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**THE PRESIDENT'S
INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Iraq-Syria

CIA IN { 63952, 19 NOV
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a. Although sporadic gunfire continued through the night in Baghdad, the army is in control.

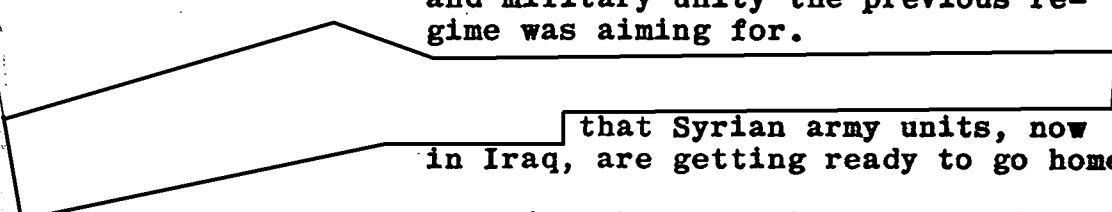
b. Arif has plans to announce the make-up of his cabinet today. It will probably contain some "mild" Baathists.

c. He permitted Syrian strongman Hafiz and Michel Aflaq, the founder of the Baath Party, who were caught in Baghdad by the coup, to fly back to Damascus yesterday after the Syrian radio suddenly stopped vilifying the newest Iraqi regime.

CIB

d. Arif and his colleagues obviously hope to reach an understanding with the Syrian regime. We doubt very much if they are interested, however, in the meaningful political and military unity the previous regime was aiming for.

JFK Act 5 (g)(2)(D)



that Syrian army units, now in Iraq, are getting ready to go home.

f. The retention of Baathists in positions of power in Baghdad also tends to ease the threat to the party in Syria.

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

For The President Only ~~Top Secret~~

2. Venezuela

CIB
plus

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

a. The Communist effort to frustrate the presidential election (1 December) continues.

b. An illegal transmitter was heard yesterday in Caracas calling for a 48-hour general strike and urging listeners to arm themselves against the Betancourt government.

c. Roving bands of Communist-led terrorists sought to enforce the generally unsuccessful strike with gunfire. There were at least nine deaths (some reports go as high as 19). Guerrilla activity in rural areas is also being stepped up.

d. The government has jailed an added 200 extremists in the wake of yesterday's violence and plans are afoot to detain 1,500 more.

e. The army is being held in reserve in the Caracas area.

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

3. South Vietnam

CIB

a. Ton That Dinh, whom we had earlier identified as the least reliable of the generals' group, is trying to use his position as security minister to build himself an independent political base.

(Cont'd)

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b. He has been visiting provincial cities to "explain" the military takeover and receive expressions of loyalty. He has continued to spread the idea that the coup was largely his own doing.

4. France-Israel

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

(Cont'd)

For The President Only ~~Top Secret~~

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

5. Egypt

a. Pamphlets and posters bitterly lampooning Nasir, especially for his involvement in Yemen and Algeria, have appeared on the streets of Cairo and Suez.

b. Such public expression of anti-Nasir sentiment is highly unusual.

c. It is still in a very low key, however, and there is no sign of organized opposition.

d. We do not consider Nasir to be in any immediate danger of overthrow, though he could be forced to modify unpopular policies if the discontent spreads.

*note from Jim Young
19 Nov
TDCS 3/565, 064
18 Nov
IN 63025
18 Nov*

For The President Only ~~Top Secret~~

6. Bolivia

a. The return last week of Vice President Lechin, who has been on ice as Bolivia's ambassador in Rome, will heat things up in La Paz.

b. The city has already witnessed four minor demonstrations which Embassy La Paz attributes to left-wingers encouraged by Lechin's presence.

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

7. Cambodia

a. Sihanouk may have finally painted himself into a corner on US aid.

b. He has followed up yesterday's emotional public renunciation with an official request to our embassy for talks on the subject.

JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D)

(Cont'd)

For The President Only --~~Top Secret~~--

*originally from Ed Hanck
19 Nov*

c. We are always reluctant to predict just what Sihanouk will do next, but he may hope, perhaps expect, that the US will press him to retain some of our aid, even on his terms.

For The President Only ~~Top Secret~~

