

Sanitized NLK-10-146 Appeal, 5/15

✓ (12)

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

*President has seen it was
briefed by Mr. Benady*

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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
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~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. News of the impending US moves in Thailand is being widely reported by the press this morning, although Bangkok has not yet made public its approval of our plan.

b. No change in the military situation in Laos has been reported. US observers yesterday found further indications that the rebel forces are standing by outside Ban Houei Sai but have not actually occupied the town.

c. Phoumi, who yesterday heard Ambassador Brown's strictures on his future role in almost non-committal fashion, was this morning ready to take off on his scheduled visit to Taiwan.

d. Peiping is broadcasting word that Souphannouvong is in favor of new negotiations, but does not fail to include the threat of further military action if they are not resumed.

e. There are press reports from Moscow that one of Gromyko's deputies has told the British Ambassador that the USSR still wants a coalition in Laos. Official cables on this and on the Salinger-Thompson talks with Khrushchev yesterday have not come in.

2. Outlook for Adoula-Tshombé talks cloudy

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The UN's chief representative, Gardiner, has some gnawing doubts about the prospects for progress in a new Adoula-Tshombé meeting, but remains, nevertheless, mildly optimistic. Many of his UN colleagues see things differently, however: they sense a feeling on Tshombé's part that his hand is stronger and fear he may "up the ante" in the next round. In New York, meanwhile, U Thant is planning to go to the Security Council later this month for a more specific mandate which would allow for an expanded UN presence in Katanga.

3. Iraq

a. There are indications that work has begun in Iraq on the surface-to-air missile sites which were part of the Soviet-Iraqi military agreement signed last September.

b. The Foreign Ministry in Baghdad has again indicated that it will ask our Ambassador to leave as soon as a Kuwaiti Ambassador is formally received in Washington.

4. Philippine president postpones US visit

A press dispatch just in from Manila reports that Macapagal has announced indefinite postponement of the visit. There are no further details as yet. We have no reason to doubt the report, although there had been some signs that he had cooled-off somewhat after receiving President Kennedy's letter and might still find it politically feasible to go ahead with his trip.

5. Assassination attempt on Sukarno

Djakarta is blaming yesterday's attempted shooting in the Presidential palace on a fanatical Moslem sect. The government says that Sukarno was unharmed, but he failed to make a scheduled speech later in the day, indicating that he was at least unnerved by the incident.

6. West Germany

a. Ambassador Dowling has an appointment to see Adenauer at noon, Washington time. A cabinet meeting, scheduled for earlier in the day, will doubtless set the tone for their discussions.

b. Adenauer is still under attack at home. Erich Mende, Free Democratic Party leader, came out yesterday in favor of continuing talks on Berlin and predicted Adenauer would resign next year. He said he preferred a "cooperative relationship" between West Germany and the US to a German-French axis which "could prove very fragile." Willie Brandt in Berlin took the same line on the Berlin talks adding that Adenauer's pessimistic comment on them had created new and unnecessary misunderstandings.

NOTES

- A. Belgian authorities are willing to carry out a phased withdrawal of their troops from Ruanda-Urundi when the territory becomes independent a little over a month from now, but local leaders and the UN Commission overseeing the change-over are insisting on an immediate, total pull-out. In these circumstances, Belgian technicians there will leave at the same time, creating the prospect of a security and economic breakdown.
- B. Moscow seems to be setting up a tighter checkrein on East German economic activity.
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- C. Agreement was reached on Saturday averting the threatened strike by British dock workers.
- D. Opposition elements in Portugal are making plans for another demonstration against the government, possibly the biggest yet, next Friday.
- E. In Algeria, the joint French-Algerian Provisional Executive has authorized the addition of 15,000 Moslems to the security forces trying to combat the OAS. The Algerian Provisional Government has been pressing for just such a move.
- F. The Chinese Nationalists have announced that the Communists shelled the Matsu Islands yesterday--for the first time in almost 19 months.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

- I. Ambassador Galbraith-Krishna Menon session on Soviet MIG deal.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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