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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

27 OCTOBER 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba

a. A preliminary look at yesterday's photography shows no change in the pace of construction. Our estimate of operational readiness dates stands unchanged.

b. We have identified in Cuba a Soviet air force officer, Lt. Gen. Pavel B. Dankevich, who commanded a Soviet MRBM group in the USSR last year.

c. Photography has also turned up a launcher for the "Frog" missile. This is a short-range (50,000 yards) tactical unguided rocket similar to our Honest John. It can carry either a nuclear or conventional warhead.

d. Beginning yesterday morning, a complete change of procedure occurred on Cuban air warning nets. We attribute this to activation of filter centers, two of which we have now identified. This is a major step toward integration of the air defense system. Russian procedures are now in use and operators are apparently non-Cuban.

e. Raul Castro's assumption of personal command in eastern Cuba has been followed by rapid mobilization and deployment of reserve units throughout Oriente province.

f. Cuban spokesmen and media remain adamant in refusing any inspection by outsiders. At the same time, to appear conciliatory, Havana has let it be known through the Swiss that Cuba is ready "to discuss all differences with the US through the intermediaryship of the UN."

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2. Bloc Shipping

a. We have no information yet that the six Soviet ships still en route to Cuba have turned back in response to Khrushchev's declaration to U Thant that Russian ships would temporarily avoid our quarantine area. Three satellite ships also en route have maintained course.

b. Two of these, an East German passenger ship and a Polish cargo vessel, are now in the zone and will be arriving in Havana today or tomorrow.

c. The nearest Soviet ship, the tanker Grozny, will enter the zone today if it holds to course.

d. A Swedish cargo vessel, the Coolangotta, reportedly under charter to the USSR (it left Leningrad on 9 October), was intercepted by a US destroyer in the zone yesterday, but refused to respond and was allowed to proceed to Havana.

e. We have now spotted three Soviet F-class (conventionally powered attack-type) submarines in the quarantine area--one inside and two just outside. [redacted]

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3. Bloc Reaction

a. No significant deployment of ground, air, or naval forces has been noted; apparently normal exercise activity is continuing in many of the major commands.

(Cont'd)

b. There are indications of a higher state of readiness in a number of Soviet and satellite commands. It is difficult to tell to what extent these alerts are a normal response to stepped-up US alerts.

c. We have also noted an increase in tracking of Allied aircraft in the Berlin corridors, including, for the first time, tracking of out-bound flights.

d. The Soviet propaganda line continues to be that the USSR is taking a calm and reasonable approach to the problem while the US is in a state of "war hysteria." The Soviet diplomatic drive for negotiations also continues.

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e. Khrushchev [redacted]

[redacted] earlier this week [redacted] was "very pleased" with the progress of the Rusk-Gromyko talks, and made no threat of retaliation in Berlin for US action in Cuba.

[redacted]

g. Zorin, at the UN is said to have told a group of Afro-Asian delegates that "the Americans are thoroughly mistaken if they think we shall fall into their trap. We shall undertake nothing in Berlin, for action against Berlin is just what the Americans would wish." [redacted]

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4. Non-bloc Attitudes

a. There has been no distinct shift in the pattern of reaction elsewhere.

b. Further support for us has come from several quarters in Western Europe, and unfavorable commentary is decidedly in the minority. A poll shows two thirds of British public opinion to be with us.

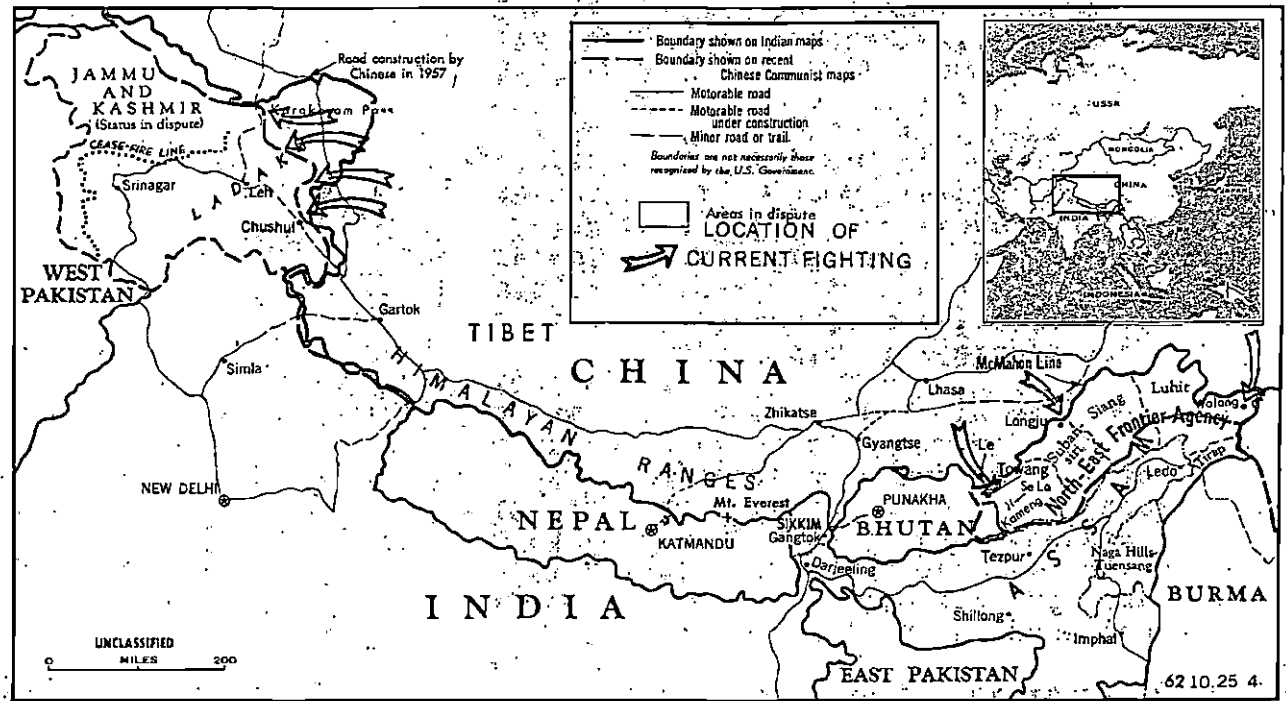
d. British Foreign Secretary Home has taken a tough line with the Soviet Chargé there. The latter expressed the hope that Britain would help calm the situation in Cuba, but was told nothing could be done until the missiles are removed.

e. Many quarters, after some premature optimism, are now having trouble deciding whether there has been an easing of the crisis or not.

f. La Paz, Bolivia, was the scene of street fighting near the US Embassy involving some 3,000 anti-American labor union members. The press also reports that Buenos Aires and Caracas have been hit by demonstrations.

g. The Venezuelan Defense Ministry has requested riot-control equipment and ammunition for all services against the contingency of an all-out Communist effort. Embassy Caracas considers this request to be of the utmost urgency.

COMMUNIST CHINA-INDIA BORDER AREA



5. India/China

a. The Chinese, apparently determined to humiliate the Indians, are now pushing on from Towang in the Western part of the Frontier Agency toward the Se La pass some 15 miles to the southeast. In this area, they have about 10,000 men to the Indian's 4,000.

b. In Ladakh, the Chinese continue to press the offensive at several points. The northernmost Indian outpost has apparently been overrun. It had been reinforced just last week.

c. Nehru yesterday proclaimed a state of national emergency and is moving to place the country on a war footing.

d. The Indian leadership was dismayed by Moscow's backing for Peiping's cease-fire proposal. In New Delhi's view, this confirms the suspicion that Moscow has abandoned its neutrality in this issue and can no longer be counted on for help.

e. The Indians have never been realistic either about the USSR's basic attitude toward them or about its ability to influence the Chinese. The new Indian ambassador has been instructed when he arrives in Moscow next week to make it plain to Khrushchev that if he does not call the Chinese off, India will turn to the West for arms and assistance. (The Indians have already given us a list of their needs for small arms, mortars, artillery, and ammunition.)

f. Menon is very much under a cloud. The domestic press has been merciless with him, and we have been told the government has decided not to return him to the UN. We cannot confirm rumors he has submitted his resignation.

6. Laos

a. Souvanna, obviously given a heavy dose of Hanoi's line, returned to Vientiane in an euphoric state, but now has a hangover. He is complaining of incessant conflicting pressures from left and right and told Ambassador Unger he feels like giving up.

b. Phoumi is concerned that the ICC, if it starts checking around, will run into some 500 Chinese nationalist irregulars near the Thai border. He is trying to persuade Sarit to accept them in Thailand, otherwise he plans to try to disarm them, but he is not sure he could manage it.

7. Burma

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a. Burmese leaders are trying to hide it from public view, but it is clear [redacted] that Burma's troubles with the minority peoples are hardly on the mend.

(Cont'd)

b. Military operations in the Shan States and against Kachin insurgents, not conspicuous for their success, have been very costly. Two Burmese army companies are said to have been annihilated in a recent engagement against Kachin insurgents, and a major town in the Shan States is currently threatened by a force of some 600 Shan insurgents and Chinese Nationalist irregulars. [redacted]

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NOTES

- A. Berlin Bonn's trade negotiator with the East Germans tells us the East Germans are on the verge of making several important concessions to get an increase in interzonal trade. He detects an urgency on the East German part and is hopeful a deal can be worked out which will do much to relax tensions around Berlin.

- B. Congo/Indonesia Indonesia has decided, in response to an urgent UN appeal, to send a three-battalion paratroop brigade to the UN Congo force.

- C. USSR The new York City Ballet (in Moscow) and the Robert Shaw Chorale (in Leningrad) continue to play to packed houses and enthusiastic applause. Reports from many Soviet quarters indicate the ballet is having a deep impact in Soviet intellectual circles, and Soviet musical circles consider the Shaw group to be the most successful import in many years.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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