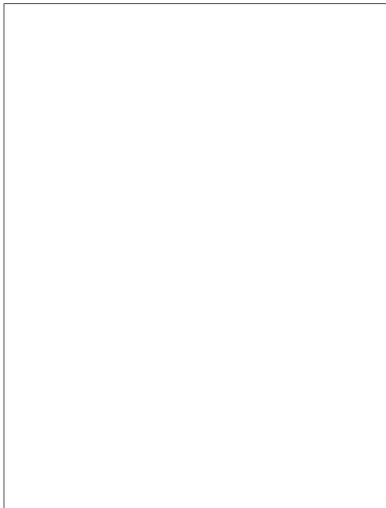


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

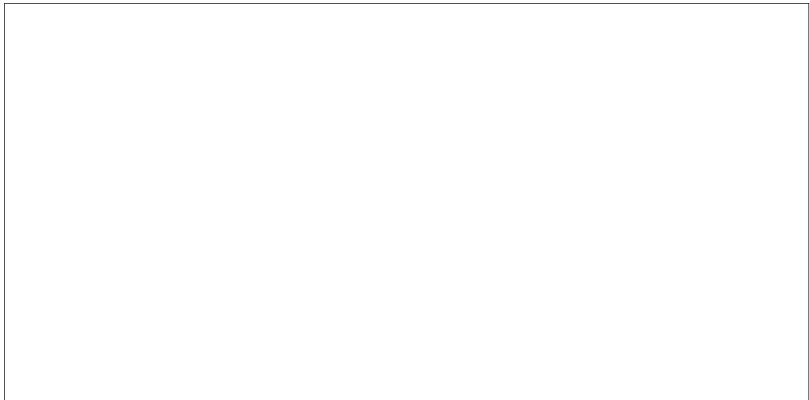
5 OCT 1961
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1. Syrian developments



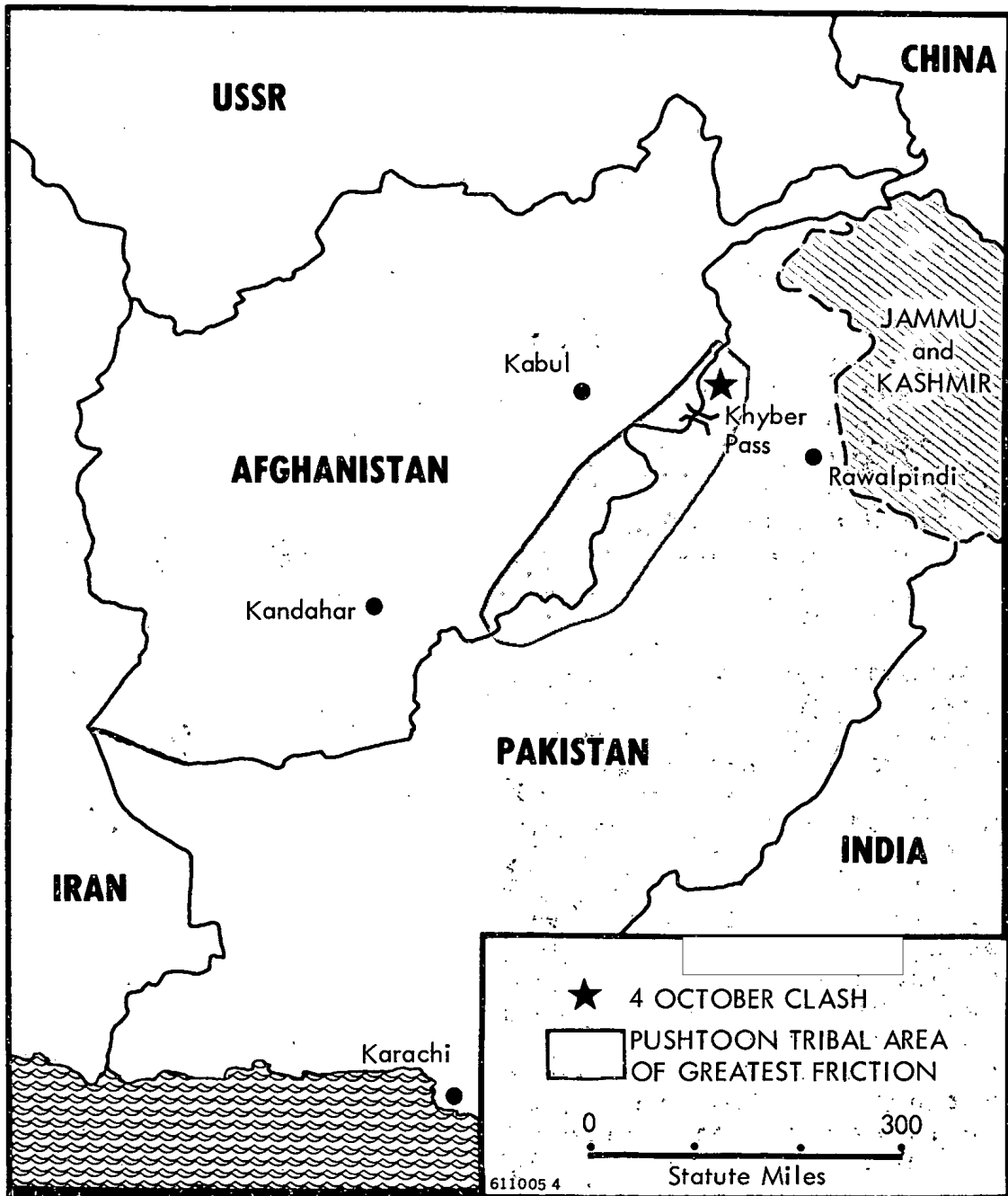
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we expect Nasir to make use of his substantial resources for clandestine trouble making in Syria and Jordan. The parliamentary elections in Jordan on 19 October, which are being openly rigged by Husayn's government, will provide Nasir with an opportunity to exploit public dissatisfaction.

B. Two of the Egyptian ships which had been held in Alexandria have sailed; we have not yet determined their destination and cargo, but we do not believe their departure means that a major military operation against Syria is imminent.

C. The situation in Syria is relatively quiet and some security measures have been relaxed.



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D. The Syrian Communist Party has announced its enthusiastic support of the new regime. The party, effectively suppressed by Nasir for several years, now expects to be able to operate in the open. The USSR, however, apparently hopes to avoid antagonizing Nasir by not committing itself until the Syrian government wins wider Arab recognition. (No such seems presently in prospect

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E. The UK has decided to complete its withdrawal from Kuwait on schedule and its troops will be out by 14 October.

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2. Afghan- Pakistani
clash



The danger of large-scale hostilities was further increased yesterday when an Afghan tribal force of about 500 men clashed with tribes loyal to Pakistan in Pakistani territory north of the Khyber pass. The Pakistanis claim victory.

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3. Taipei may be weakening on Outer Mongolia



On Tuesday, the Nationalist UN delegation asked the Japanese to find out from the French Africans whether they would vote positively on the "important question" issue if Taipei withheld its veto of Mongolia. The Japanese report the Africans' response as generally favorable.



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4. Communist airlift into Laos stepped up since mid-September



Flights have risen to the pre-June level and now include a considerable number to southern Laos. Although the increase could represent preparations for a possible resumption of hostilities or a change in supply pattern at the end of the rainy season, part of it at least reflects support for guerrilla operations in South Vietnam.



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NOTES

A. The USSR has again protested US military patrols of the West Germany-Berlin autobahn. [redacted]

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C. Factional maneuvering within the South Korean ruling group continues and may soon reach a crisis. [redacted]

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D. The Kurdish leader Barzani has asked the Iraqi government for a truce, promising to "return to the boundaries of our area." [redacted] [redacted]

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E. Ambassador Romulo has announced he will retire from the Philippine diplomatic service. [redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--4 October 1961

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

NOTE: Although recently noted actions to strengthen Soviet bloc forces serve to improve bloc military preparedness, the USSR continues to maintain an appearance of willingness to negotiate a settlement on Berlin. While Nasir has undertaken contingency military preparations to move against Syria, he seems so far unable to develop the conditions that might permit him to act. Should Nasir actually launch an armed invasion of Syria, military involvement of some neighboring states is possible.