

Sanitized NLK-10:146 Appeal, 5/15

Pres. Rad ①

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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

21 AUGUST 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Israel-Syria

Pres has seen MH

a. Tension is growing in Israel amidst the repeated Syrian and Israeli charges and countercharges of border attacks.

b. The latest incident reported by the Israelis was yesterday's attempted penetration of Israeli airspace by Syrian MIG-17s.

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c. [redacted] Israel is exercising more restraint than in past instances of provocation because it desires to see the Baathist regime survive in Syria.

d. We have no evidence of Israeli military buildup at the border, but the short distance between their bases and the border limits the chances of our obtaining advance warning of such buildup.

e. Meanwhile, the Israeli cabinet decided at an emergency meeting yesterday to request the UN Security Council to consider the "Syrian Aggression."

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f. As might be expected, the Iraqi government has expressed solidarity with Syria; has alerted its air and ground forces west of the Euphrates, and has proclaimed that the Iraqi armed forces have been placed under the command of the National Council of the Revolutionary Command in Syria.

2. Finland-USSR

a. Ambassador Rowan has been told categorically by Max Jakobson, Chief of Finnish Foreign Office political section, that Finland is not negotiating with the USSR for the purchase of any type of Soviet missiles.

b. Jakobson also told Rowan that a written guarantee has been given to the British that at least half of any surface-to-air missiles purchased by Helsinki would be bought from them. Jakobson added that Kekkonen had told MacMillan Finland was interested in Bloodhound I, but was short of money.

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3. South Vietnam

a. Diem's regime seems determined to repress forcefully the rising Buddhist agitation, despite strong advice from US representatives and an urgent plea from Saigon's ambassador to Washington.

b. Police and army personnel raided Buddhist pagodas in Saigon and Hue yesterday using arms, grenades and tear gas.

c. A number of Buddhists were reported killed and wounded, and many others were arrested. The fate of key Buddhist leaders is not yet known.

d. Martial law has been declared throughout the country, and all communications are in military hands.

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e. These harsh measures may only serve to further alienate the Vietnamese public and will further damage Diem's image throughout the world.

f. Some senior Vietnamese officers may have agreed with this action as necessary to prevent the spread of unrest. However, we know little of the attitude of junior officers and enlisted men, most of whom are Buddhists, or how they would react if ordered to quell popular disturbances.

4. Cuba

a. Yesterday's Cuban government communique concerning Sunday night's raid on industrial installations may signal a sharper propaganda campaign against the US and possibly a new offensive in the UN.

b. Havana blamed the raid on the US government and claimed this was proof of a US plan of aggression. World opinion was warned of "the danger that this policy entails for peace less than a year after the October crisis."

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c. The communique also accused the US of taking advantage of the more relaxed "international situation" resulting from the test ban treaty and warned the US against underestimating the "solidarity of the Soviet Union" toward Cuba.

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d. Havana again demanded that the US accept Castro's "Five Points." The reference to the "Five Points" in this context suggests that the Cuban government may be considering an appeal to the UN.

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NOTE

Communist China - Burma Peiping has proposed Keng Piao, one of its vice foreign ministers and a career diplomat, as its new ambassador to Rangoon. The Chinese apparently believe that Ne Win's recent actions--including his willingness to negotiate with the Burmese Communists previously exiled to Peiping--have created an improved political climate which can best be exploited by an experienced high-level diplomat.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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