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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

31 OCTOBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba-UN

a. U Thant's conversation with Castro yesterday went badly. Thant's military adviser telephoned UN headquarters from Havana last night that the Cubans refuse any form of inspection or any foreign presence in their territory.

b. U Thant hopes to shake them out of this position in a further meeting this morning. If not, he may call a Security Council meeting for Thursday to seek more guidance.

c. Cuban propaganda themes yesterday strongly suggest that Castro is insisting that his "five points" be injected into UN discussions.

d. Castro has scheduled a major speech for tomorrow.

e. Mikoyan arrives in Havana tomorrow at the head of a Soviet delegation which is scheduled to depart Moscow in the early hours via Prestwick and Gander. Clearances for the IL-18 have been given.

f. Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler yesterday the USSR desires to reach agreement as quickly as possible on the basis of the President's exchange of letters with Khrushchev.

(Cont'd)

g. In a similar vein, Kuznetsov, all smiles in New York, told Ambassador Stevenson he was very pleased at our acceptance of the International Red Cross to carry out inspection.

h. It is INCOMING clear, however, that what Moscow has in mind is some sort of inspection of ~~the~~ ships ~~during or possibly after loading~~ and no inspection at the sites until after they are vacated. (The Soviets say this will take one to two weeks.)

i. Soviet stickiness on this derives from Moscow's long-standing insistence in general disarmament discussions that there can be no inspection over armaments, only over disarmament and then only after disarmament is completed.

j. Soviet officials at the UN, meanwhile, are busily fostering among the neutral delegations the idea that the Cuban crisis shows the dangers to world peace that arise from all foreign bases.

k. The thought is falling on fertile soil, and pressure will build up for liquidation of all foreign bases. In line with this the Soviets are saying Castro is perfectly right in his demand that we evacuate Guantanamo.

2. Cuba--
Missile Sites

a. Though disappointing in quality, Monday's photography shows that as of mid-afternoon that day no definite steps towards dismantling or vacating the sites had been taken.

b. Cabling, for example, which we would expect to see removed first, remains in place at each of the sites. In several instances, however, the missile erectors have been moved away from the launch area.

c. At both the Sagua La Grande and San Cristobal MRBM sites there is evidence that some construction work took place during the interval between Saturday's coverage and that of Monday afternoon.

d. Camouflage and concealment work continues as well.

3. Cuba--
Bloc Shipping

a. The Soviet tanker Grozny and cargo ship Belovodsk remain near the quarantine line.

b. The Belovodsk may still be dead in the water, but the Grozny resumed its voyage a few hours ago.

c. Four other Soviet tankers and four other cargo ships (including one Czech) are still under way en route.

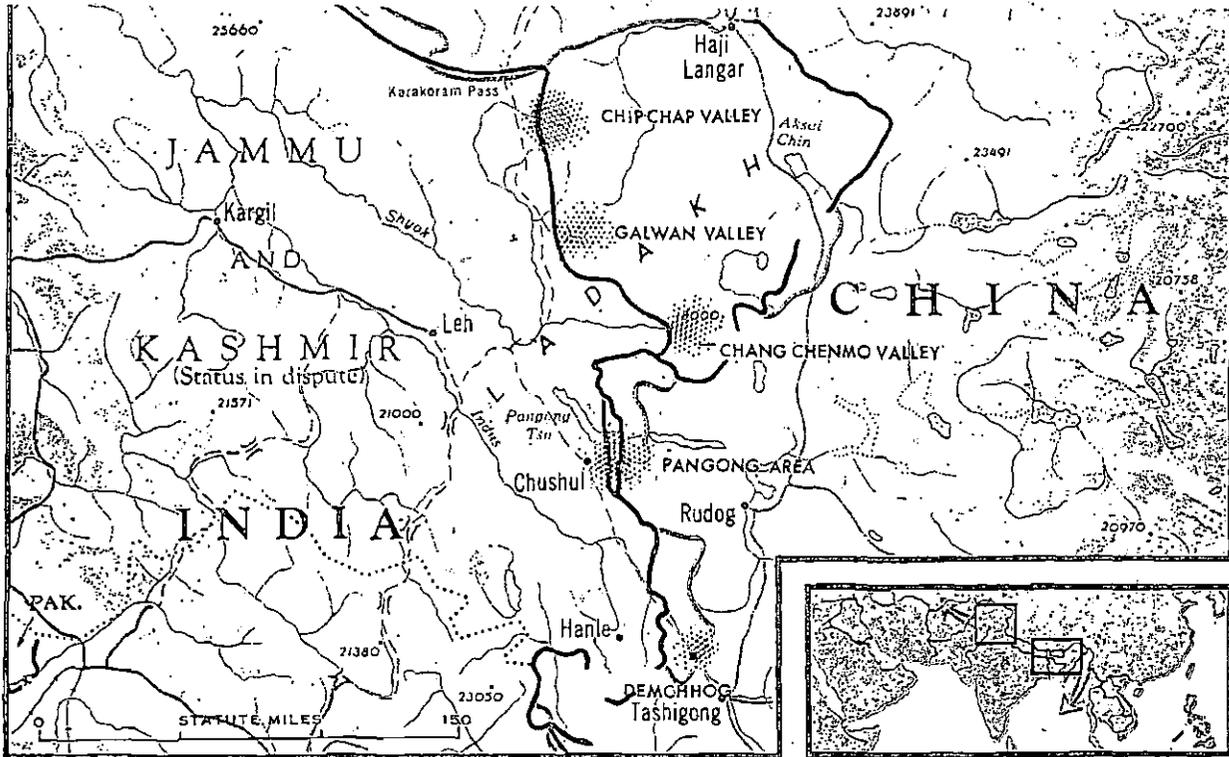
4. NATO

a. We were given a strong vote of confidence in Monday's NATO Council meeting for the President's handling of the Cuban crisis.

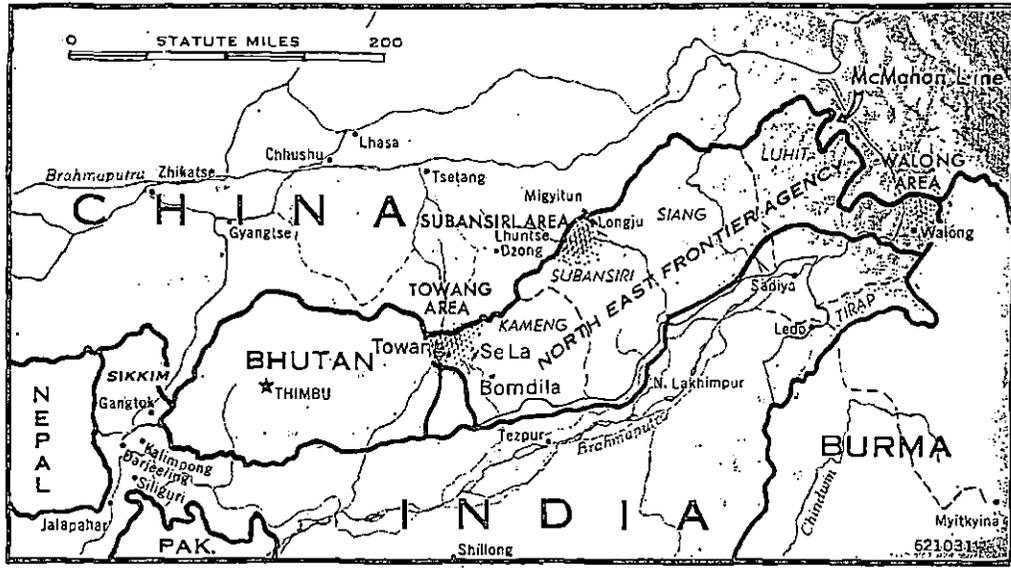
b. A congratulatory statement by Belgium's De Staercke received unanimous support.

c. The role call showed full support for our insistence on removal of the missiles before negotiations, our rejection of a bargain over bases in Turkey, and our expression of willingness to pursue negotiations on a broad range of problems when the dust over Cuba settles.

d. Spaak noted that the way Latin American countries stood up to be counted with us made a strong impression in Europe and, undoubtedly, on the Soviets as well.



UNCLASSIFIED



-  Areas Chinese have occupied since 20 October
-  Boundary shown on recent Chinese Communist maps (Where differing from US and Western maps)
-  Boundary shown on most US and Western maps
-  Road or track
-  Spot heights (in feet)
-  Pass

5. India -
Communist
China

a. The fighting has let up as the Chinese consolidate their supply lines, possibly in preparation for pushing on to the new reinforced Indian defensive positions.

b. Press reports that Indian forces went on the offensive were meant for consumption by the Indian public which is now becoming aware of the magnitude of Indian losses.

c. Public anger focuses on the Defense Minister, and Ambassador Galbraith gives him no more than another week in the job.

6. Congo

a. Dr. Bunche has returned to New York from his Congo survey reporting no progress, and the UN evidently now intends to resort to military force.

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b.

[redacted] the UN now plans to move all of its forces into South Katanga to force a definite settlement of the problem before December's "final deadline."

[redacted]

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c. To this end, UN officials are now seeking additional equipment, including jet aircraft, transports and napalm and are counting on the arrival of three Indonesian paratroop battalions at the end of next month.

7. Laos

a. Ambassador Unger doubts that pressure from Souvanna, the ICC, or Moscow (if indeed it can be obtained) will be effective in removing the North Vietnamese from Laos.

message attached

b. He reasons that the corridor into South Vietnam is too important to the Vietnamese and that if they had intended to leave, they would have had every reason to do so before the deadline.

*Brundy, asst
Foreign
Chief on
situation
- Laos
BICS*

c. He feels, therefore, that de facto partition is inevitable and argues that Phoumi's forces must not be undermined to the degree that they could not provide a mainstay for Souvanna in these circumstances.

d. We are told that only some 2000 of the 7000 neutralist regulars could be counted on to support Souvanna. Most of the rest have been won over by the Pathet Lao.

8. Yemen

a. Revolutionary troops are peck-
ing away at remaining hard core royalist
tribes but are meeting stubborn resistance.

b. UAR Field Marshal Amer, after
a three-day inspection trip to Yemen,
reported on Sunday that the general
situation was excellent but noted that
a continuing buildup in Saudi Arabia
portended tougher going. Accordingly,
he has ordered defensive preparations
and formation of guerrilla units to
operate in the border area.

c. Meanwhile, aid for Sana con-
tinues to arrive, notably another UAR
ship with some 1200 more men (total
now 4000) and eight Soviet transports
with military supplies which flew
from Moscow to Cairo last weekend.

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[Redacted]

9. Cambodia.

a. Sihanouk will be distributing
in a few days his draft of an inter-
national agreement to ensure Cambodia's
neutrality.

b. Presumably it will be un-
changed from the draft approved by
the National Assembly last week.

c. This calls for withdrawal
of all foreign military assistance
groups, although the French training
mission may be retained for awhile.

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d. His military leaders have expressed to us their concern over the threatened loss of western military assistance, but this is evidently not shared by Sihanouk.

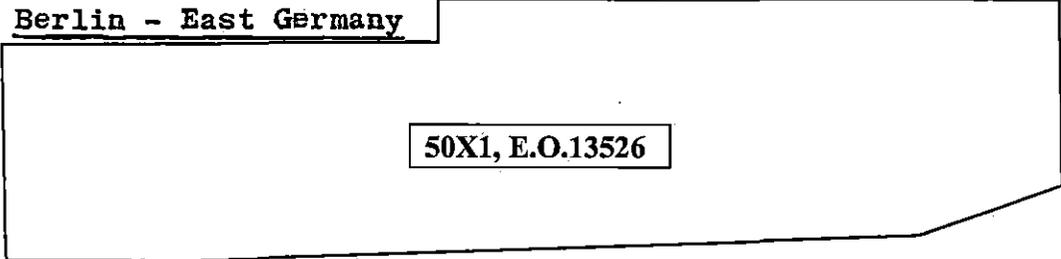
e. He told Ambassador Sprouse that his policy of partial neutrality had not given Cambodia the security it needs, and he is determined now to seek it through "internationalization" on the Laos pattern.

NOTES

A. Soviet Bloc We have indications that the top leaders in Eastern Europe have gone to Moscow, presumably for a briefing on Cuban matters and what is to be done next.

B. USSR As part of the cooling off process, Moscow on Monday lifted the travel ban which it imposed on foreign diplomats at the onset of the Cuban crisis.

C. Berlin - East Germany



D. China-UN The General Assembly yesterday rejected the Soviet motion to seat Communist China 56-42 (two more votes against than last year). There were twelve abstentions. The Brazzaville group of African countries, most of whom abstained last year, sided with the Chinats this time. India still felt it had to vote for Peiping.

E. Colombia A cabinet crisis is shaping up in President Valencia's two month old administration. There is unhappiness over his failure to take forceful actions to suppress rural banditry, but personal animosities and jealousies within his cabinet are also playing a part.