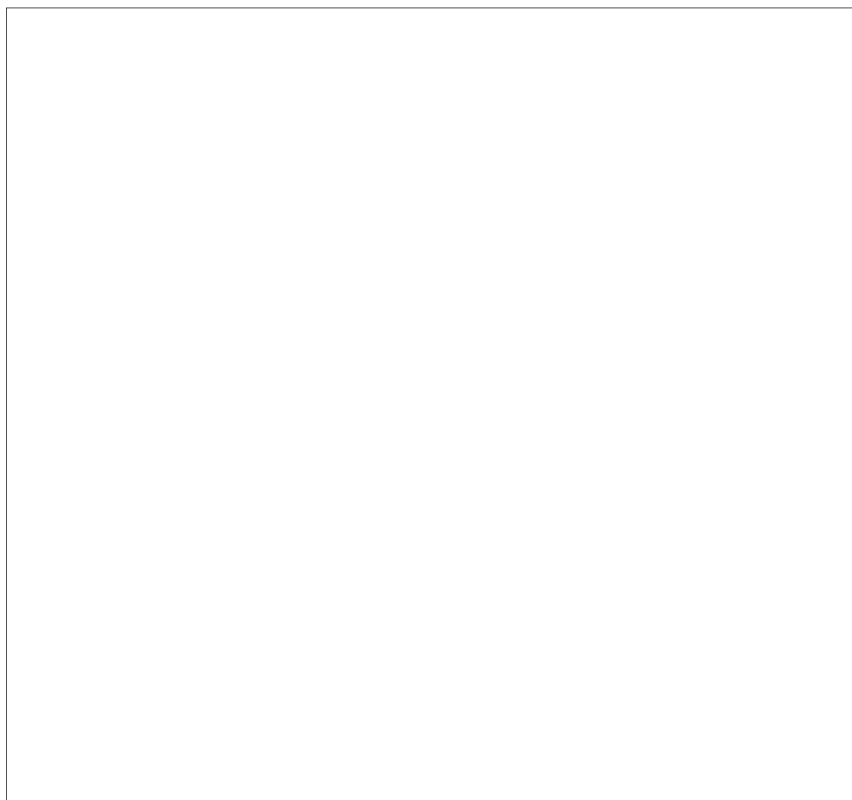
c. The palace, having worked in the past few days for Karamanlis defeat, now seems to be maneuvering to produce a stalemate between the two major parties. The way would then be open for a "compromise" premier more susceptible to palace influence.

d. We are inclined to think that failure by Papandreou will bring on new elections.

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e. Meantime, a government headed by Papandreou will probably try to steer a course somewhat more independent of the West than did Karamanlis. In Cyprus, Makarios, expecting stronger support from such a government, may be encouraged to a more intransigent stand on Greek-Turkish communal problems.

4. France



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5. Italy

a. The Leone government is expected to resign tomorrow. Moro will then be tapped for another try at negotiating the opening to the left.

b. The bargaining promises to be hard and success is far from

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(Cont'd)

assured. [redacted]
[redacted]

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c. Though Nenni emerged from the recent Socialist congress with much of what he wanted, Lombardi retains enough strength to scuttle negotiations again.

NOTES

A. Cuba We could not have been further off base in speculating last summer that a puzzling installation in the Sierra Maestras 100 miles west of Guantanamo

[redacted] A local paper, Sierra Maestra, identifies it as a rest center and revolutionary museum. [redacted]

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B. USSR-Cuba Evidence continues to come in on the departure of additional Soviet troops from Cuba.

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C. Cuban Shipping British shipowner Basil Mavrolean proposes to remove his vessels from the Cuban trade if the US will then remove them from its blacklist. Mavrolean's vessels account for almost half the present British tonnage calling at Cuban ports and are the largest single element of free world shipping to Cuba.

(Cont'd)

D. Communist China Party officials, worried about the dry rot infecting lower echelons of the party, have been systematically checking into the matter. [redacted]

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[redacted] Apathy, rather than ideological deviation, seemed to be the main problem. [redacted]

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E. [redacted]

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F. Mexico Interior Minister Diaz Ordaz has apparently been tapped as the next president. [redacted]

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[redacted] Diaz Ordaz is strongly anti-Communist and was instrumental in the Mexican effort to cut down on travel to and from Cuba.

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G. Sino-Soviet Dispute On Friday, the Soviet ambassador to India, a member of the party Central Committee, told officers of our embassy that neither a World Communist meeting, nor a resumption of bilateral Sino-Soviet talks, are likely to happen soon.