

they were going to do it in any quantity at all, they would have to use their bombers for that purpose. This they might do.

Russell: I thought, "Wow," one of these [planes] could take an Atlas[-sized missile].

McNamara: We have such planes. It's questionable whether they have planes that can move missiles of this size. In any event, they don't have enough planes, enough commercial planes, to move any important quantity of freight into Cuba. They would have to use their bombers for that purpose, and they might well decide to do so.

Fulbright: Besides, is there any evidence of submarines, Mr. McNamara?

McNamara: I want to answer that. But I want to say that our knowledge of submarines, Soviet Union submarines in the Atlantic, is the most highly classified information we have in the department. And in view . . .

Fulbright: If you prefer not to answer, don't do it.

McNamara: Well, I think I'm going to have—

Russell: I think you better leave that off, particularly in view of what happened here after Monday's conference, Mr. Secretary. [*Unclear.*]

McNamara: You know, Dean—

Rusk: I don't . . . There's no need [*unclear*] why we can't answer the question on the table. I would say, not a large number, but certainly large enough [*unclear*].

Dirksen: Are you surprised by the slow uptake in the Soviet Union?

Rusk: We thought, and I defer to Ambassador [Llewellyn] Thompson, who's my chief adviser on this sort of thing, that this would catch them off timing.

Really, their timing, as we look back on it now, was for Khrushchev to come to the U.N. in late November, prepared to lay on a real crisis over Berlin, in direct talks with the President. He wanted to have all this in his pocket when he had that talk.

And our impression so far is that we have not caught them with a lot of contingency plans all laid out and ready to go. This has upset their timing at some point.

Carl Vinson: May I ask a question of Mr. McCone?

President Kennedy: Yes.

Vinson: Mr. McCone, what was your latest estimate on the number of MiG-21s in Cuba?

John McCone: Our original estimate was 1, which we saw, and 12 possible which were in crates, that we have suspected to be MiG-21s. The next real target we had was when we saw 39, which I believe was on the 17th of October.