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# THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

26 OCTOBER 1962  
~~TOP SECRET~~

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LATE ITEM

The navy this morning forced a Soviet submarine to the surface at a point about 350 miles south of Bermuda. It has also stopped and boarded the Lebanese freighter, Marcula, inside the quarantine zone.

For The President Only—~~Top Secret~~

1. The Cuban Problem

a. Havana remains quiet, but the prevailing atmosphere is one of slowly rising tension.

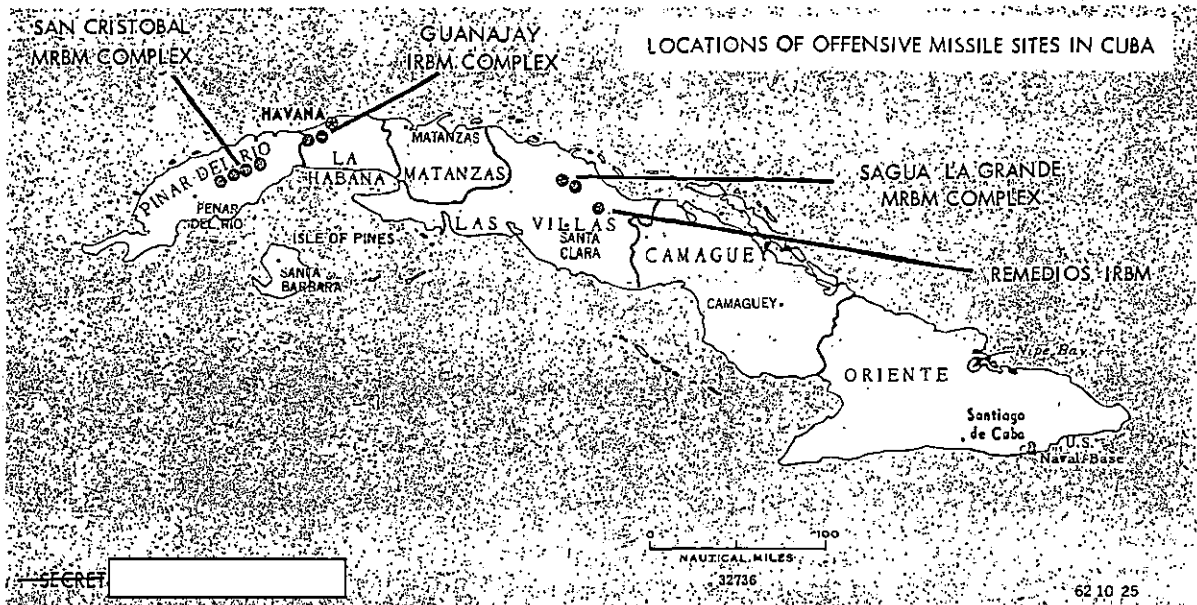
b. Military and security forces are being held on a full alert. Tightened communication procedures went into effect last night, and certain strategic highways and beaches have been declared out-of-bounds to all but the military.

c. The regime's top people are reportedly taking up regional command posts. Raul Castro is said to have assumed control of eastern Cuba, Che Guevara the west. Fidel is holding the fort in Havana.

d. We are beginning to see evidence that the Cubans are having their headaches over mobilization and logistic problems. They are also getting worried about the possibility of civil disturbances.

e. We have detected the presence of a Flat Face early warning radar near Sagua La Grande. This is a mobile, medium-range piece of equipment used extensively throughout the Soviet bloc.

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f. Photographs taken yesterday indicate there has been no slackening in the pace of construction work at the missile sites. They also show what looks like missile check-out operations in progress at two San Cristobal MRBM sites.

g. Since Tuesday, we have spotted three new communication links between the USSR and Cuba, raising the total to seven.

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2. Non-bloc reaction

Reactions in the non-Communist world are about what they were yesterday. However, there seems to be something of a ground swell of uneasiness developing, notably in Europe, over the possibility that the Soviets will take retaliatory action.

3. Bloc support

a. Fifteen, perhaps sixteen, Soviet freighters have reversed course. This leaves five tankers and one or two dry-cargo vessels holding course for Cuba. One of these, the Belovodsk, is carrying helicopters.

b. Four satellite vessels, including an East German passenger ship, are still en route to Cuba and showing no signs of turning around.

c. Guinea and Senegal have assured us they will deny landing rights to Soviet aircraft bound for Cuba. Morocco seems to be coming around as well. So far so good, but it remains to be seen how well these countries stand up to Soviet pressures.

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[Redacted]

4. Bloc reaction

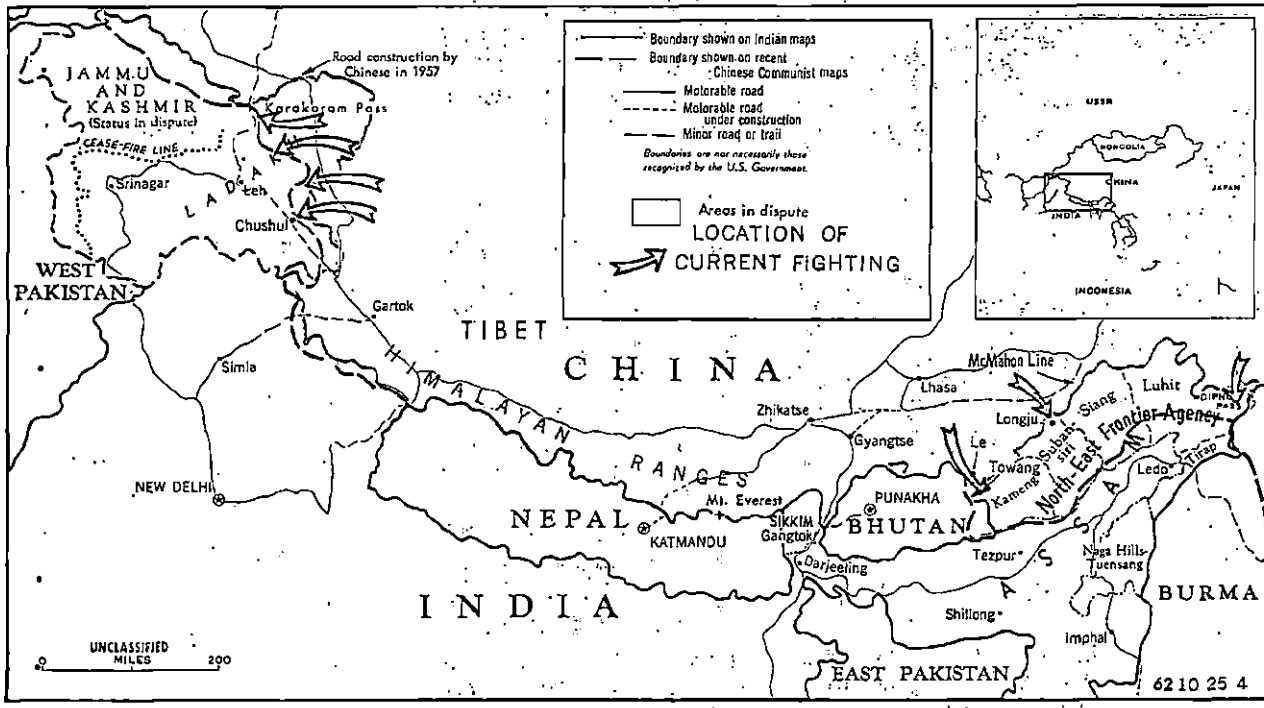
a. Scattered indications that some Soviet and satellite ground and air units are on an alert status keep coming in, but we observe no important abnormalities in the bloc's military posture.

b. Moscow is making much of Khrushchev's acceptance of U Thant's proposal for US-USSR negotiations. Peiping, however, is grumbling that Moscow again has shown itself to be weak-kneed.

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[Redacted]

### COMMUNIST CHINA - INDIA BORDER AREA



5. India-China

a. The Chinese offensive rolls on. The Communists have knocked over the Indian base at Towang in the northeast sector, and are reported to have made a new penetration at the extreme eastern end of the border.

b. In Ladakh, Chinese forces have apparently surrounded Chushul, site of an airfield on which Indian forces have relied for much of their supplies. In so doing, the Chinese have gone beyond the line Peiping heretofore has claimed to be the proper boundary.

c. As expected, India politely turned down Nasir's suggestion that a group of neutrals try to work out a settlement. Peiping, on the other hand, has accepted the idea, but only on condition that negotiations are conducted on its own terms.

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6. Laos

a. Souvanna, in Hanoi since Tuesday, returned to Vientiane yesterday. He told reporters that North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong had indicated that there are no Vietnamese forces in Laos. He also quoted Pham as saying that any suspicions on this score ought to be cleared up by the ICC.

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b. Pham's account is a little different. His story is that he gave assurances that all Vietnamese who had been in Laos at Souvanna's request had been withdrawn. Moreover, he has again ridiculed charges that Vietnamese forces are lingering in Laos, which does not sound as though he favors any ICC investigation.

c. Meanwhile, there has been no letup in Communist accusations that American military personnel are still in Laos. The latest wrinkle is that our people are beginning to take command of Meo forces in the hinterland.

7. Congo

a. UN officials are sounding out the US, UK, and Canada on providing UN forces in the Congo with napalm bombs. The idea, which they say originated with Ralph Bunche, is to use napalm to burn out Katanga fighters now protected by revetments and underground hangers.

b. Our delegation notes that the question of the US providing these bombs may well have been overtaken by events. The only US-built aircraft assigned to the UN forces, three F-86s belonging to Ethiopia, were pulled out of the Congo yesterday. Our people, nevertheless, have passed the word that they are not in favor of the project.

(Cont'd)

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c. The withdrawal of the Ethiopian air contingent leaves the UN with only five operational combat planes (3 Swedish J-29 fighters, 2 Indian Canberras). Ambassador Gullion comments that the day may not be far off when the Katangan air capability will exceed the UN's. It is against this backdrop that the UN has asked for napalm.

d. Meanwhile, it looks as though Tshombé may have lost Angola as a source of military supplies.

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#### 8. Yemen

a. On the battlefield, revolutionary forces are steadily pressing their advantage against dissident tribesmen.

b. Cairo, anxious to keep things moving in its favor, has been pressing Moscow for quick delivery of military equipment needed for the Yemen operation.

c. Moscow has responded pretty well. In the past ten days, eleven Soviet transports have flown into Cairo, where they have remained. At least two more may be on the way. Whether or not these planes brought in military gear, they, plus seven others already on hand, give the Egyptians a substantial air lift capability should it be needed.

For The President Only—~~Top Secret~~ (Cont'd)

d. The UAR is also trying to cement things politically. [redacted]

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[redacted] Cairo sent word to Deputy Premier Baydani that the time had come to start working on a mutual defense pact.

e. The governor of Aden, stung by what seems to have been an accidental bombing of British territory by planes from Yemen, has recommended to London that he be given standby authority to retaliate against future incidents of this kind by bombing planes on the Sana airfield. We doubt he will get it, but London may feel compelled to authorize something less drastic to prevent pro-British elements in the colony from losing heart. [redacted]

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NOTES

- A. Ecuador The story in Quito is that former president Velasco, exiled in Argentina since Arosemena kicked him out of office a year ago, has about made up his mind that the time has come to get even. He has substantial support in Ecuador if he can get to it, but we question that he will be able to wiggle through Arosemena's security net.
- B. Finland-USSR The Finns tell us that trade was the main topic of Kekkonen's recent talks with Khrushchev. They claim there was no discussion about Finnish acquisition of missiles or of a German peace treaty. Khrushchev refused to be smoked out on where he stood on Finland's future relations with the EEC.
- C. Northern Rhodesia We are looking for a quicker pace in the political life of the Central African Federation after next Tuesday's elections in Northern Rhodesia. It is almost a foregone conclusion that Africans will win control of the legislature thus setting the stage for a joint effort with like-minded nationalists in neighboring Nyasaland to loosen the constitutional ties which bind them to Roy Welensky's white-dominated Southern Rhodesia.
- D. France It is the consensus of opinion among French political leaders that the Cuban crisis will help carry De Gaulle over the top in Sunday's referendum on the direct election of the French president.