

plans, leading to some confrontational exchanges between McNamara and Admiral George Anderson, the chief of naval operations, in which each side later remembered the other as brusque and intemperate.

At 4:00 President Kennedy returned to his office, having spent a few hours resting and monitoring developments from the Executive Mansion. He met with the publisher of *Time* magazine, Henry Luce, and then with the Portuguese foreign minister. After talking alone for a few minutes with Senator William Fulbright, President Kennedy turned to a few of his advisers for a quick update on developments. At the same time Robert Kennedy and a few other officials were downstairs in the White House Situation Room, discussing the implementation of the blockade with the vice chief of naval operations, Admiral Claude Ricketts.

Rusk had apparently reported on his session with the British, French, and German ambassadors. President Kennedy had switched the tape recorder on at some point and could be heard saying: “. . . risk will be with us for three —” and then the rest of his words are swallowed as the machine is shut off. When he turns on the tape recorder again, Bundy is speaking.

McGeorge Bundy: . . . really should get in touch with the Soviets.

President Kennedy: These photographs.

Paul Nitze: The ones that were shown here this morning.

Bundy: The generation of this crisis, and why we reacted.

Nitze: They're worried about the conviction which they can give as to these things really being there.

President Kennedy: One picture that's in this morning's [*Washington*] *Post* is the best one which actually . . .

Nitze: They're also worried about this camouflage point. They say: “Why didn't the Russians camouflage?” Well, this [low-level reconnaissance photos] demonstrates that the Russians *did* do their best to camouflage. Using these pictures, I think, could be very helpful.

President Kennedy: You mean that they are *now* camouflaged.

Nitze: They are *now* camouflaged, that's right.

President Kennedy: Well, I think that the argument will be that the Russians led us into a trap. Because [*unclear*] —

Bundy: Mr. President, I think that you might give . . . you can give a clearance on it [use of the photos]. Intelligence has been very resistant to let us say what is a *fact*. Now it seems to me we're over the dam.

The Russians did camouflage these things by their standard practice, very carefully. They proceeded by night, our agent reports now indicate, our refugee reports. They have *never* been good at overhead camouflage.