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President read

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2015-120, document no. 6
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 01, 2017

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25 OCTOBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Situation in Cuba

a. Photography on Tuesday revealed no new missile sites, and no additional missiles, missile transportation or erectors.

b. We note no change in the pace of construction, and our estimate of operational readiness at the missile sites is the same; i.e., three more MRBM sites may become operational today (two are already operational), the sixth by next Sunday, and the IRBM sites in December.

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c. We still have not yet spotted any of the 2200 n.m. missiles. [redacted] however, called for "the equipment" and "the fuel station" to be placed in a railroad tunnel near the IRBM site at Remedios.

d. There is more and more effort at concealment, with increasing use of camouflage nets.

e. We have looked into Soviet capability for transporting nuclear warheads by air and submarine. Both are feasible, but we feel air is the more likely.

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f. The TU-114 transport could fly with up to ten warheads non-stop from a Soviet northern airfield such as [redacted] via an approximate great circle route without overflying any country.

(Cont'd)

g. The standdown of Cuban tactical aircraft continues in effect and all naval and ground units remain on alert status. Reports out of Havana, however, are that things are relatively quiet and there is none of the confusion that accompanied the mobilization in April 1961.

h. The UAR ambassador in Havana has noted that Cuban domestic reporting of the President's speech omits all reference to offensive missile bases in Cuba "which was the direct reason for the action taken." Cuban media take the line set by Castro in his speech, denying there are any offensive weapons in Cuba and never using the word missile.

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2. Shipping

a. As of 0600 this morning, at least fourteen of the twenty-two Soviet dry cargo ships and tankers en route to Cuba have turned around for home (there is no evidence of grouping to form a convoy).

b. The remaining eight still are heading for Cuba. Three of these are dry cargo ships which we suspect have entirely non-military cargoes. (One has helicopters on deck, but we have good evidence that these were shipped under a non-military contract.) One of the three, coming from the Soviet Far East, is due to transit the Panama Canal next week.

c. Of the five tankers still heading towards Cuba, the Bucharest is closest. It is a day and a half to two days out and has now entered the quarantine zone.

d. All of the vessels which turned back did so about noon on Tuesday, well before the President signed the quarantine proclamation.

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3. Bloc Reactions

a. We have noted no significant movement or deployment in any of the Bloc military forces.

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c. The naval auxiliary Terek, now under surveillance by a US ship, appears to be backing and filling northwest of the Azores. It may intend to make another submarine rendezvous.

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d. Soviet and other bloc media are making much of Khrushchev's statement favoring a top-level meeting but have not elaborated on the remark. There has been no mention of the diversion of Soviet shipping.

e. Gromyko's remarks on the German situation--the first direct commentary on the problem by a high Soviet official since the President's address on Cuba--were purposely vague and contained no hint of retaliatory measures which might be taken against us in Berlin.

4. Non-bloc reaction

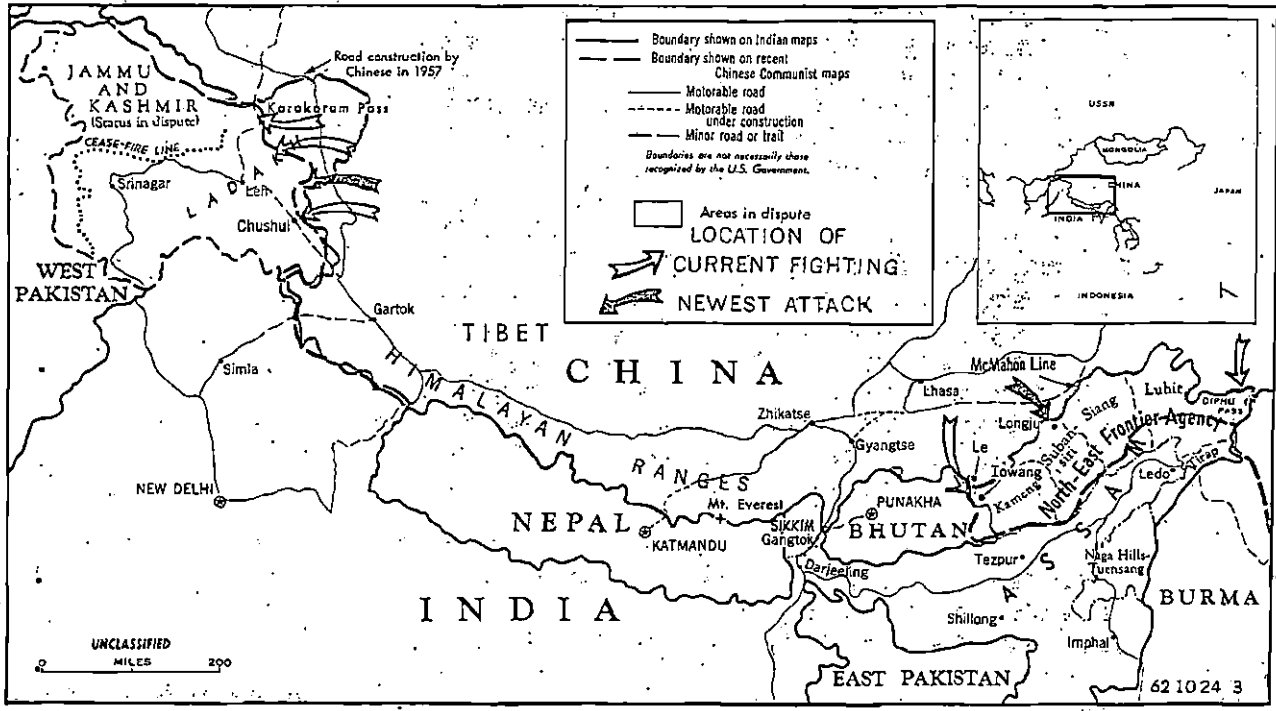
a. Official and unofficial expression of support or understanding for the US position on Cuba have reached an impressive volume from such diverse quarters as Switzerland, India and Sudan.

b. Demonstrations against US establishments overseas have so far not been of unmanageable size or force.

c. So far there has been no reaction to the President's reply to U Thant. Neutral representatives at the UN will be concerting again this morning following consultations last night with their governments.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - INDIA BORDER AREA



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5. USSR

The Soviets put what looked like a Mars probe into parking orbit yesterday, but we think it blew up when they tried to put it into trajectory.

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6. India-China

a. The Chinese continue to attack and have overrun several more posts in both sectors. New Delhi says they are now within five miles of an important Indian base (Tawang) in the northeast sector.

b. The offensive seems to have taken much of the starch out of the Indians. Foreign Secretary Desai told Ambassador Galbraith that India hopes to stabilize the front on ridges further south. From there, they plan to harass the Chinese during the winter and reclaim lost ground "in the months and years ahead."

c. Desai says India will need arms from us to do this and will be approaching us on the matter in the next few days. He says India does not expect much from the Soviets: "They have become cautious about Chinese feelings." Even Menon, he says, is unhappy about Soviet aid prospects.

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d. The baffled Soviet people learned of the dispute for the first time this morning when Pravda published a Soviet call for both sides to settle the affair peacefully.

e. Several neutral states have offered good offices, but New Delhi is refusing to negotiate under military pressure. The Indians have rejected Peiping's proposal for talks until the Chinese first pull back to where they started from in early September.

7. East Germany-Berlin

a. After a lull of several weeks, the East Germans have resumed security construction work along the Helmstedt Autobahn and around West Berlin's borders.

b. Large crews are once again felling trees, cleaning brush, strengthening bunkers and stringing barbed wire fences. They may be putting a third barbed wire fence around the entire West Berlin perimeter.

c. Along the East-West German border, too, fence-building and mine-laying is again being reported.

d. This all began again about a week ago, so it is not directly in response to the crisis over Cuba.

8. South Vietnam

a. South Vietnamese units have been alerted to the possibility that the Viet Cong may mount attacks on supply depots and main airfields this Friday, South Vietnam's national holiday. [redacted]

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b. As often happens before a holiday, we have been getting a number of reports that the Viet Cong plan to step up terrorism for the occasion. In the past, such reports have not proved out too well.

c. This time, however, a concerted series of attacks would give a big boost to the Viet Cong campaign which in recent months have been confined to routine though widespread guerrilla actions.

9. Congo

a. Adoula's government is again appealing to us for military assistance, arguing that unless bold steps are taken immediately to resolve the Katangan problem, Adoula will be overthrown by parliament when it reconvenes early next month.

b. Adoula will postpone opening of parliament if he thinks it will oust him, but he will continue to use this argument and the "we will have to look elsewhere" refrain to press us for aid.

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c. In Katanga, the UN is getting nowhere trying to convince Tshombé he can buy the minor changes needed to resell the agreements to Leopoldville.

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For The President Only—Top Secret

NOTES

- A. USSR Looking over the rehearsal for the October anniversary military parade (on 7 November), our attachés in Moscow spotted under canvas what they suspect will prove to be a new, larger coastal defense cruise missile. Its size, 50 to 55 feet long, is nearly twice that of known Soviet coastal defense missiles.

- B. Indonesia: With West New Guinea settled, Sukarno has opened a press campaign making all sorts of charges against the Portuguese in Timor.

- C. Communist China The Chinese have contracted for another million tons of wheat from France, bringing total purchases for the year to 6.3 million tons. This is roughly the same as last year.