

doesn't come to have a momentum of its own. Is that or isn't it acceptable? That's my question.

McNamara: Could I start back a bit here and say, I don't see any way to get those weapons out of Cuba. I never have thought we'd get them out of Cuba without the application of substantial force.

Now, the force we can apply is of several kinds. It's economic force and it's military force. The insurance rates are rising today. This is gradually going to reduce the amount of trade moving into Cuba. This is a very important element of our force. I wouldn't want to remove the quarantine, no matter kind of inspection we had there, unless they agreed to take the weapons out. Because we could never impose it again, so long as they said they had adequate procedures to insure no more weapons moved in.

Bundy: Suppose we were to add "and an understanding on the part of the U.N. that the object is the removal of the weapons"?

McNamara: Yes, something, or the agreement that that's to be done, or something like that.

Bundy: Something one stage further. So that the status quo moves in our direction. Create some weight. That's what your quarantine is for, is to have weight on.

McNamara: This is my point, exactly.

Rusk: See, we do not believe that there should be insuperable difficulties in reaching a peaceful solution of the problem if those responsible for the threat are prepared to remove it.

President Kennedy: I think we've got a lot . . . We're not going to get any place with this, I think, because they can't guarantee . . . there's no way they can [*unclear*] with American ships to prevent these weapons coming in, in addition to [*unclear*].

Bundy: Can't you frame this sentence around a little bit farther . . . ?

President Kennedy: I think we've got enough safeguards in that message.

Bundy: "Remove it, and it is with that objective that we accept this," that we make these proposals.

Rusk: We're prepared to—

President Kennedy: To discuss it.

Bundy: Yeah.

President Kennedy: Then we just have to make sure that in our discussion . . . , but I think this puts us in a reasonable . . . and I think we've got [*unclear*].

Bundy: Yes, we want to restate our purpose of removal a little bit, Mr. President.