

shifted course appear to be moving eastward. We have plots based on dead reckoning and other sources, but I wouldn't be able to say exactly where they were at a certain time.

**Fulbright:** When do you anticipate that there will be a confrontation if they continue their course toward Cuba?

**McNamara:** I can't say. It depends how they continue their course. They appear to be varying speed and direction, and for that reason I can't answer the question.

**Fulbright:** Is there any information in there on the instructions that changed their direction?

**McNamara:** I really can't say. I would assume that if they've changed their course, they've done so under instructions.

**Rusk:** Mr. President, if I may, I'd like to add that we not make any reference to ships of special interest to the United States. This would be information the Soviets might find useful.

**Mike Mansfield:** Mr. President, as long as the Secretary has brought up the question of withholding information, I was deeply disturbed to read this morning's *Herald Tribune*, a story by Rowland Evans which I think ought to be discussed here.<sup>21</sup> Not that it isn't factual. It is pretty much so. But the fact is that it does say a lot of things, particularly when you saw this [*unclear*].

**Richard Russell:** I haven't seen it, but I heard about it. Someone read part of it to me over the phone. I refused to talk to Mr. Evans. He tried to call me late yesterday afternoon.

I was shocked to see a piece of that kind, and I don't know whether it has gotten around to any other papers, a number of other papers. I've had so many inquiries that I issued a statement that I never deem it appropriate for congressional participants, the White House, or Congress, to suggest any details as to what transpired. My position is that any such information should be released by the White House. Particularly in the present case, it can serve no useful purpose, because our constitutional commander in chief, the President, has announced the policy of this country to the world. I shall not, therefore, comment in any way on any rumors concerning, on this Congress and the White House [story]. And it says the only voice that can speak for the United States is the President, and I am supporting the program he has announced. But it's gotten all out, I don't know who's released it. I know I haven't.

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21. The story was an account of the meeting between President Kennedy and the congressional leadership on Monday, 22 October.