

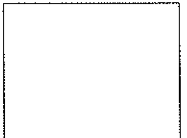
THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

31 JULY 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

NOTES

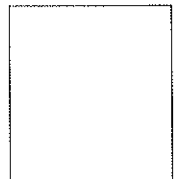
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A. Refugee registration's in West Berlin on 28 and 29 July were 1,111 and 1,834 respectively, bringing the total thus far in July to over 26,000. The Ulbricht regime declared Saturday that the refugee flow made a peace treaty this year an "absolute necessity" and urged GDR citizens to help curb the flights.



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B. A Soviet test vehicle was successfully fired from Tyura Tam to Kamchatka Peninsula yesterday bringing the total of successful test vehicle launches this year to 14. Nine have failed in flight and three other firings were tried with undetermined results. This most recent launching was probably the second of a series of three tests of a "new ICBM" which Khrushchev revealed to McCloy on 26 July. The third in the series is to be launched on 7 August.



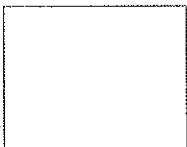
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C. The Trans-Siberian railroad has been closed to foreign travelers since 25 July with no reason given. The closing could be to improve security. We are trying to ascertain the real reason.

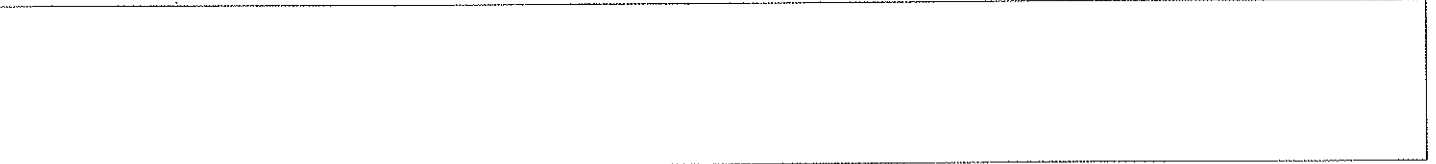


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D. The Laotian National Congress yesterday amended the constitution to permit the King to name himself premier of any new government or to designate some other choice in his place. Before the Congress' action, the Pathet Lao served notice it would not recognize the validity of the amendment.



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