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3

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

25 NOVEMBER 1963
TOP SECRET

1. South Vietnam

a. Vietnamese Communist forces kept up their high post-coup level of activity over the weekend.

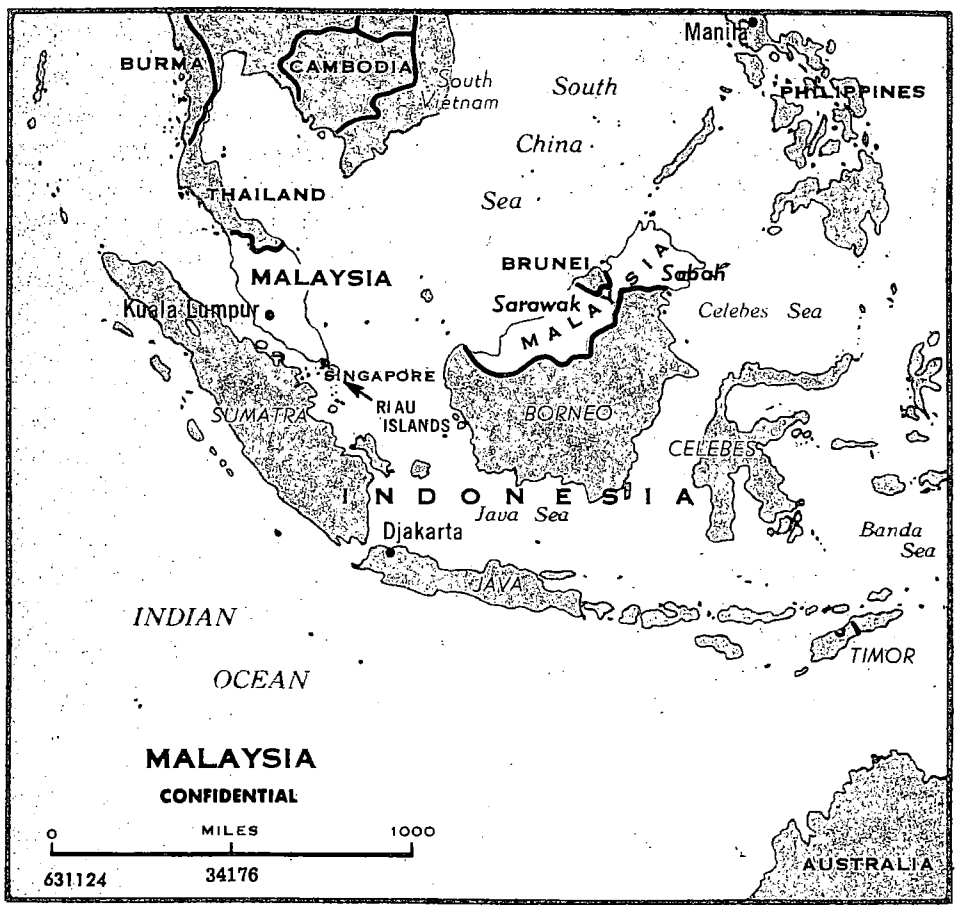
b. The most significant action was an attack early yesterday morning against a US special forces training camp some 30 miles from Saigon.

c. When the smoke cleared after a sharp fight, four US soldiers were missing and at least 35 South Vietnamese were dead.

d. Late yesterday morning, the Viet Cong shot down two aircraft supporting a government operation in the extreme south, and damaged twelve more. Two more Americans are missing in this action.

e. Back in Saigon, the new regime's troubles with the ambitious General Ton That Dinh continue.

f. He is still angling to get control of the important strategic hamlet program and has yet to give up command of the Third Corps, which the generals assigned to another of their number earlier in the month. This corps is of particular significance in that it surrounds Saigon.



2. Indonesia-
Malaysia

a. Sukarno is beefing up the subversive aspects of his confrontation campaign against Malaysia.

b. Intercepted Indonesian messages indicate that regular army units will shortly begin infiltration operations across the border into Sarawak and Sabah.

c. Seven thousand regular army troops in Indonesian Borneo, the messages show, are getting an intensified course in guerrilla tactics. This training is to be completed next month.

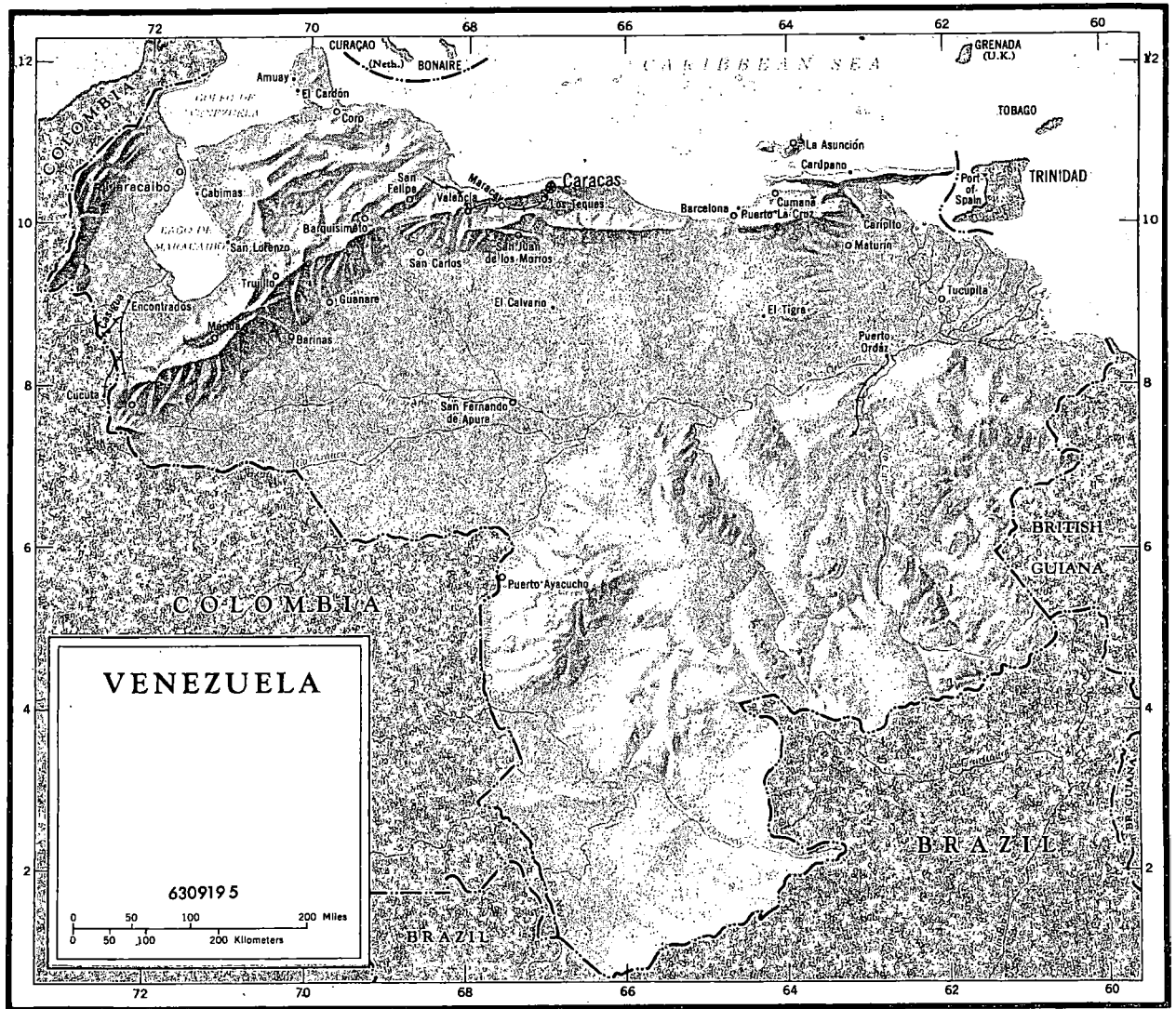
d. Other messages speak of the arrival, beginning today, of a battalion of regulars from West Java. (INTERCERPTS throughout)

3. Venezuela

a. The weekend was marred only by sporadic and minor acts of terrorism in several cities. Government security forces have the situation generally under control.

b. The Venezuelan Air Force is stepping up its efforts to track down and destroy intruder aircraft. The Venezuelans are convinced that planes have been ferrying supplies to pro-Castro guerrillas in the mountains of the northwest.

(Cont'd)



c. The Betancourt government has scheduled a press conference tomorrow to break the story that a three-ton cache of Cuban arms has been unearthed. A formal accusation against Cuba is to be made before the Organization of American States a week from today.
(Includes INTERCEPTS)

4. Iraq

a. The air of tension in Baghdad dissipated somewhat after the government lifted the curfew and once again permitted private vehicles on the streets.

b. Neither the city nor its new rulers are, however, at ease. Troops are still very much in evidence.

c. The new regime apparently is not convinced that the hard core of the Baath Party and its paramilitary supporters have been put down for good.

5. Syria

a. We have information that a showdown between the moderate and extremist factions of the ruling Baath Party in Syria is fast approaching.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

b. A clandestine source identifies Prime Minister Hafiz as the leading figure on the side of moderation. General Umran heads the doctrinaire extremists.

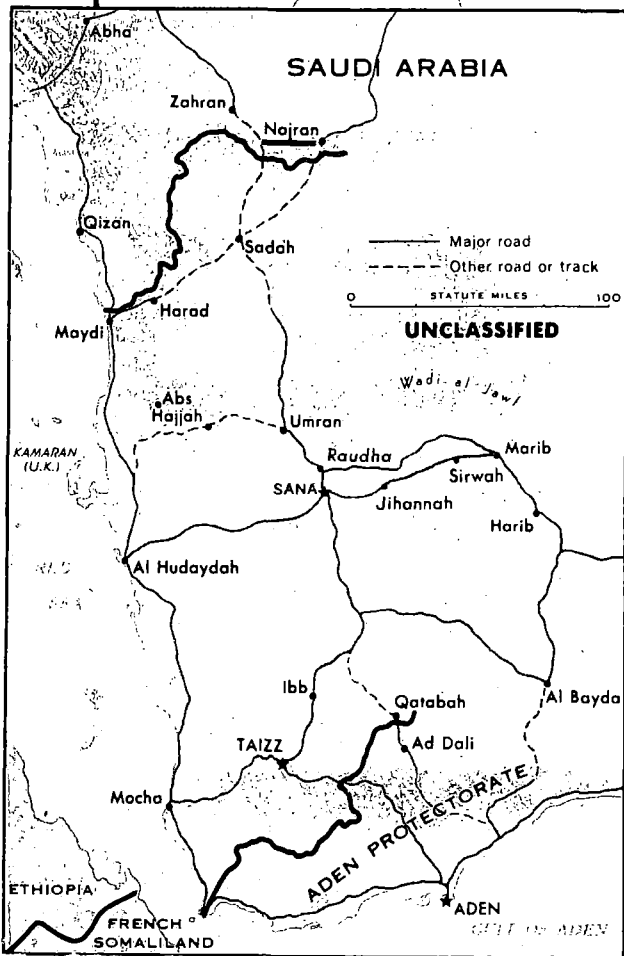
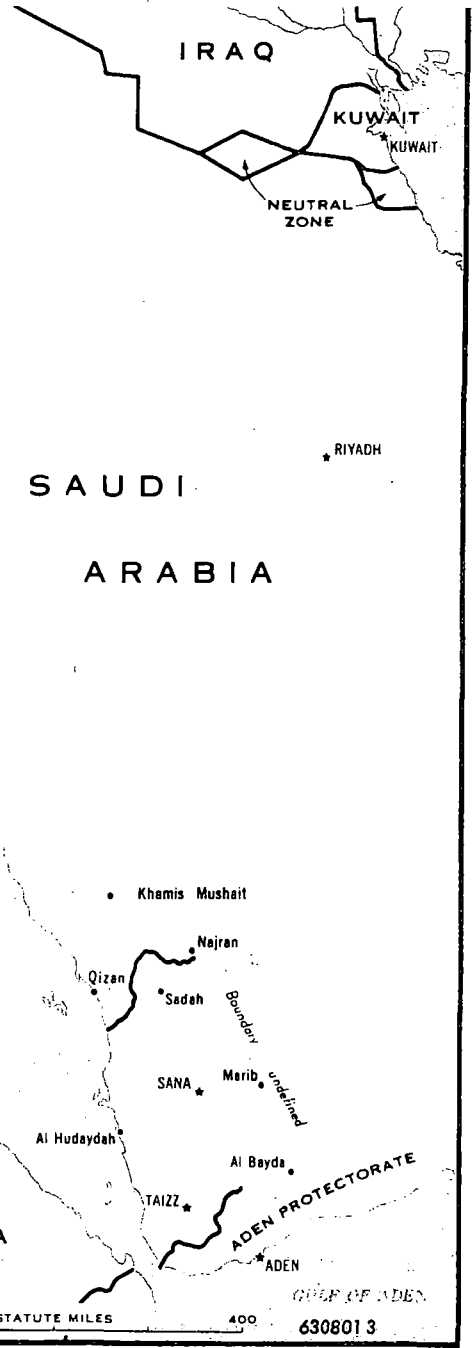
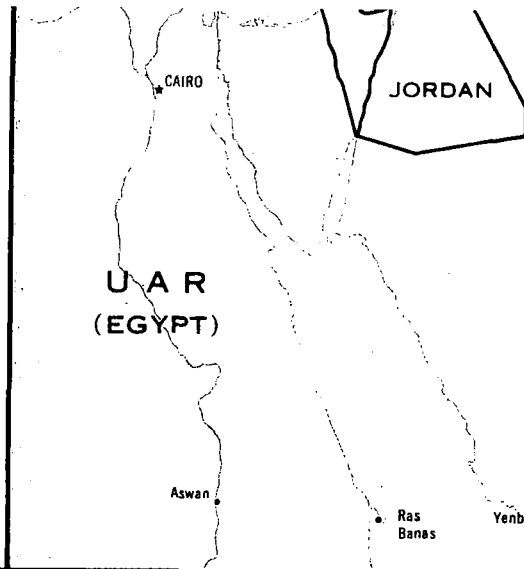
c. It was a split along the same lines that brought about the Baath Party's fall from power in Iraq.

6. Italy

a. Premier-designate Moro expects that the program for a "center-left" coalition government will be approved today by the four parties involved.

b. Details of the foreign policy planks are not yet available, but they were drafted with the thought that the death of President Kennedy makes it more important for Italy to play an active role within the Western alliance.

c. After the program has been approved, the final selection of a cabinet can be undertaken. This could take the rest of the week.



YEMEN

7. UAR-Yemen-
Egypt

a. The Saudis told our embassy in Jidda yesterday that a Saudi village near the Yemeni border was attacked Thursday by Egyptian aircraft.

b. It was the second time this month that Yemeni-based Egyptian aircraft have struck across the border into Saudi Arabia.

c. As in the previous cases, the Saudis have lodged a formal complaint with the UN Observation Mission.

(Includes INTERCEPTS)

NOTES

- A. Oswald Press stories to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald recently visited Mexico City are true, according to our information. Oswald visited both the Cuban and the Soviet embassies on 28 September. He was trying, we are told, to arrange for visas so that he could travel to the USSR via Havana. He returned to the US on 3 October.
- B. Brazil A new round of military promotions and re-assignments will be made public today. The present instability of the Brazilian political scene is reflected in the numerous reports of coup plots which this event has precipitated.
- C. USSR At last report the three Soviet range instrumentation ships were dead in the water 500 miles south of Johnston Island, roughly the same position they occupied for last year's extended range ICBM shots. No announcement closing this area of the Pacific to shipping has been made and there is no activity as yet at the Tyuratam missile test center, but we look for some action in the next few days.
(INTERCEPTS)
- D. Algeria We have a report from a good clandestine source that a group of army officers is plotting with Defense Minister Boumedienne to overthrow Ben Bella. A growing estrangement between the two has been apparent for some time, but this is the first good indication that Boumedienne is making common cause with those who wish to turn Ben Bella out of office.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

- E. Australia - Communist China Peiping has signed contracts for just over one million tons of Australian grain to be delivered early next year. We had been expecting the Chinese Communists to enter the market, since they had another mediocre grain crop this year. Peiping has been buying close to five million tons of grain for the past several years.
- F. Congo We hear that the Soviet Embassy in Leopoldville had booked 75 places on a flight to Brussels last Saturday. There is still no information on whether any Soviet Embassy officials have actually departed, however.
- G. Berlin There was no new harassment of Allied access routes to Berlin over the weekend. A total of 16 flares were fired last evening near Tempelhof Airfield, but we connect these with Communist efforts to prevent escapes from East Berlin. East German police were observed stringing barbed wire in the same area a short time later.
- H. Laos The neutralists claim to have made significant gains in their limited offensive in the Vang Vieng area. They have not, however, been able to dislodge the Pathet Lao from positions within artillery range of the town's airport.
(Includes INTERCEPTS)