

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**20 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~**

1. Iraq-Syria

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.

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.



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2. Venezuela

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.



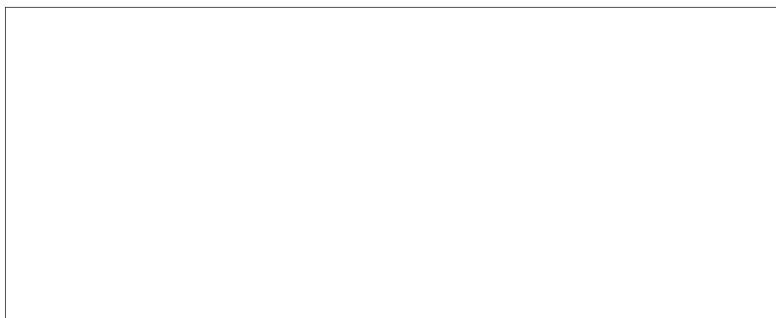
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3. South Vietnam

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.

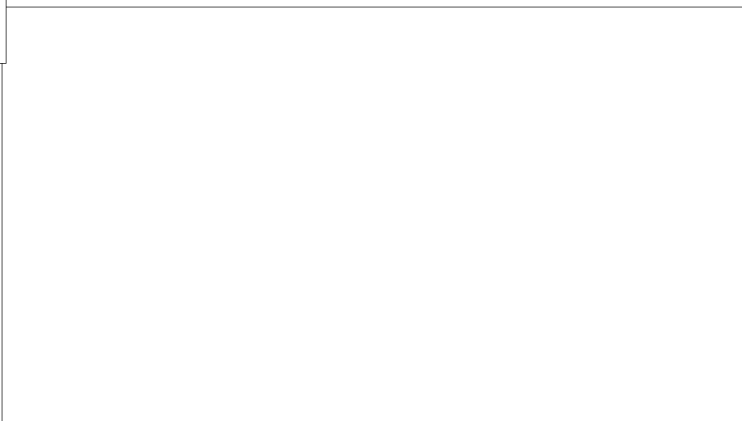
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b. He has been visiting provincial cities to "explain" the military takeover and receive expressions of loyalty. He has continued to spread the idea that the coup was largely his own doing.



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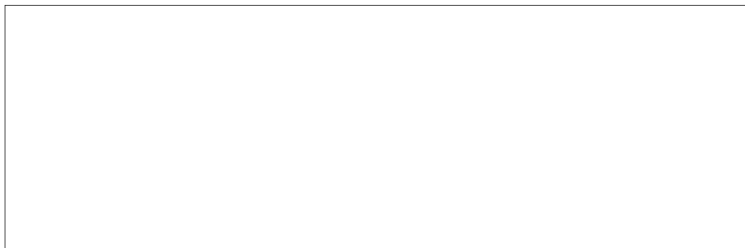
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5. Egypt

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.

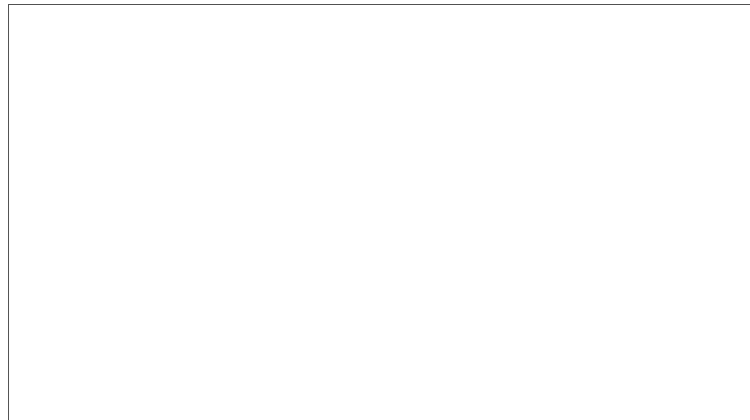
c. It is still in a very low key, however, and there is no sign of organized opposition.

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.

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.



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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.

(Cont'd)

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.

NOTES

A. Congo [redacted] Adoula will finally announce this morning the expulsion of all personnel of the Soviet and Czech embassies. This move has been hanging fire ever since security officials turned up evidence several weeks ago implicating personnel of these embassies in antigovernment activities. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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C. Sino-Soviet Peiping has been quick to exploit the opening provided by Barghoorn's release. To the Chinese this affair is an object lesson in how Khrushchev knuckles under to US pressure without getting a thing in return.

D. USSR-Cuba [redacted] passenger ships [redacted] [redacted] have docked and departed. Some of them brought in rotational troops and all of them took out Soviet personnel. [redacted]

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[redacted] it is possible that as many Soviets went out as came in. [redacted]

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(Cont'd)

[Redacted]

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F. Japan Ikeda does not appear to be in any particular trouble in tomorrow's elections. The long-range trend toward the left in popular vote will probably be apparent, but Ikeda's Liberal Democratic Party should retain a safe majority in the next Diet. The leftists have tried to turn rising prices and last week's twin disasters into election ammunition, but without marked success.

G. Indonesia Djakarta is trying to round up support for making Sukarno's little Olympics, the "Games of the New Emerging Forces," a permanent thing.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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I. Brazil A new round of army promotions and shifts in command are due [Redacted] Anti-Goulart elements [Redacted] [Redacted] ranks will be further thinned. Congenital plotters on the far right are talking coup [Redacted]

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

21 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Iraq

a. The new 21-man cabinet appears to be a coalition of Arab nationalist elements including four members of the moderate wing of the Baath Party. The regime is still dominated by the military, with eight cabinet posts.

b. The new prime minister, Tahir Yahya, is sympathetic to the Baath Party

[REDACTED]

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c. The political affiliation of eight of the new ministers is not known, but the key interior post is in the hands of an anti-Baathist nationalist.

2. Indonesia

a. Defense Minister Nasution has been ordered by Sukarno to make conciliatory statements on Malaysia while on his trip abroad.

b. The Dutch chargé who reported this explained that Nasution was chosen for this job because Sukarno was irritated with the ultra-tough line the defense minister has taken.

(Cont'd)

c. The chargé has no information on the motives behind this switch. Our embassy thinks it may be a move to pave the way for exploratory talks by Foreign Minister Subandrio at Bangkok with his Thai and Philippine counterparts. It may also be meant to provide a more receptive attitude for Nasution's visit here.

d. Our embassy thinks Nasution went in for his Malaysia sabre rattling on Sukarno's orders, or at the very least, with the president's tacit support. Sukarno may feel Nasution has stolen some of his thunder.

3. Congo

a. Adoula still did not get around to announcing the expulsion of all Soviet and Czech embassy personnel yesterday. However, his people managed on Tuesday afternoon to corral and hog-tie the Soviet counselor and press attaché before they could eat-up all the incriminating papers in their possession.

b. The Russians are now being held at Ndolo prison.

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(Cont'd)

c. The Belgian ambassador thinks these papers are probably genuine. He says the Russians have made the mistake of underrating the Congolese and have stumbled into a surete trap.

d. The Congolese also picked up two Czech diplomats but have since released them. This morning they arrested the correspondent of the Soviet news agency.

4. Ethiopia-
Congo

a. Haile Selassie is planning to withdraw all Ethiopian troops from the Congo in January [redacted]

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b. The two battalions of Ethiopians provide the guts of the UN operation. They had been slated to stay until June and are likely to be very difficult to replace.

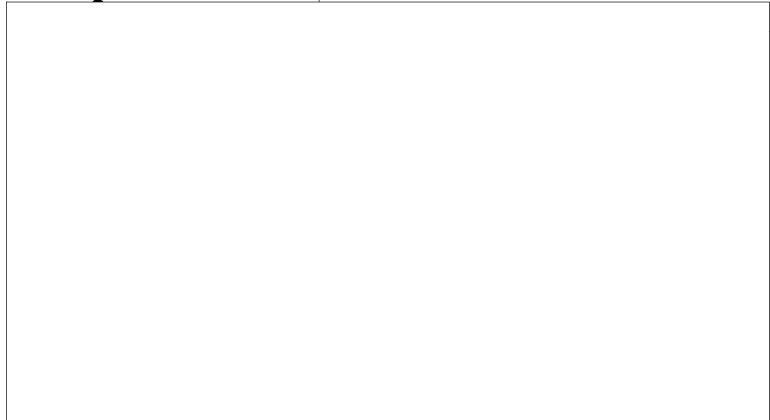
c. The Emperor reportedly ordered the withdrawal on grounds that the troops are urgently needed in Ethiopia, particularly in view of the Soviet military accord with Somalia.

d. Our ambassador has asked to see the Emperor, as well as the prime minister and foreign minister, to press for reconsideration.

5. Yemen

a. Military activity has slackened but the stalemate continues.

b. Egypt still has about 32,000 troops in Yemen



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6. Turkey

a. The opposition Justice Party, heir of the old Menderes regime, appears to have won a victory in Sunday's nationwide local elections on the basis of incomplete returns.

b. The collapse of Prime Minister Inonu's coalition government appears increasingly likely. Though a new coalition may be formed, there will be considerable resistance to the retention of Inonu as prime minister.

(Cont'd)

c. Justice Party members will be putting on pressure for early national parliamentary elections. However their party leaders do not believe the Turkish military, which ousted Menderes in 1960, would permit them to take over if they won new elections.

d. They will probably try to work out some rapprochement with the armed forces.

NOTES

A. Cuba

[REDACTED]

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B. Berlin Local East German troops

[REDACTED] appear to have been responsible for turning high powered searchlights on pilots taking off from West Berlin's Tempelhof airfield on 14-16 November. There were five such incidents.

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[REDACTED] There have been no further incidents reported since.

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C. Albania-USSR A Radio Tirana broadcast has accused Khrushchev of personally releasing Barghoorn for fear that Moscow's wheat deal with the US might collapse. The Albanians are on record as preferring to eat grass rather than to kowtow to the West, but they are not above eating Chinese wheat acquired from Western sources.

D. Iran-USSR The Soviet Union's timing seems to be off in Iran.

[REDACTED] a twin engined plane was shot down in Iranian territory yesterday by Soviet jet fighters who violated Iranian air space. The Iranians say that the plane was on a photographic mission in connection with the

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government's land reform drive. The pilot was injured and his two passengers were killed. The incident comes at a time when Soviet President Brezhnev is visiting Tehran. He addressed a joint session of parliament today.

- E. Venezuela Police seem to have restored order in downtown Caracas, but terrorism continues elsewhere. The slum district of Caracas to which the terrorists retreated is under virtual martial law. Among other things, the Dupont paint warehouse at Maracaibo was set afire and totally destroyed.
- F. World Peace Council The WPC meeting in Warsaw next Thursday may wind up in another free-for-all. The Chinese Communist delegation, although not intent on disrupting the conference, plans to attack the WPC president's report

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--22 NOVEMBER 1963**1. USSR:**

A. "GRIFFON", THE SOVIET ANTIMISSILE DISPLAYED IN THE 7 NOVEMBER MOSCOW PARADE, APPEARS DESIGNED ONLY FOR USE WITHIN THE ATMOSPHERE.

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2. CAMBODIA:

A. SIHANOUK HAS GIVEN THE FRENCH IN PHNOM PENH FOREWARNING THAT HE PLANS TO REVIVE HIS NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE PROPOSALS.

B. HE WANTS THE TWELVE GENEVA CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO MEET IN SOME ASIAN CITY; "AT THE GREAT POWERS' EXPENSE," TO WORK OUT A NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE DECLARATION.

C. THE FRENCH SAY THEY PLAN TO RESPOND FAVORABLY AND HOPE WE WILL TOO, LEST SIHANOUK OTHERWISE TAKE THE FINAL IRREVOCABLE STEP INTO THE COMMUNIST BLOC.

(CONT'D)

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D. MEANWHILE PEIPING HAS DECLARED IT WOULD GIVE "ALL-OUT SUPPORT SHOULD CAMBODIA ENCOUNTER ARMED INVASION INSTIGATED BY THE US OR ITS VASSALS."

E. MEANWHILE MINISTER OF DEFENSE LON NOL HAS INTIMATED TO GENERAL TABER THAT THE CAMBODIAN MILITARY DOES NOT APPROVE OF TERMINATION OF US AID. CAMBODIAN MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE MADE IT PLAIN THAT THE US RETAINS A RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL WITHIN THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY.

3. NOTES:

A. CUBA-US: A PRENSA LATINA ITEM YESTERDAY DATED IN NEW YORK, SAYS THE STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA HAS STARTED ORGANIZING ANOTHER TRIP, HOPEFULLY TO INCLUDE AS MANY AS 500 STUDENTS THIS TIME. OVER 100 ARE SAID TO HAVE APPLIED SO FAR.

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C. DENMARK-USSR: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAEKKERUP, VISITING KHRUSHCHEV ON THURSDAY, PRESENTED HIM WITH A MADE-IN-DENMARK ROCKING CHAIR, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOW BE POSSIBLE TO ROCK IN RHYTHM IN BOTH THE KREMLIN AND THE WHITE HOUSE. APPARENTLY KHRUSHCHEV WILL BE MAKING HIS SCANDANAVIAN TOUR NEXT SPRING.

(CONT'D)

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D. JAPAN: YESTERDAY'S JAPANESE ELECTION DID NOT CHANGE THE GENERAL BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATIVES AND SOCIALISTS IN THE DIET.

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[REDACTED]

THE SOCIALISTS GAINED A FEW SEATS, BUT FELL SHORT OF THEIR GOAL OF BREAKING THE "ONE-THIRD BARRIER."

E. INDONESIA-US: INDONESIA OFFICIALS ARE LETTING IT BE KNOWN INDIRECTLY, VIA THE OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES, THAT SUKARNO MAY WELL HOLD UP SIGNATURE OF THE LAW RATIFYING OIL CONTRACTS WITH THE BIG THREE UNTIL THE US POSITION ON AID TO INDONESIA IS "CLARIFIED." US AID THEY SAY WAS PROMISED BY WILSON WYATT AS PART OF A "PACKAGE DEAL" FOR SETTLING WITH THE OIL COMPANIES.

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TOP SECRET

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

23 NOVEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Vietnamese Communist efforts to discredit the new Saigon regime stayed in high gear this week.

b. The number of armed attacks was off from the high of the previous week but still some 50% above the year's weekly average.

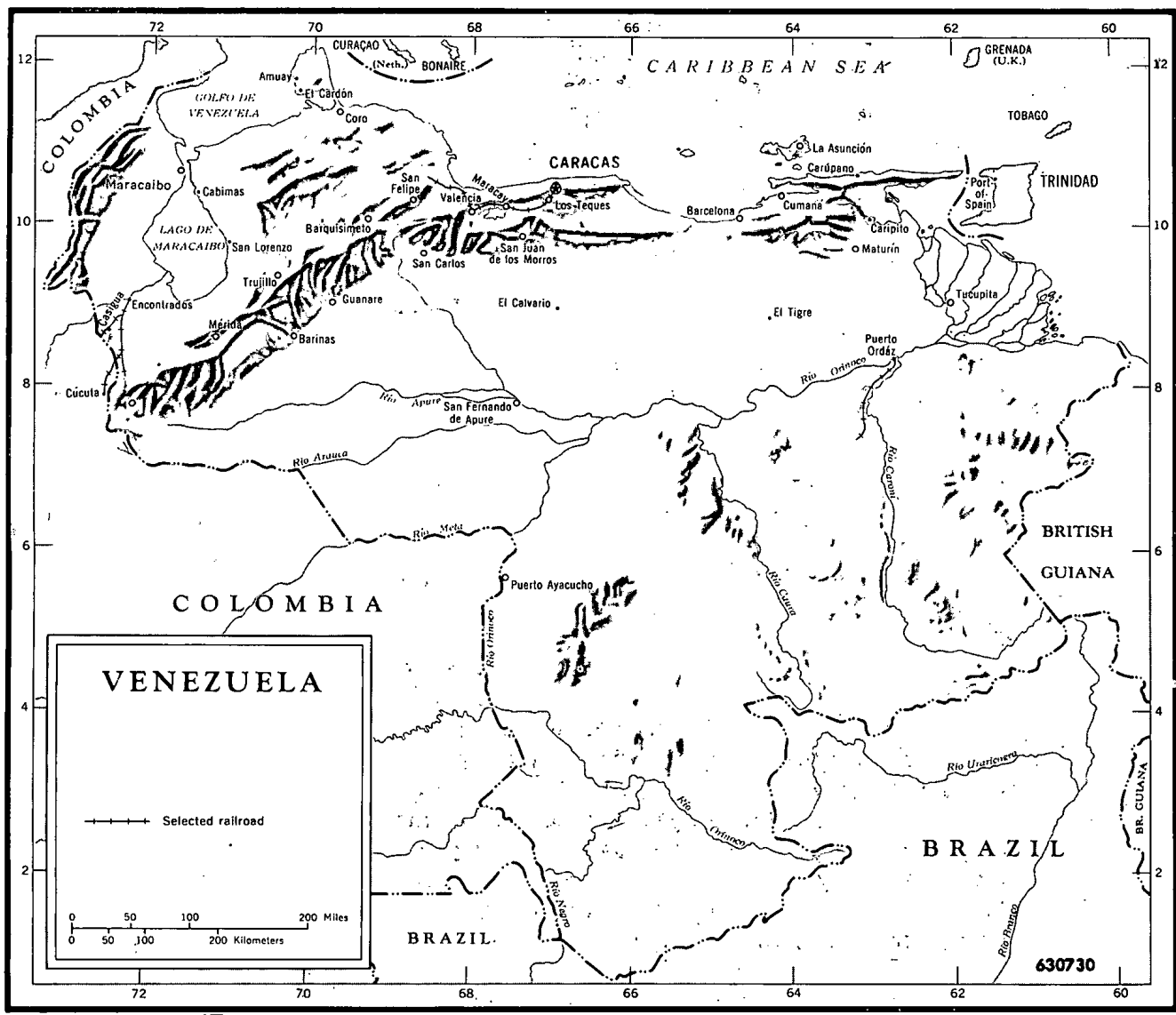
c. These attacks have been, for the most part, small-scale efforts directed against the government's paramilitary forces in the villages. They have been designed more for their psychological impact than for immediate military gain.

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e. The new government is responding by stepping up its own military operations. It is also setting about the hard job of re-vamping the Diem government apparatus and harnessing broader popular support for the war effort.

f. The generals have been dealing fairly effectively with

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their new responsibilities. There are, however, a few signs of dissension within this group and between it and civilian politicians.

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h. The new regime has also embarked on a purge of high military officers who sided with Diem during the Buddhist crisis and failed to get on the right side soon enough.

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2. Venezuela

a. The death toll from the terrorist outburst in Caracas last Tuesday and Wednesday now stands at about 30.

b. This is the high water mark thus far in the campaign of the Castro-supported Communist extremists to disrupt the national elections a week from tomorrow.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

c. The Betancourt government has struck back hard. Its new unified command over the security forces, passed this initial test with flying colors.

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d. At least 500 extremists were arrested and the round-up is still going on. Their removal will hamper the Communist drive against elections in major cities like Caracas.

e. We now expect the elections to be held on schedule, a considerable achievement under the circumstances. The elections will be followed, however, by a Communist effort to prevent the March inauguration of the victor.

f. The rub here is that none of the presidential candidates commands President Betancourt's considerable assets for dealing successfully with the harsh realities of Venezuelan politics. The constitution prevents Betancourt from succeeding himself.

g. In the background, as always, looms the military, which could intervene if the president-elect shows signs of being soft on communism.

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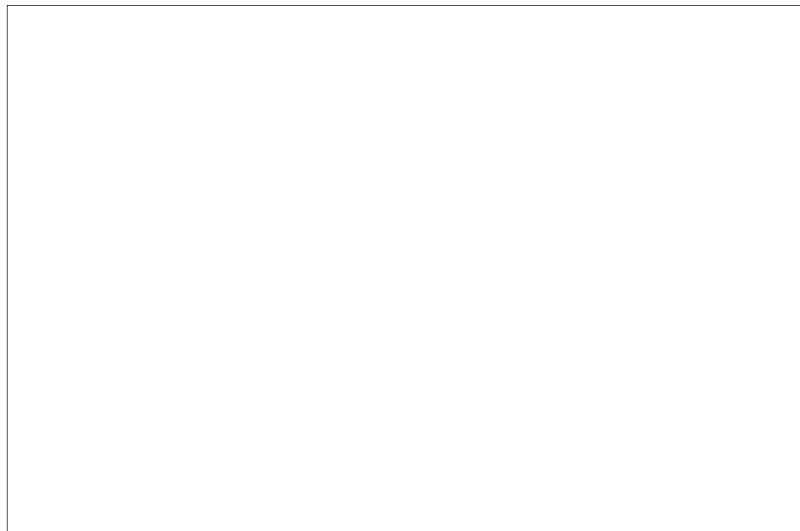
3. USSR-Cuba

[redacted]
[redacted] Cuban interpreters are now posted at several surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites on the island.

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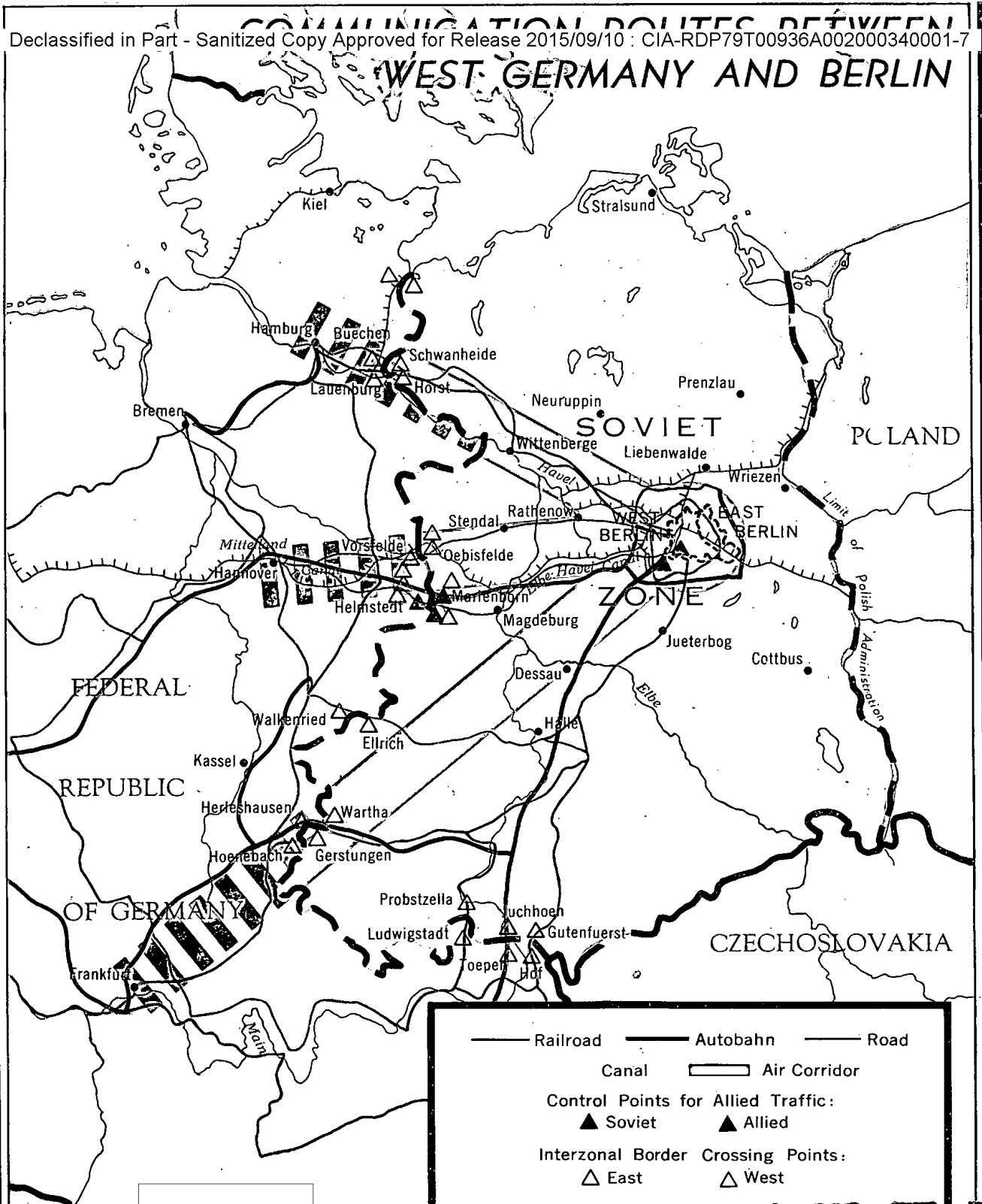
b. We think this means that on-site training of Cubans has begun on schedule. Field training is to last six months, after which the SAM system may be turned over to Castro.

c. In the past month some 1,500 Soviets arrived in Cuba. Most of these were probably SAM experts, sent to monitor the training.




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COMMUNICATIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND BERLIN

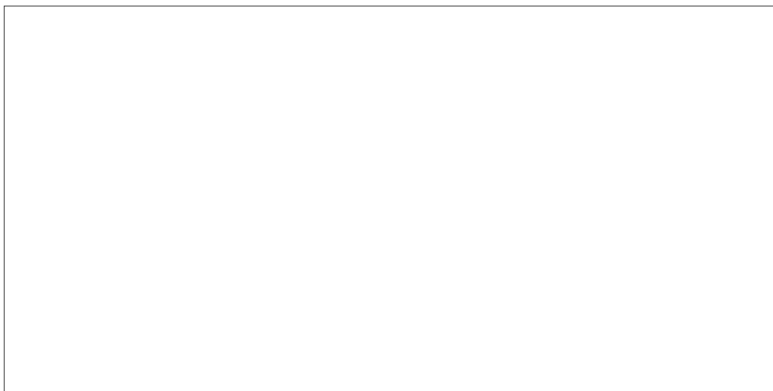


f. All Soviet weapons introduced into Cuba last year have been withdrawn or turned over to the Cubans. The only significant exception is the SAM system.



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4. Berlin



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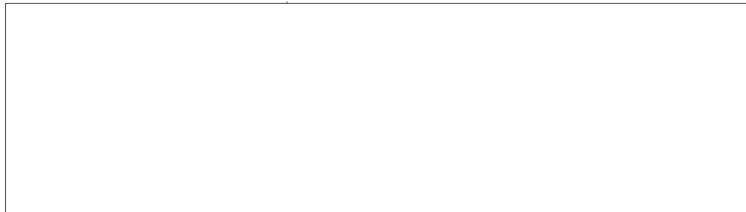
c. Moscow has tried on a number of past occasions to assert its right to restrict Allied use of the air corridors. In early 1962, the Soviets attempted to reserve "blocks" of air space for their own use. They have since demanded that Western flights stay between stipulated altitudes, that we file flight plans in advance and provide prior notice of border-crossing times.

(Cont'd)

d. This sort of harassment stopped in the spring of 1962 when Soviet leaders became convinced that the US was interested in a serious discussion of a Berlin settlement. Moscow may hope that the threat of more of this sort of harassment will jog the US into talks on Berlin.

5. Iraq-Syria-
UAR

a. It now appears that President Arif's role in last Monday's coup in Baghdad may have been virtually that of a bystander.



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c. Whatever Arif's role may have been, the coup was primarily an effort by the Iraqi Army to curtail the activities of the extreme wing of the Baath Party. The Baath is an Arab nationalist political organization, active throughout the Arab world, which has been ruling Iraq and Syria.

(Cont'd)

d. The coup group has not thrown all Baathists out of the government; there are party members in the new cabinet.

e. Syrian Baathists have welcomed this retention of their Iraqi brothers. Their attitude springs from the recognition that the Baath in Syria cannot stay afloat without support from Iraq.

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f. The reaction of Nasir's Egypt, which passionately desires to see the Baath go under, has been exactly the opposite. Cairo has been backing off its all-out support for the coup ever since the new cabinet was announced.

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NOTES

A. USSR

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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B. Congo-USSR Soviet embassy personnel have not yet left Leopoldville, but their departure is expected momentarily. They were ordered out of the country after the Congolese turned up good documentary evidence of their complicity in anti-government plots.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] a letter from an anti-Adoula leader now in Brazzaville asking for funds [Redacted]

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C. Britain The Labor Party scored again in the Dundee West by-election Thursday, increasing its 1959 majority of 719 to a thumping 4,955. Heartened by this, Labor is now pushing for general elections at once. Prime Minister Home is not likely to accede.

D. Ecuador

[Redacted]

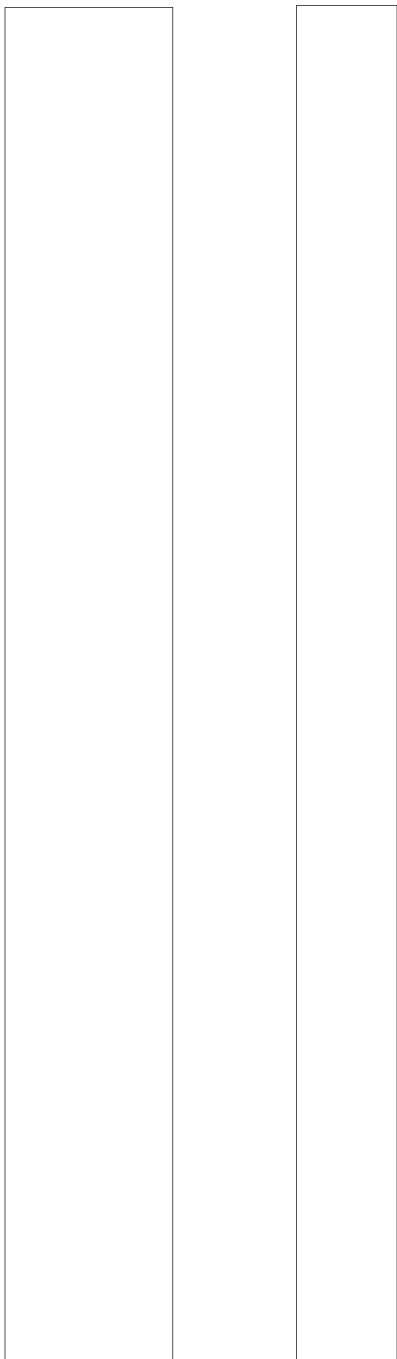
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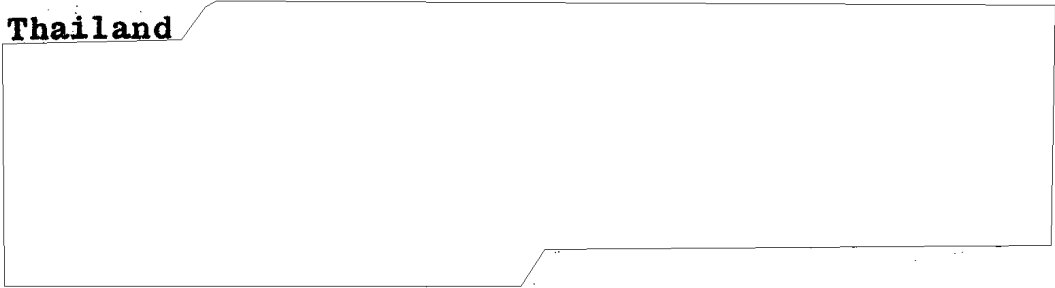
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E. Thailand



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F. USSR Cosmos 22, launched a week ago, was recovered yesterday. It is the eleventh unmanned satellite to be recovered. All recoverable satellites have been launched from Tyuratam, the main Soviet missile test center, and recovered after three to ten days aloft.



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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

22 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

79T 936

Box 26

**In honor of President Kennedy
for whom the President's Intelligence Checklist
was first written on 17 June 1961**

For The President Only - Top Secret

For this day, the Checklist Staff can find no words more fitting than a verse quoted by the President to a group of newspapermen the day he learned of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba.

For The President Only - Top Secret

Bullfight critics ranked in rows
Crowd the enormous plaza full;
But only one is there who knows
And he's the man who fights the bull.

For The President Only - Top Secret

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

26 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Iraq-Syria

a. The shaky new accommodation between the two countries following the recent coup in Iraq has been threatened by Syria's action in granting asylum to Ali Saleh Saadi, the exiled leader of the extremist wing of the Iraqi Baath.

b. Saadi had arrived in Syria unannounced following a brief stay in Madrid. [REDACTED]

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c. Both regimes continue to be troubled with internal dissension with affairs in one deeply tangled with those in the other.

d. In Syria [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Baathist regime is split between moderates who desire a broadening of the government's power base, and a doctrinaire faction which wants to keep all control of the government in Baathist hands.

e. In Iraq, the pull is more away from the Baathists. Two ministers have threatened to resign unless the government adopts an openly pro-Egyptian policy. Nevertheless the government feels secure enough to ease up on curfew and transport restrictions imposed since the coup.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

f. Iraq has announced that the military union with Syria remains in force, and that a new commander of the joint armies will be announced soon.

[redacted]

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2. Laos

a. [redacted]

[redacted] govern-
ment forces had finally secured Vang
Vieng and its airfield, long held
by the Pathet Lao [redacted] also [redacted]
[redacted] the capture of Ban Namone farther
south on Route 13.

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b. The neutralist, rightist Lao Army, and Meo tribal guerrilla forces hope to sustain their coordinated clearing action until remaining Pathet Lao pockets in this area north of Vientiane are cleared.

c. Such operations in Laos have often been followed by a Communist riposte. [redacted]

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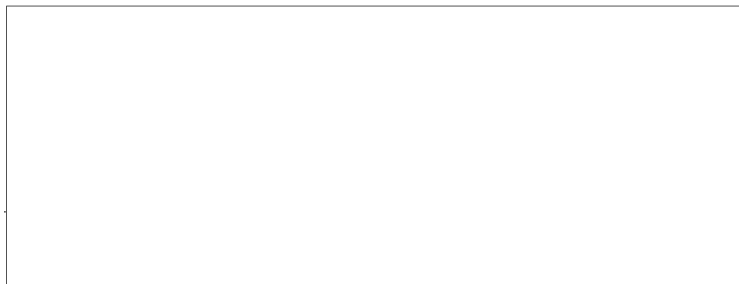
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3. South Vietnam

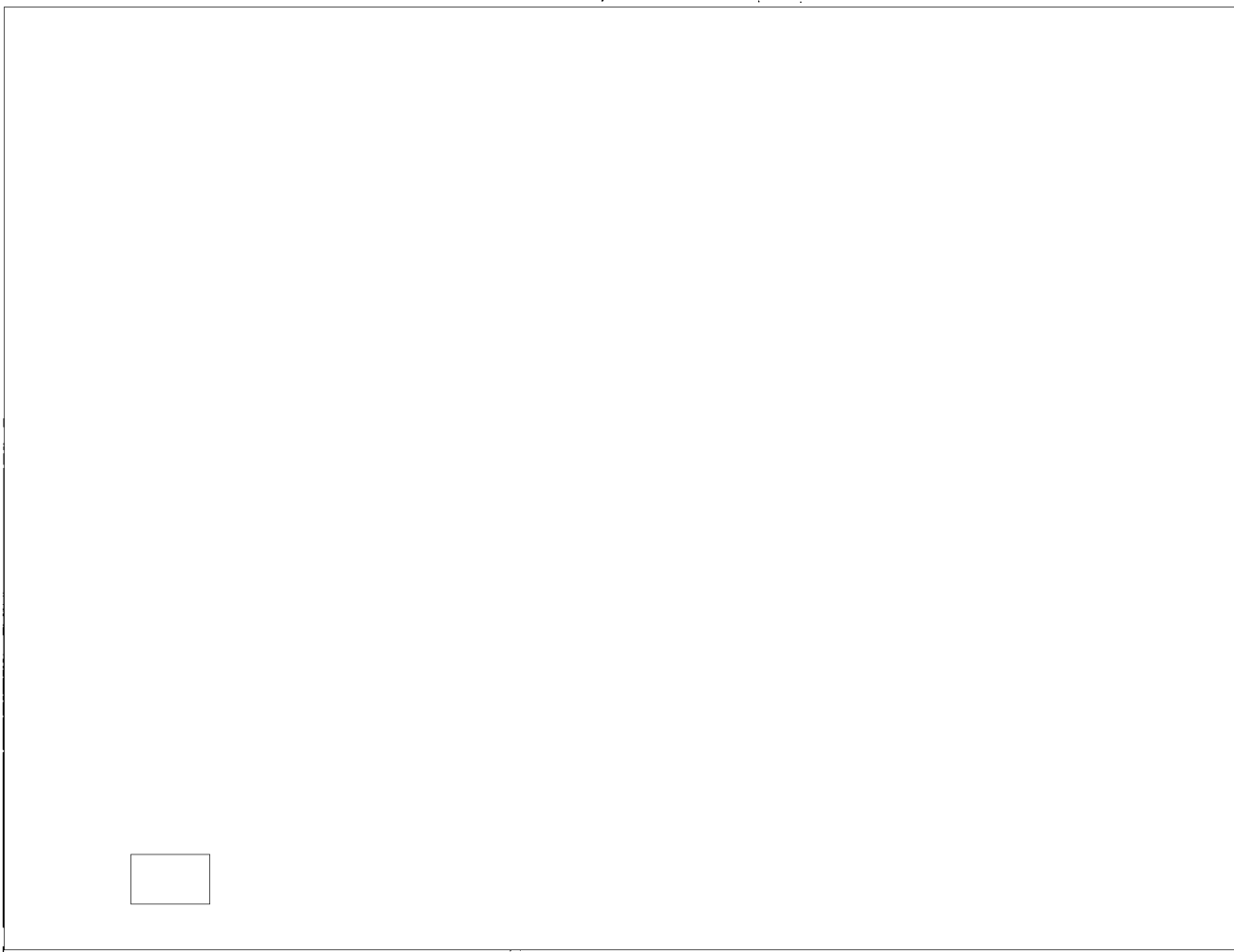
a. According to press reports, Viet Cong attacks on Sunday wiped out two of the government's strategic hamlets in the central highlands about 250 miles north of Saigon.

b. More than 1,000 inhabitants in the hamlets--who are minority tribesmen--are missing and possibly have fled into the mountains. They abandoned a significant quantity of weapons to the Viet Cong.

c. These attacks not only suggest continued erosion of the government's programs to win over tribal support, but also signal that stepped-up Viet Cong pressure against the new regime is spreading to the north.

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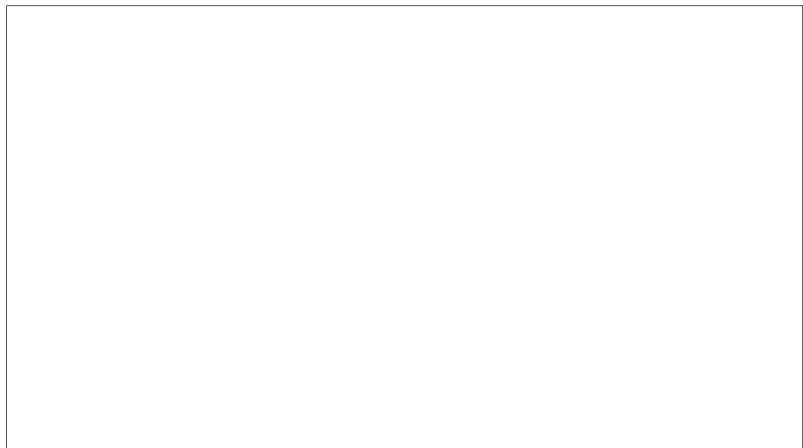
d. This Communist effort is aimed at discrediting the post-Diem regime before the new leadership is able to get its feet on the ground and capture the loyalty and respect of people in the provinces.

e. Although the Viet Cong still continues to draw its main strength from local recruiting, a steady stream of cadre and training personnel continues to make its way to the south from North Vietnam along the Laotian border.

f. We are now reasonably sure that at least 784 persons infiltrated from the north during 1963 and the actual total may be much higher.

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4. USSR



(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

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5. USSR-Berlin

a. Embassy Bonn feels that the Soviet Union may be seeking at least a temporary modus vivendi on the autobahn without prejudicing its juridical position, which can be used to cause difficulties there in the future.

b. The embassy bases this on the Soviet replies to the Western notification to the USSR on 29 October regarding harmonized convoy procedures--two oral statements on 16 November and a note of 21 November.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

c. The Soviet note was designed to make a record, showing that the USSR exercises "control" of the autobahn and that the recent incidents resulted from US refusal to comply with "existing procedures."

d. On the other hand, the Soviet procedures described in the oral replies seem to reflect actual Allied practices, though there is enough ambiguity to afford the USSR flexibility in any future actions.

6. Brazil

a. The danger of an immediate coup against the Goulart regime has receded with the reported decision of Second Army Commander General Bevilaqua not to join the coup plotters.

b. Bevilaqua, [redacted] may have been asked to hand over his command [redacted] as part of a series of reassignments made by President Goulart to keep the military off balance.

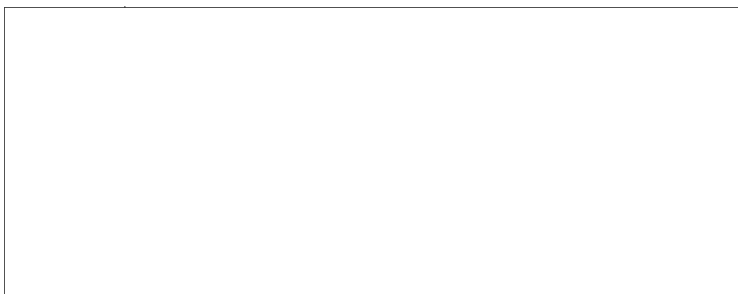
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c. On the other side of the coin, there is widespread belief that Goulart himself will at some time resort to a coup to establish an authoritarian regime.

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For The President Only - Top Secret



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e. [redacted]

[redacted] Goulart [redacted]

[redacted] seems either out of touch with reality or very poorly informed. Public opinion is not with him and the tradition that political power should only be transferred constitutionally is very strong in the army, coup reports notwithstanding.

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f. The biggest danger from this quarter is that the opposition may resort to some illegal act, giving Goulart the excuse to take over.

NOTES

- A. Ethiopia-Congo Haile Selassie has acceded to our ambassador's request and is rescinding his earlier decision to withdraw the 1,743-man Ethiopian contingent from the UN force in the Congo.
- B. Communist China - Africa [redacted] Premier Chou En-lai will leave in mid-December for a tour of some Afro-Asian countries. He is to stop first in Egypt and then visit several other African countries including Guinea, Ghana, and Mali. Chou would be the highest ranking Chinese leader ever to visit Africa. [redacted]
- C. Indonesia-Philippines [redacted] President Sukarno plans to go to Manila this Thursday to confer with Philippine President Macapagal. No reasons have been advanced for the visit. Our chargé guesses that it is an Indonesian move to head off Philippine recognition of Malaysia.
- D. Venezuela The terrorists have struck again, this time firing six US-owned oil and gas pipelines near the northeastern city of Puerto la Cruz. The elections are still on for Sunday, and we look for a maximum effort from the pro-Castro terrorist organization.
- E. Congo We now have word that 49 members of the Soviet Embassy, including dependents, left Leopoldville on Saturday aboard a Sabena flight for Brussels. They are expected to book onward passage for Moscow. It is reported that the Congolese will allow one Russian without diplomatic status to stay to look after Soviet property.

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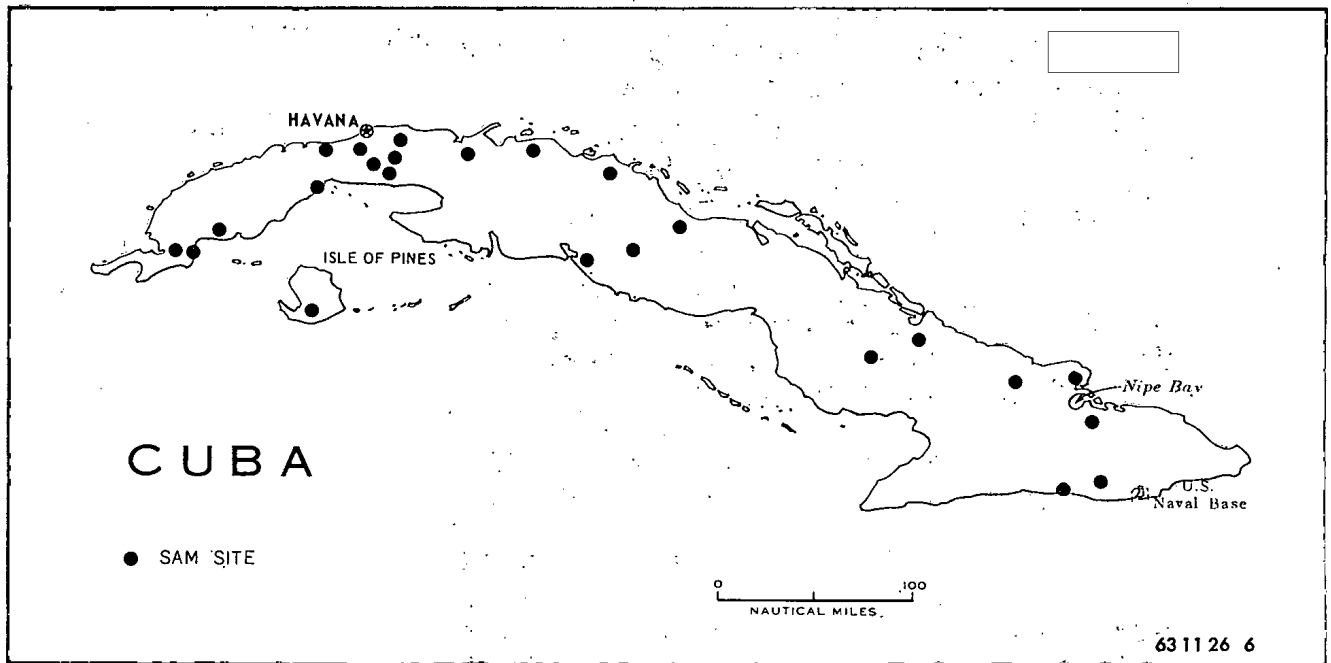
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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

27 NOVEMBER 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

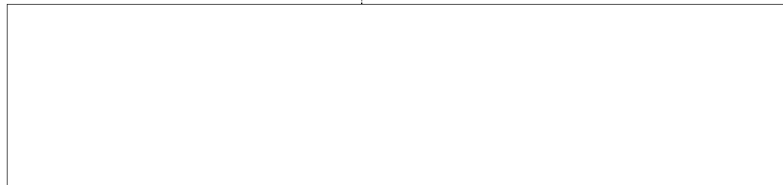


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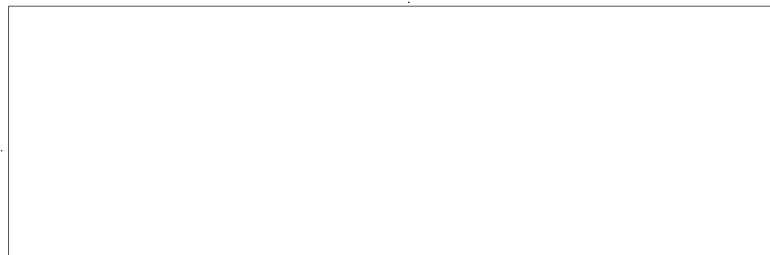
1. Cuba



b. [redacted] photography

[redacted] shows [redacted]

[redacted] six SAM sites in western Cuba. These sites are in addition to those at which we noted the presence of Cuban interpreters as we reported on Saturday.



e. The purpose, it appears, was to shift the mission of the system from an area defense of the island as a whole to point defense of specific targets, particularly Havana. [redacted]

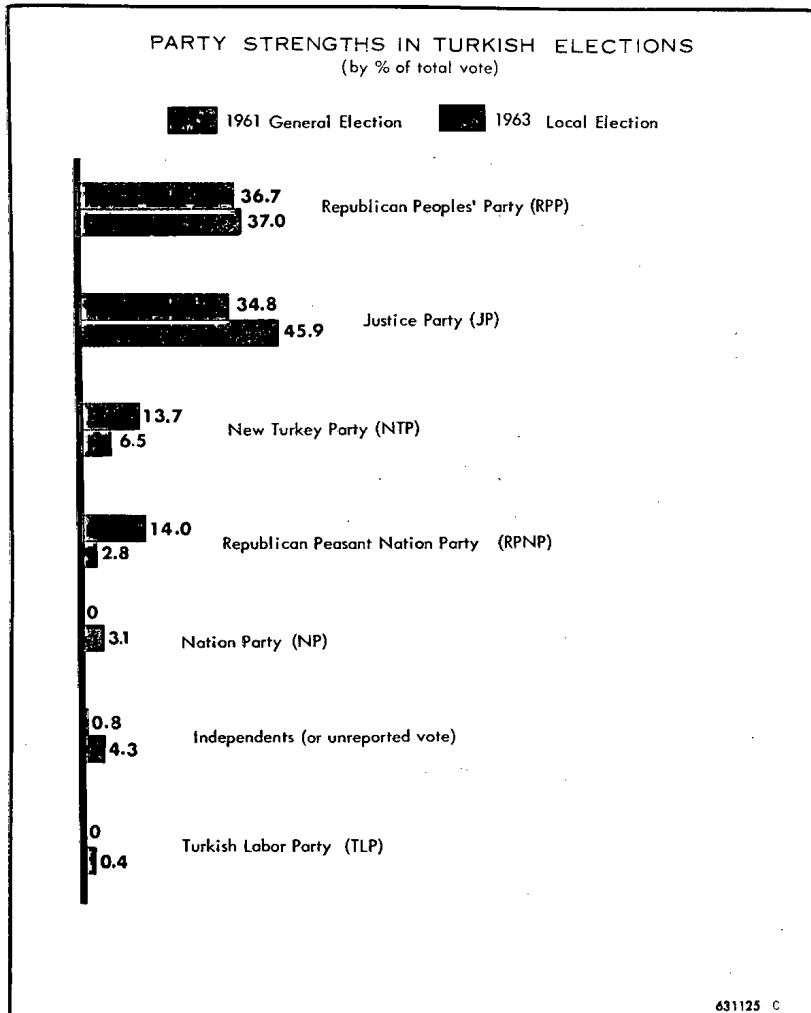
2. Syria-Iraq

a. Syrian leaders have acceded to pressure from Iraq and have expelled Iraqi Baathist extremist Ali Saadi. He has gone to Athens

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b. This is an earnest of the desire of moderate Baathist leaders in Damascus to preserve workable relations with Iraq, partly as a counterbalance to Cairo and partly to preserve what remains of Baathist influence in Baghdad.

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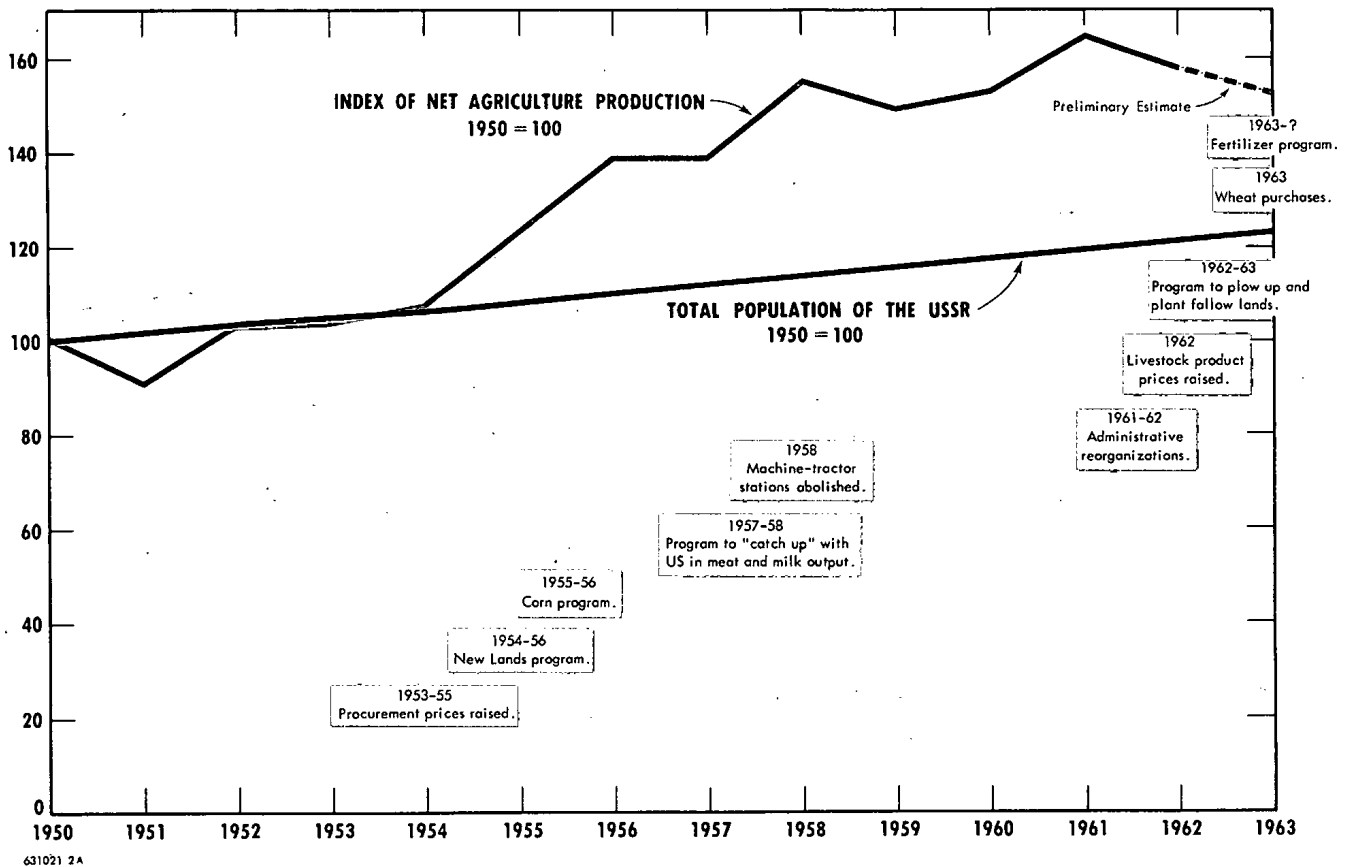
3. Turkey

a. Prime Minister Inonu's coalition government is about to collapse.

b. It has long been shaky. Last week it was dealt a severe setback when the opposition Justice Party, heir of the Menderes regime, emerged from local elections as the country's majority party.

(Cont'd)

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET AGRICULTURE



SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCTION

(million metric tons)

	ALL GRAINS		WHEAT ALONE	
	Soviet Official	US Estimate	Soviet Official	US Estimate
1958	141	125	77	63
1959	126	100	69	55
1960	134	100	64	46
1961	137	115	67	55
1962	148	115	71	57
1963	---	100-110	--	42-46

631021 2B

c. Now the Peasant Party, one of the three in the coalition, has voted to pull out, and probably will do so as soon as Inonu gets back from Washington. Another partner, the Turkey Party, has wanted to pull out

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d. A new coalition is at least a theoretical possibility, with a number of independents taking the place of the Peasant Party, but Inonu probably would not be prime minister.

e. The military are working for an all-party coalition. This way, they feel, they could keep tabs on the Justice Party, but the Justice Party is not likely to buy this arrangement.

f. As matters now stand, the military would take over the government itself before it would let the Justice Party form one.

4. USSR wheat

a.

the decision to buy wheat abroad was taken to avoid lowering reserves, which he has described as ample for one or two years. We think the situation is more serious than that.

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(Cont'd)

b. This year's harvest was clearly very bad. The weight of evidence suggests that Soviet grain stockpiles have been far drawn down this year and are not sufficient to protect the country from another poor harvest.

c. Our estimate is that total grain production each year since 1958 has been well below that year's level of 125 million tons, while the population has continued to grow.

d. We have seen signs of extensive slaughtering in anticipation of fodder shortages during the winter. This runs counter to Khrushchev's oft-stated plan to build up the livestock industry.

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e. We have also noted that the extensive wheat purchases weaken the USSR's gold reserves at a time when it hopes to expand its imports of machinery for a huge chemical fertilizer program.

f. In addition, we have seen signs of stringent measures to protect the grain supply, accompanied by public discontent in some areas over the absence of bread.

(Cont'd)

5. Communist
China -
Argentina

a. Peiping last week contracted for some 300,000 tons of wheat (cost about \$20,000,000) from Argentina.

b. This adds to the 1,000,000 tons just contracted for with Australia, but is still far below the 5,000,000 tons the Chinese have normally imported in recent years. Additional suppliers will be hard to find.

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6. Czechoslovakia-
USSR

a. Czech President and party boss Novotny has gone to Moscow, evidently for economic talks, judging by the composition of his delegation.

b. Novotny's background of Stalinist excesses have put him on the wrong side of Khrushchev. They also have given rise to control problems, particularly in the fractious Slovak party where pressures for liberalization have made their mark.

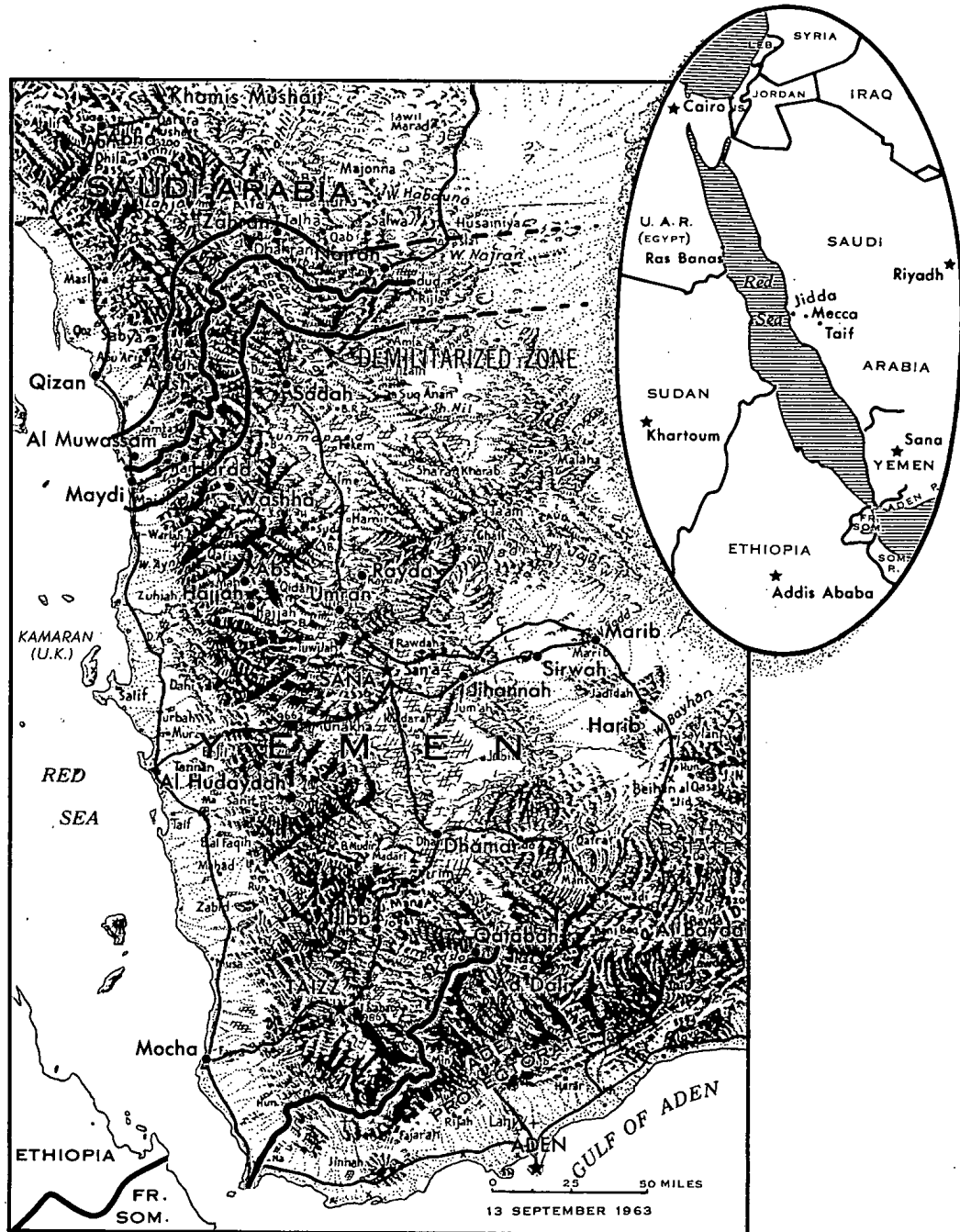
c. Party problems and Novotny's leadership may thus also come under review.

d. A curious sign of the times is the fact that, although President Novotny is in Moscow, the presidential flag has remained up at the official residence. It might simply have been an oversight, but the symbolism will not be lost to the people in Prague.

7. Cambodia

a. Cambodia, as expected, has asked the Geneva co-chairman to call the Geneva conference participants together (in Djakarta) to discuss measures "to ensure the internationally guaranteed and controlled neutralization of Cambodia."

(Cont'd)

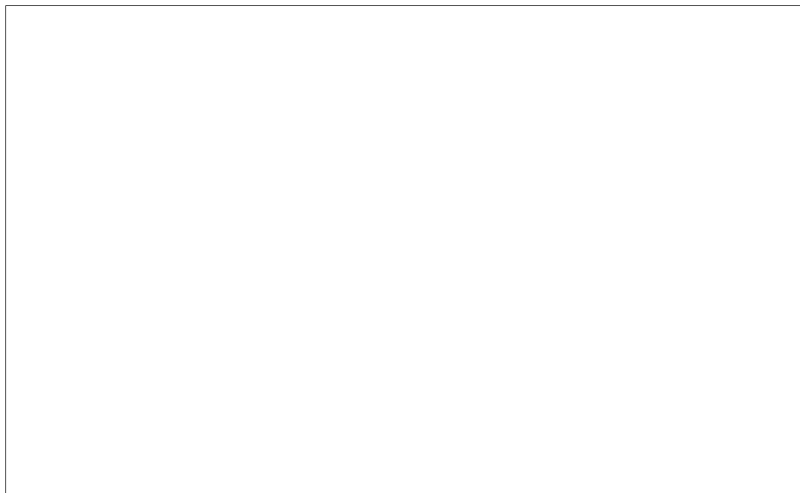


b. Last year when this came up, the French were inclined to go along with some such idea.

c. They have indicated to us that they still feel Sihanouk should not be turned down, and Sihanouk is obviously hopeful that they will exert pressure on us and the British.

d. Sihanouk seems to be hoping for at least a rump session attended by conferees who are willing to do his bidding.

8. Egypt-Yemen



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(Cont'd)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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9. Congo

a. Opposition leftist Congolese exiles, operating from Brazzaville across the river, are reported to be plotting to assassinate Congolese Premier Adoula and some of his ministers.

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[Redacted]

d. Adoula's government already knows that this group of left-wing subversives, which now numbers about 50, is being helped by the Communist bloc.

e. It operates fairly freely in the loose circumstances which now obtain in Brazzaville. Its activities may soon become a serious source of friction between the two countries.

NOTES

A. South Korea With 85 percent of the vote in, Pak Chong-hui's Democratic Republican Party has already won an absolute majority in the National Assembly elections held yesterday.

B. Venezuela The country's three major presidential candidates were the targets of unsuccessful assassination attempts yesterday as Communist-led terrorists moved into the final week of desperate attempt to wreck next Sunday's elections. A US Embassy official was also the intended recipient of a "Christmas package" containing a bomb. Yesterday a US rubber warehouse was set afire and destroyed by terrorists.

C. Indonesia-Philippines [redacted]

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D. Indonesia-Malaysia Indonesian-inspired press reports yesterday claimed a British military plane was shot down near the North Borneo border. [redacted]

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E. Cuba [redacted]

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(Cont'd)

F. Cambodia Cambodia is cutting its diplomatic representation abroad to a bare minimum as an austerity measure following curtailment of US aid. Sihanouk announced last week that this would be done, saying that missions in Communist countries would not be affected since those countries "protect" Cambodia. Curiously enough, among the missions being closed down are those in New Delhi and Rangoon.

G. USSR-US Pravda this morning reports on Gromyko's talks with President Johnson, giving top play to Senator Fulbright's remarks about the desirability of a meeting between the President and Khrushchev.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST



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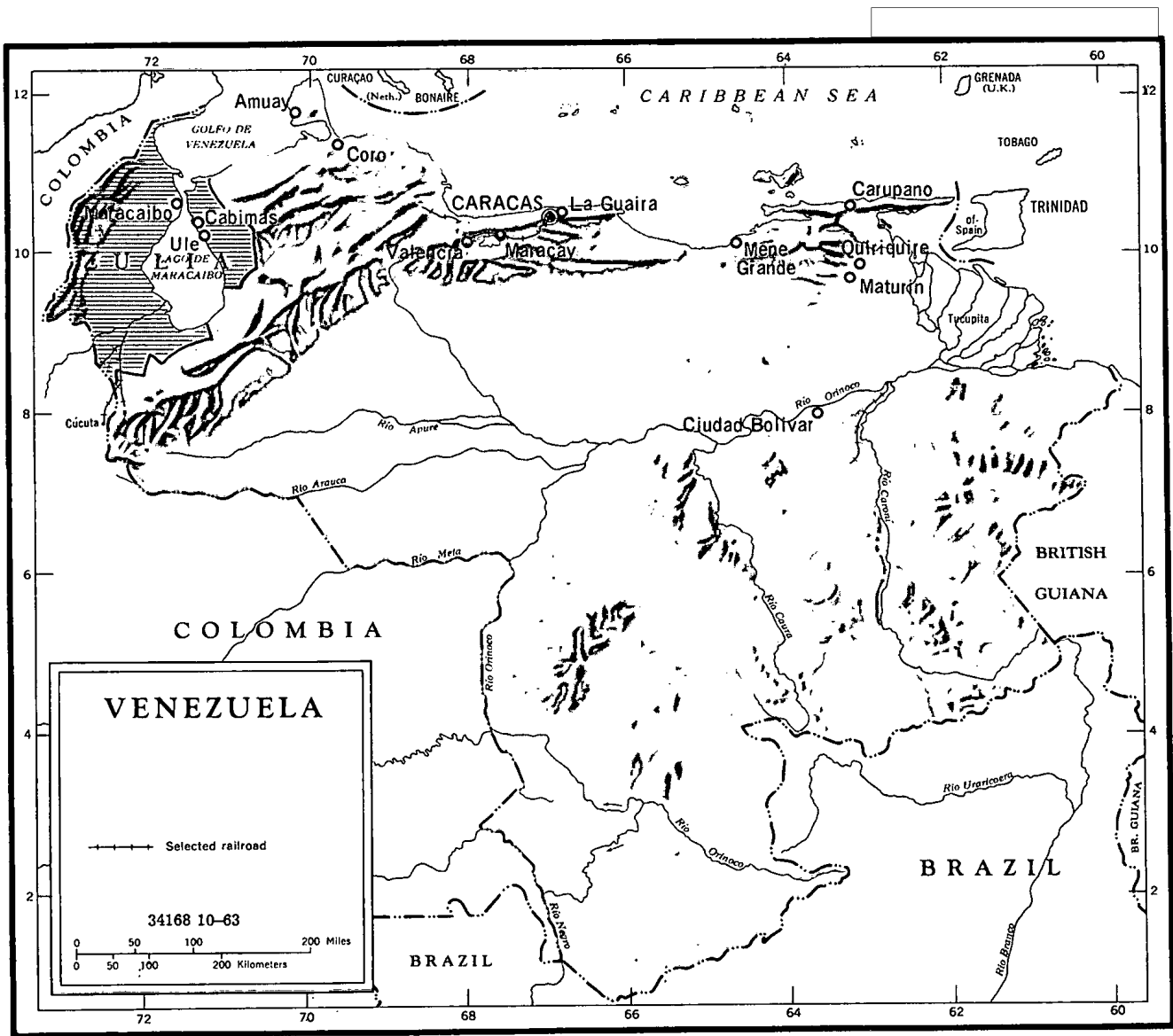
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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Venezuela

a. The country's six presidential candidates have swung into the home stretch of their campaigns. So have the terrorists, who are still trying hard to sabotage next Sunday's vote.

b. There is little doubt that the terrorist effort has all-out Cuban support. Castro looks on Venezuela as his prime target in Latin America and would do everything in his power to prevent President Betancourt from finishing his term.

c. So far, the terrorists have tried to intimidate the candidates by harassing political rallies, bombing their party headquarters in various cities, and threatening them with assassination. They have tried to scare voters from the polls by creating a general atmosphere of lawlessness. Kidnappings, like the one yesterday morning of Colonel Chenault, are part of the pattern.

d. The government counterattack is under the personal direction of Betancourt, who is as determined to finish out his term and turn over power to a freely-elected successor as Castro is to prevent this.

(Cont'd)

e. Yesterday it was announced that the carrying of firearms by anyone outside the security forces was forbidden until the elections are over.

f. Some 3,000 reservists have been called up to protect the polls. Leaves are being cancelled and all security forces are maintaining a high state of alert.

2. South Vietnam

a. We now have a fuller account [redacted] of the Viet Cong attack on two mountain villages [redacted]
[redacted]

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b. This account makes it clear that the earlier press versions, which spoke of 1,000 missing villagers, were highly colored.

c. Our present information is that the attack, in company strength, was successfully repulsed. The Viet Cong suffered some 30 casualties; government losses were six killed, three wounded and 39 missing.

(Cont'd)

d. As is usual in these cases, the villagers began to trickle back once the Viet Cong left.

e. This episode aside, we see a number of indications that the Communists will try to sustain the higher level of military activity they have kept up since the coup.

f. The Communist radio has called for more attacks in an effort to destroy strategic hamlets and "develop" Viet Cong forces.

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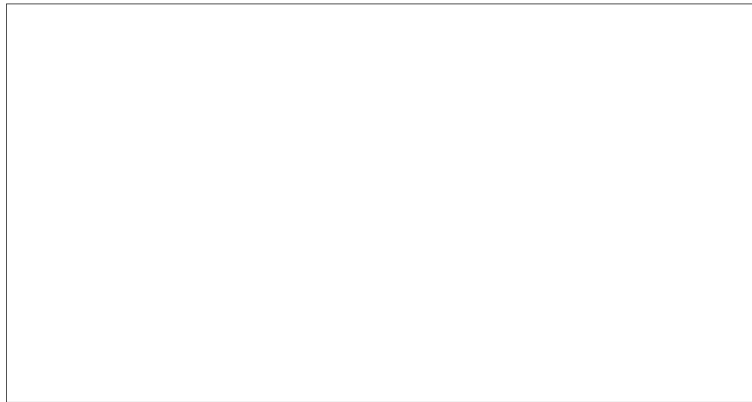
3. Israel

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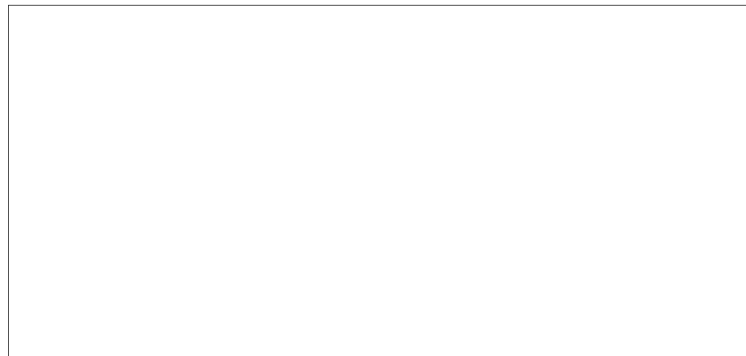
For The President Only - Top Secret

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4. USSR-India

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c. 

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there are some Indians who have doubts about the Soviet willingness to live up to the letter of their military aid agreements with New Delhi.

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5. Burma

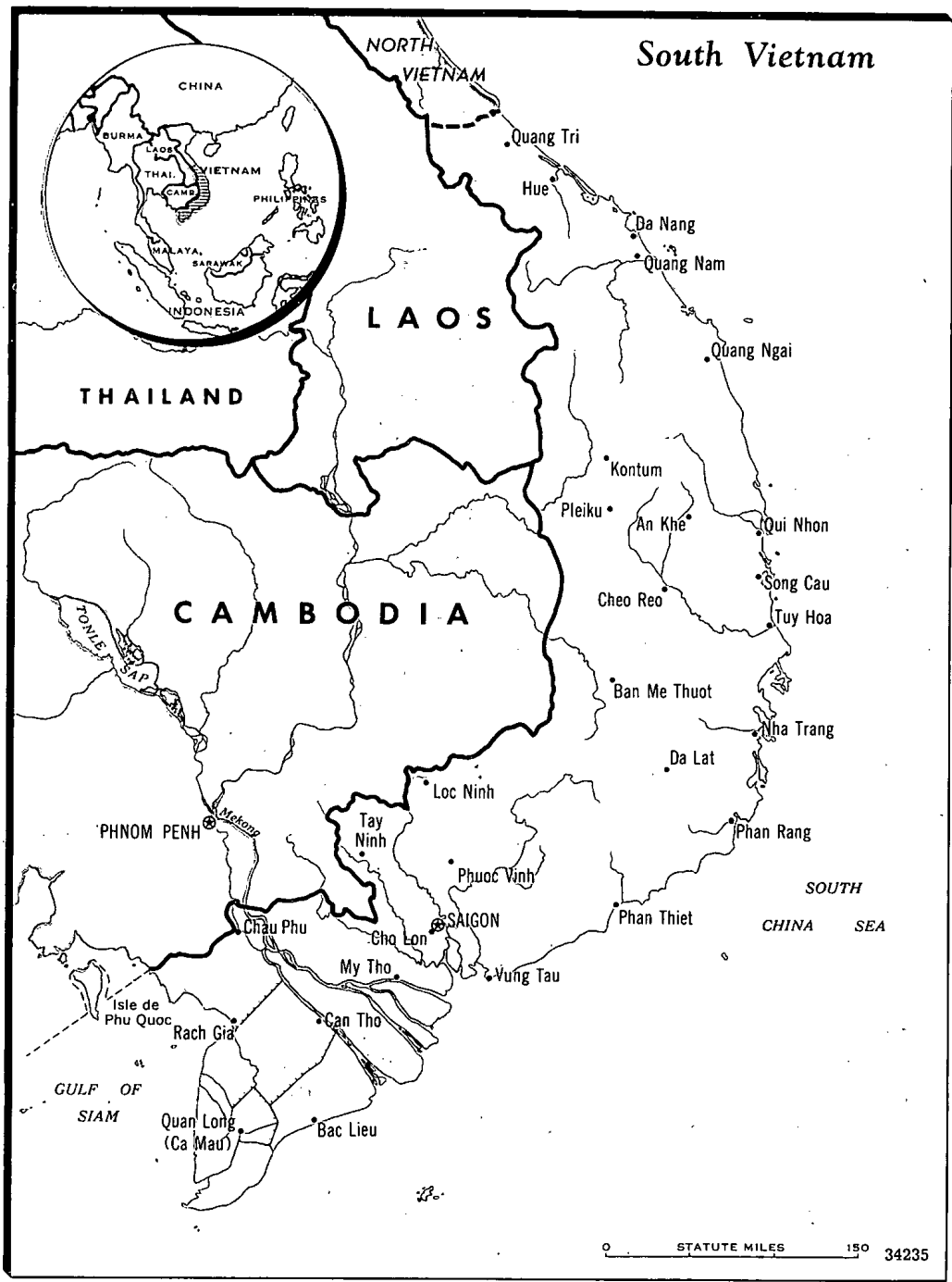
a. Ne Win has followed up his action in breaking off talks with the Burmese Communists by arresting over 700 of their number.

b. Ne Win had been trying to lure the faction-ridden Communists into a "national front." However, he found the demands of the Communist negotiators, some of whom had only just returned from long exile in Peiping, to be impossible.

c. This will probably lead to renewed fighting between the army and Communist guerrillas in the hills.

d. More trouble can also be expected from the rebellious ethnic minorities like the Karens and the

(Cont'd)



Kachins, whose demands for greater autonomy have been rejected in Rangoon.

e. US officials on the spot doubt that the army, hobbled by poor leadership and its many political responsibilities, will be any more effective in dealing with the problem this time than in past anti-insurgency campaigns.

6. Cambodia

a. Sihanouk has signed an accord setting up regular air service between Cambodia and Communist China. A similar agreement with Hanoi is in the works.

b. These lines are significant largely as gestures by Peiping and Hanoi to bolster Sihanouk's sense of importance. Neither would be a paying proposition commercially and both could flounder before the first paying passenger enplanes unless rights to overfly Laos can be obtained.

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7. Greece

a. It looks more and more as if Papandreou, who squeaked through to a narrow upset victory over ex-premier Karamanlis in the 3 November elections, will not be able to form a government.

(Cont'd)

b. His party does not have a parliamentary majority, so he needs support from either Karamanlis' party on the right or from the Communists. [redacted]

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c. The military has [redacted] let it be known that it would consider Papandreou's acceptance of Communist support as sufficient reason for a coup d'etat.

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d. [redacted]

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[redacted] Should Papandreou fail to form a government, the palace intends to pass the mandate to Karamanlis, believing that he too would fail.

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e. This would then open the way [redacted] for a compromise premier more amenable to palace influence.

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8. Brazil

a. President Goulart and his opponents are keeping political tensions in Brazil high.

(Cont'd)

b. Comments by Goulart, that "social disaster" is sure if his program is not passed soon, have drawn sharp rejoinders from moderate and conservative figures and have fed rightist coup plotting.

c. Strains are also growing in the military following the arrest of a young officer who refused last month to execute an order to arrest Governor Lacerda, a leading conservative spokesman [redacted]
[redacted]

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NOTES

A. USSR

[Redacted]

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B. Rumania-US Rumanian officials are about to award a US firm, Ferguson and Company of Cleveland, Ohio, a \$32 million contract to help build the huge Galati steel plant. The Rumanians are pressing ahead with this project in the face of Soviet efforts to discourage it in various ways, most importantly by refusing to underwrite the scheme to any substantial degree.

C. Turkey The New Turkey Party has followed the Peasant Party in withdrawing from the present three-party coalition government. This means that the coalition has to all intents and purposes collapsed, even though no formal action will be taken until Prime Minister Inonu returns from Washington this weekend.

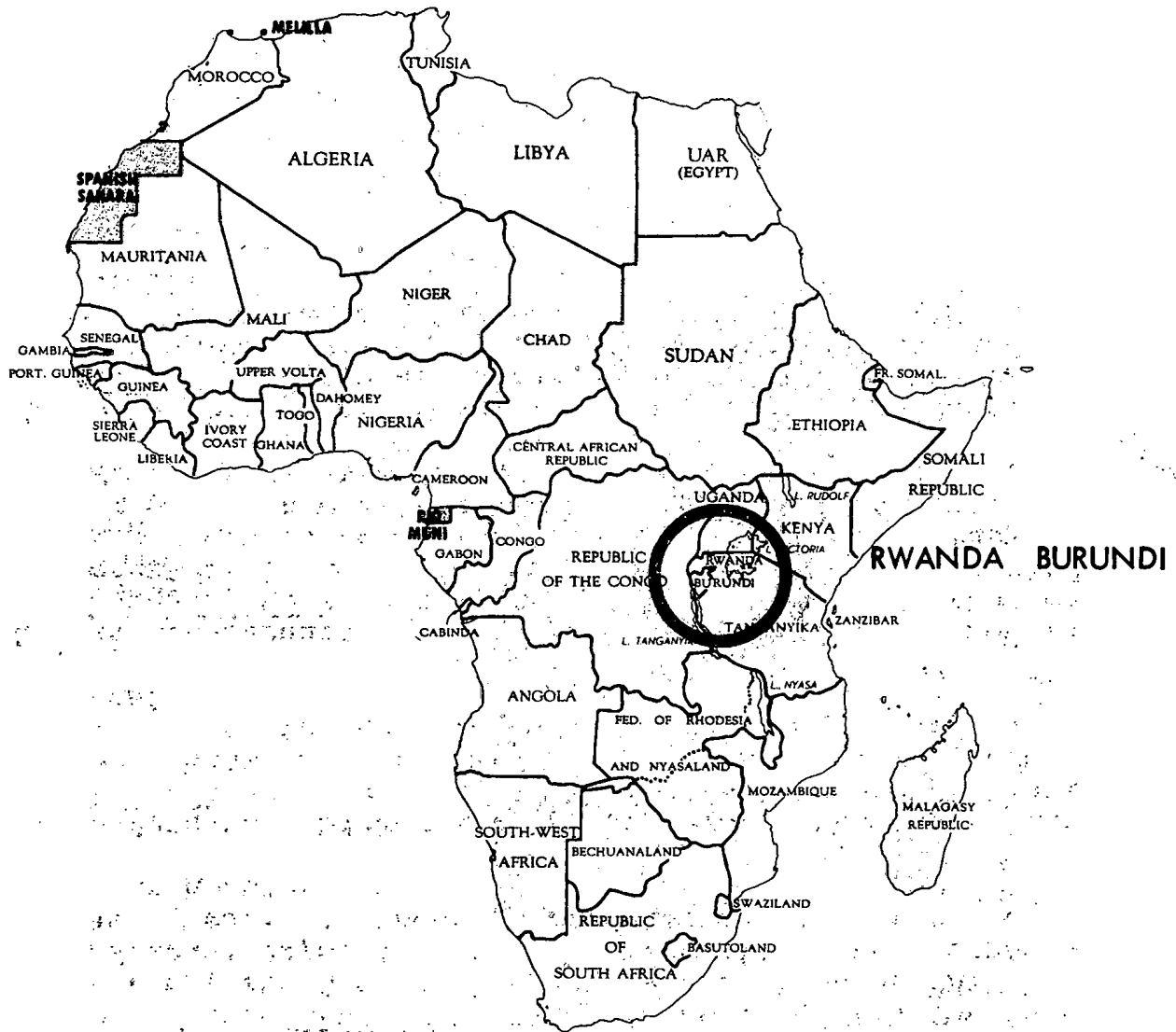
D. Thailand

[Redacted] Sarit [Redacted] is in critical condition. [Redacted] the most likely successor would be Thanom Kittikachorn, now deputy prime minister and minister of defense.

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(Cont'd)



E. Indonesia-Philippines

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F. Indonesia Djakarta is giving every indication that it will hold up final action on the long-pending oil contracts with US companies in an attempt to smoke us out on the question of US aid policy toward Indonesia.

G. Rwanda-Burundi Tribal refugees from Rwanda, now in Burundi, seem bent on making trouble between the two countries. Some 3,000 of their number were reported yesterday to be moving toward the frontier. They have little military capability, but blood could flow and require UN intervention.

H. USSR-Congo

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