

Sanitized NLK-10-146 Appeal, 5/15

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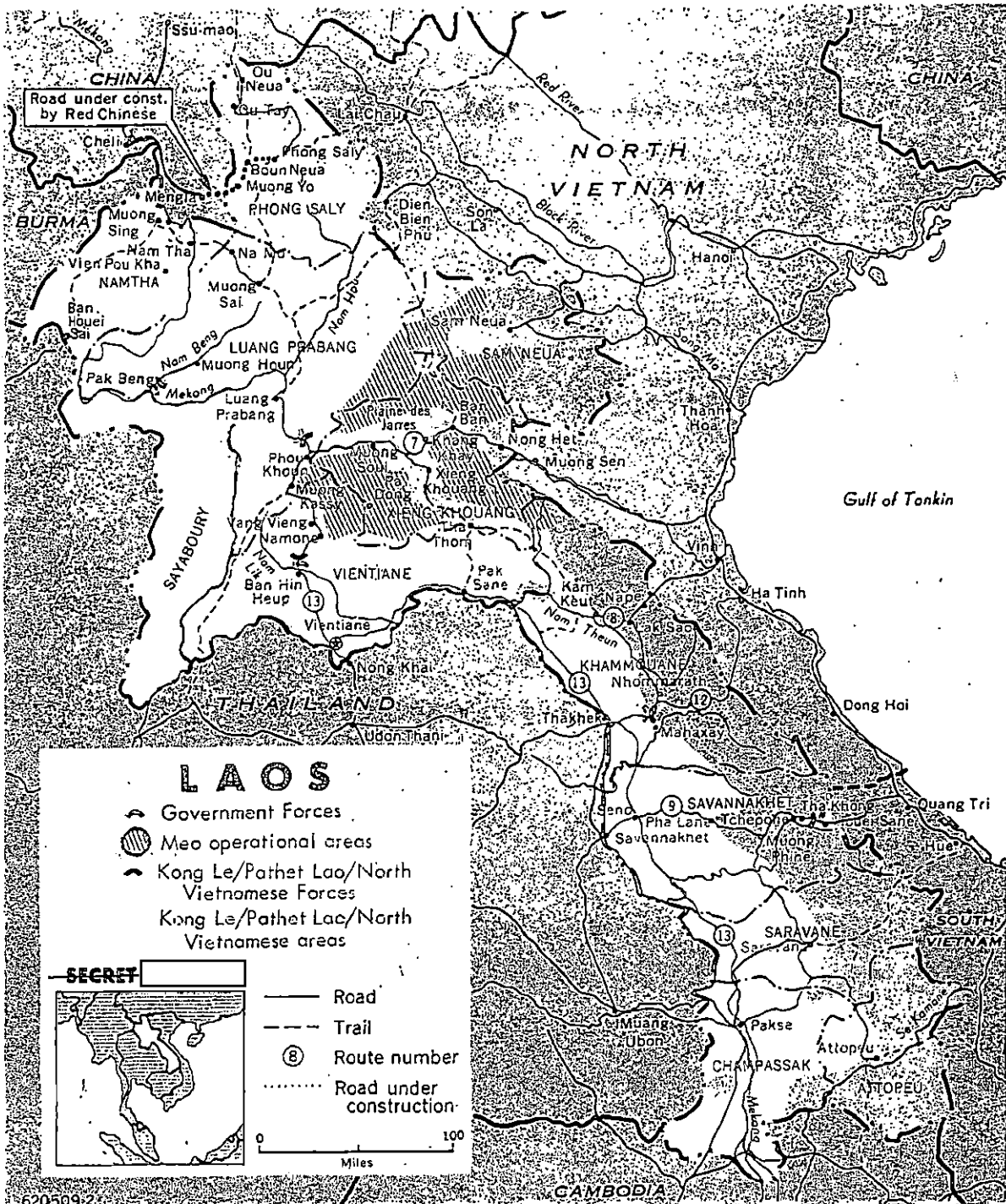
**THE PRESIDENT'S
INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

*Returned from Mr. Bundy
President has seen &
was briefed by Mr. Bundy*

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2015-129, document no. 6
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 01, 2017

12 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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Withheld under statutory authority of the
 Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50
 U.S.C., section 3507)

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1. Laos

a. The military situation at Ban Houei Sai is essentially the same as yesterday, with the town in enemy hands and the bulk of the Royal Government forces across the border in Thailand. Phoumi says he will get them back to Southern Laos as soon as possible for "re-equipping and re-inspiration."

b. Southeast of Ban Houei Sai, other enemy forces are reported to have taken Pak Beng and now control the north bank of the Mekong for about forty miles to the east. At least one small group has crossed the river.

c. Our people in Vientiane are worried over the exposed position of the garrisons at Savavane and Attopeu, in the extreme south. Both places are logical targets, for their fall would improve the infiltration route into South Vietnam.

d. Souvanna says that Phoumi's latest communication--offering to surrender the defense and interior ministries if they are set up on a "troika" basis--is "good news." The site of a new Three Princes' meeting has yet to be agreed on, but Souvanna indicates that he is ready to return to Laos, "via the US," at any time.

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e. Vientiane yesterday declared "a state of siege and general mobilization," a move which could result in some psychological shoring-up but will have no effect on the government's military capabilities.

f. Also yesterday, King Savang opened the National Assembly with an address from the throne which was high-minded and sorrowful, and will have no impact on anything. There has otherwise been no word on the Assembly's proceedings.

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2. Paris despairs of crushing OAS

The De Gaulle government's hopes for bringing the terrorists under control before the referendum on independence are ebbing fast. With persuasion a failure, the French concede, as does the Provisional Algerian Government, that a last resort--orders to the army to go all out against the Europeans--would more likely than not split the army wide open. They agree also, and with nearly equal misgivings, that following the referendum, which may take place late next month, the job of suppressing the OAS will pass into Moslem hands.

3. Refugees from Communist China swarming into Hong Kong

The flow of illegal border-crossers climbed from 200 a day at the beginning of the month to 1200 on Thursday. The British are in a real quandary--besides the economic burden, they see a danger of disorders--but as fast as they ship the refugees back they pile up again at the border looking for another chance to slip across. The Chinese border guards, by sitting on their hands, are reinforcing the impression of a breakdown of Chinese discipline in the area.

4. Traditionalists gain edge in Soviet military debate

We have known for some time that the hallowed Russian credo on the necessity for mass armies has been challenged in the military high-command by nuclear and missile warfare enthusiasts. Signs that the traditionalists are on top came in two recent developments: the promotion of two of their number to Marshal's rank late last month, and an article published yesterday by the ranking military newspaper setting out the doctrine that the next war, though it will entail the use of nuclear weapons and missiles, will still be fought by multimillion-man armies.

5. Unrest in Iberia

a. The Spanish government's headaches are increasing. Not only has it failed to check the wave of strikes--illegal in Spain--by offering wage concessions, but it is now confronted by "sympathy" demonstrations by university students who see a chance to unburden their own political grievances.

b. The student protests in Portugal likewise show signs of taking on a more distinct political coloration.

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that Salazar, worn down physically and mentally by the recent troubles, is thinking of bowing out before long.

6. Morocco

a.. Another shipment of Soviet small arms and ammunition, the third within a matter of weeks, has reached Morocco. This shipment, like the last, also includes helicopters which are probably earmarked for Algeria.

b. There are indications that some of the Soviet-supplied arms are being funneled to Mauritanian dissidents who have been carrying out a series of commando raids against the Mauritanian government from bases in Mali. Morocco's claims to sovereignty over Mauritania are also being raised by King Hassan in his talks with De Gaulle in Paris.

NOTES

- A. The simmering Argentine political crisis is threatening to bubble up again. Members of President Guido's cabinet are pressing him to advance the date for new elections, a move which the military could be counted on to veto.
- B. Adzhubey told Ambassador Thompson yesterday, as the two awaited Mr. Salinger's arrival at a Moscow airport, that the USSR would not only resume testing but would set off a "really big" bomb. He added in effect that the Soviet theme song will be "everything you can do, we can do better."
- C. A nationwide dock strike, capable of tying the British economy in knots, will begin on midnight Sunday, unless a last-minute mediation attempt by the government is successful. The odds in favor of agreement appear to be better than even.
- D. The first hard evidence that Soviet warships are being outfitted with surface-to-air missiles has just been obtained. We think it is safe to assume that a fairly extensive program of this nature, which would enable the warships to operate with little or no air cover, is now under way.
- E. The Ecuadoran military, not fully placated by President Arosemena's break with Cuba, are trying to force further anti-leftist measures on him. Arosemena, who is holding out more from stubbornness than anything else, may move instead to purge the military.
- F. The rate of Viet Cong infiltration into South Viet Nam is again moving upward, after several months of decline, and may be heading toward last summer's level of 500-1,000 men a month.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I. West Berlin press reaction to President's press conference.

II.

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