

Sanitized NLK-10-146 Appeal, 5/15

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

*Pres read
2/4/63*

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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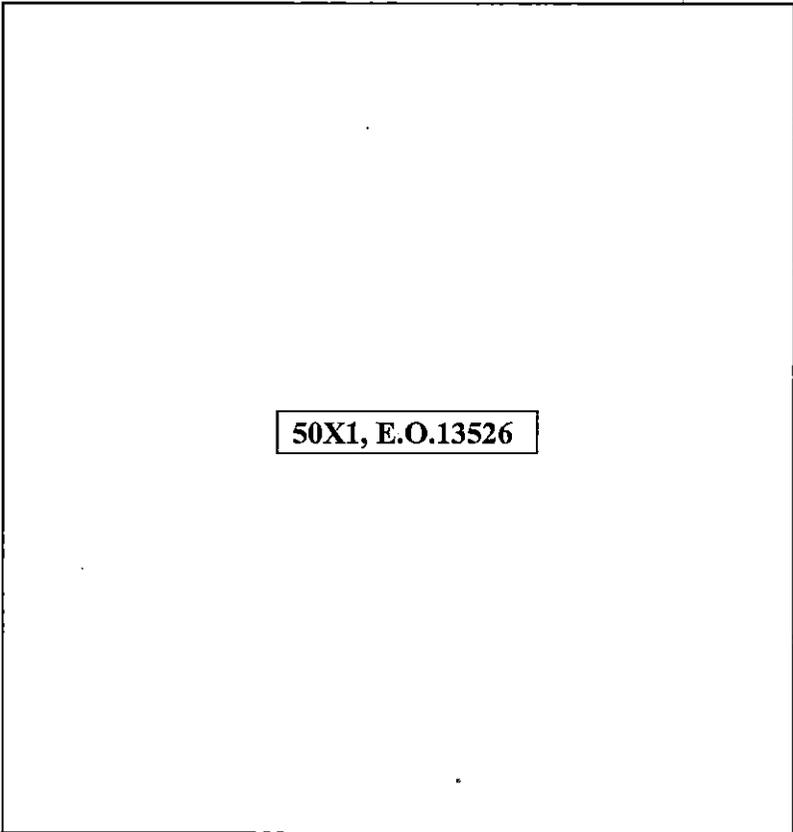
ISSUED BY THE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

4 FEBRUARY 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR-France



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2. Soviet - Free
World trade

a. . A French Foreign Ministry official asserts that the new Franco-Soviet trade agreement announced last Saturday provides for an increase of between eight and eleven per cent in total trade between the two over a three-year span.

(Cont'd)

b. Imports of Soviet petroleum products will increase by 20 per cent. The French say they did not agree to supply oil pipe to the USSR. The Russians, we know, had tried hard to get the French pipe.

c. A new long-term Soviet-Japanese trade agreement is also nearly ready for signature. The volume of overall trade is to be reduced, but the Japanese have agreed to give the Russians a substantial increase in credit (\$160 million over the three-year period). The Japanese say rather ambiguously that the Soviets did not, as expected, raise a furor about obtaining greater amounts of large-diameter pipe.

d. Lord Home and other top British officials say that there will be very strong pressure for expanded UK-USSR trade in the aftermath of Brussels.

3. Soviet lunar probe fails

a. What we think was a Soviet lunar probe attempt failed yesterday. This was the second unsuccessful try within a month.

(Cont'd)

b. The vehicle launched from Tyuratam yesterday did not achieve orbit. On 4 January, a vehicle was put into parking orbit around the earth but was not successfully ejected toward the moon.

c. The USSR has attempted eight space probes since last August 25. The vehicle launched into a Mars trajectory on 1 November has been the sole success.

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4. Syria

a. The government of Prime Minister Azm has its back to the wall again. Violent disorders have broken out in a number of towns, demonstrating anew the government's tenuous authority.

b. Azm is attempting to fend off a military takeover by shoring up his anti-Nasir political coalition.

c. If the military do step in, however, there are at least three shades which could become dominant: pro-Nasir officers in the middle ranks; conservative senior officers; or a burgeoning pro-Communist element.

(Cont'd)

d. The Azm government's uneasiness has also produced a serious strain in relations with Lebanon which it rightly regards as a nest for Nasir agents. The Syrian-Lebanese border has been closed

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5. South Korea

a. The factional struggle goes on behind a fragile truce.

b. Backed by General Pak, Kim Chong-pil is again emplaced in control of the junta's fledgling political party.

c. Kim's enemies, led by retired marine General Kim Tong-ha, who precipitated the last round of political fighting, are no more willing than ever to concede Kim a monopoly of power.

d. General Pak's support for Kim has cost him standing as factional arbiter and may place him in the line of fire alongside Kim when the battle breaks out into the open again.

6. Cuba

a. The Soviet ship Kasimov, which reached Havana on 25 January, delivered some 7,500 tons of civilian goods, including a number of trucks.

(Cont'd)

It also carried six helicopters to add to the 85-100 already in Cuba. At least part of this helicopter fleet is fitted out with machine guns for ground support operations.

b. The Castro government seems to have gotten wind of exile plans for new coastal raids.

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NOTES

- A. Laos Kong Le, revealing some despair of obtaining effective help through the three-headed Souvanna government, has sent a direct appeal for military provisions to our Embassy in Vientiane.

- B. Pakistan-NATO The Pakistani suggestion that NATO should intervene in the Kashmir problem has been put to rest. The Belgians, after showing interest, have decided against raising the question in the NAC.