

McCone: I think, from an intelligence point of view, we can meet most of these requirements. I'd like to think about that pre-1960 flight. There's a question of the effect on you, Bob, from a military point of view.

McNamara: Well I think that the way to meet that is to take a picture of a May Day [Moscow military] parade that showed the weapons.

McCone: Yes. You can take that out and show it to them.

McNamara: We have that.

President Kennedy: Actually, John, if you don't say at what altitude these were taken or the date, then . . . If you don't say what altitude, you're not giving much away, are you, in these pictures?

McCone: If it indicates a number—

President Kennedy: All right. I'll tell you what let's do. Let's let Mr. McCone and Mr. Ball settle what they ought to give to them and then under what conditions.

McNamara: I have nothing more, Mr. President.

President Kennedy: Well now, the only thing, as I say, is, Mac, once again, is that if the Russians respond with some actions which make invasion desirable or inevitable, I want to be able to . . . be able to feel that we haven't wasted any days here on that.

Taylor: The real problem is the shipping problem, Mr. President. If we solve that . . .

President Kennedy: I think we ought to . . . and now Bob's going to look at that, and then I think we probably ought to be [ready] for the next week, every possible number and everybody else that you need to be [ready], if that's the only way we can do it. And then it may be that other . . . There may be some emergency powers which will exempt them from the Jones Act, so they can go on foreign bottoms for this two-week period.¹⁶ And let them do it and who's going to challenge it? If necessary, we just do it as some emergency power.

Thompson: Mr. President, there are two questions I'd like to raise. One is, if we don't get OAS action today but it appears we're going to get it the next day. Do you want, in fact, to actually stop the Soviet ships beginning tomorrow? The point is that they're much less apt to run a legal blockade than they are an illegal one. And I think you might want to keep that in mind.

President Kennedy: All right. Well, we'll be in touch if we're not going to get it. [*Unclear.*]

Thompson: The second thing is, I'm meeting with the ambassadorial

16. The Jones Act of 1928 required certain exporters to use U.S. ships except in emergencies.