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President Ford

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

CONTAINS CODEWORD MATERIAL

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ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

24 OCTOBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuban
problem

I. The local situation

a. Fidel Castro had little new to say last night. As expected, he rejected any proposal for international inspection of Cuban territory.

b. Cuban military forces, on the alert since Monday, are moving into defensive positions around the island. Naval units are under strict orders not to shoot except in self-defense.

c. The latest photographic intelligence does not change our figures on missile sites, missiles, and launchers. It pushes the estimated readiness date at two MRBM sites back from 22 to 25 October. Photography also shows erection of camouflage nets under way at some sites.

d. We have now identified seven Soviet vessels on the Cuba run with holds large enough to carry missiles. Since July, these vessels have made 13 voyages; three are now en route: Kimovsk, Okhotsk, Poltava.

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e. Moscow remains in close touch with its merchantmen at sea. Those enroute to Cuba appear to have maintained course and speed during the past 24 hours.

f. The Soviet support ship, Terek, was sighted yesterday morning approximately 700 miles northwest of the Azores, again headed in the general direction of Cuba. It was observed refueling a submarine on Monday and may be sailing toward another rendezvous, but we still consider it suspicious.

II. Soviet Reaction

a. There has been no major reaction since yesterday's statement published by TASS (We do not have any report from Kohler on his meeting with Khrushchev). The expected Soviet propaganda orchestration is beginning to build up.

b. There have been a number of unofficial statements by Soviet officials that Soviet ships will not submit to blockade.

c. A Watch Committee statement on the Soviet military posture will be issued before 1000 this morning. Our preliminary assessment is that no crash readying of Soviet forces is yet under way.

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d. Fragmentary reports of heavy troop movements in East Germany are unconfirmed.

III. Other Reactions

a. There have been no surprises cropping up in the past 24 hours.

b. In New York, neutral members of the UN are trying to generate steam behind a move to get U Thant to do something about heading off a US-USSR showdown. They reportedly have rounded up about 40 countries, including Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico.

COMMUNIST CHINA-INDIA BORDER AREA



2. India-China

a. In the latest flare-up of fighting, now in its fifth day, Chinese forces have plowed steadily forward at several points along the border.

b. As best we can make out, they have just about restored the situation to what it was before the Indians started their cautious campaign to oust the Chinese from territory New Delhi regards as its own.

c. We suspect Peiping's satisfaction over having done so was behind its call last night for cease-fire negotiations and a Chou-Nehru meeting to bury the hatchet. New Delhi has rejected such proposals before and probably will feel that any acceptance now would be submission to Chinese aggression. It may, however, come up with some counterproposals.

d. Meanwhile, Nasir is trying to get into the act.

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e. In London, there is an uneasy feeling that New Delhi may order a withdrawal of its Congo contingent if Chinese pressure on the border keeps up.

3. Laos

a. Souvanna, who was set to take off for Hanoi on Sunday, at last report had delayed his departure until yesterday.

b. It looks as though the hold-up was due to his wanting to have more facts in hand about the continued presence of North Vietnamese troops in Laos. Souvanna's commander at Nhommarath in the south has reported that the Viet Minh had withdrawn from the town, but that 400 of them had integrated themselves with the Pathet Lao in the hinterland. He also claimed that in an area 70 miles to the north "they are doing nothing but bring more in."

c. The ICC yesterday, helped along by prodding from Foreign Minister Quinim, was scheduled to close its last outpost in the Plaine des Jarres. If Quinim and the Pathet Lao get their way, the Commission henceforth will find itself restricted pretty much to Vientiane's city limits.

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4. UAR-Yemen-
Saudi Arabia

a. Revolutionary forces retain the initiative against the Hasan-Badr tribesmen.

b. The Egyptians have told Ambassador Badeau they have no ambitions in Yemen as a base to operate against neighboring countries. They gave the impression they would take a wait-and-see attitude toward Faysal and claimed their only interest is to see Yemen develop as an independent and progressive country.

c. UAR propaganda, however, gives the impression that the Egyptians, confident of the situation in Yemen, are getting ready to go after bigger game. For nearly a week, Cairo has been directing a stream of invective against Faysal and inciting the Saudi army to revolt.

d. In Aden, pro-revolutionary and anti-government sentiment is showing itself more openly.

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5. Vietnam

a. We have detected patterns of Viet Cong communications in the northern sector of south Vietnam suggesting that Communist forces there are being organized into higher-level military formations.

b. These indications have to do mostly with staffing at the regimental level. The largest unit seen in combat so far has been a battalion.

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NOTES

- A. East Germany . We are seeing more evidence that the East German Communist Party is in for a shaking out. It now seems clear that Soviet party secretary Demichev's tour of the country this month was intended to "educate" middle-grade functionaries whose heavy handed way of doing things has unnecessarily added to the regime's unpopularity.

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- B. EEC A three-day ministerial meeting opens in Brussels tomorrow. How to fit British agriculture into the Common Market is the main topic.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

- I. Embassy Bonn reports on Franco-German cooperation.

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