

McCone: West Berlin? I think so, yes. A Pershing.²⁷

President Kennedy: A Pershing? What's the range?

McCone: I don't know. [*Scraping sounds, as of an easel being set up.*]

Well, I'm anxious to see, Art, and to have the President see, if one or two of those pictures would show those, the low-level pictures, would show how extensive the complex is.

Lundahl: All right, sir. I can display some of these [*unclear*].

President Kennedy: Yesterday's?

Lundahl: Yes. The 23d, sir [*actually the 25th*].

President Kennedy: Is this one of the places that we had earlier pictures that showed the degree of accuracy?

Unidentified: Yes, sir.

President Kennedy: We hadn't released these at the time, have we?

Unidentified: No, sir. I think . . .

McCone: This is a picture—this is a picture that we released for use in the pamphlet [to be dropped over Cuba]. Now you see? Here is your launcher. Your missile's stored here. Here are the oxidizer-tank trailers. Here are the fuel tanks.

President Kennedy: [*to someone else*] Well, we've got it lined up, haven't we?

McCone: Yeah, yeah. [*Unclear exchange.*]

President Kennedy: Could one bullet do that? Would it blow or is it just . . .

Lundahl: Assuming red nitric acid, sir, very heavily lined trucks, so if they're opened up, they might make some real trouble for those who are trying to contain it. That's the oxidizer that they use with their SAMs, the mediums [MRBMs] and the intermediates [IRBMs].

President Kennedy: [*Unclear*] they may hide these pretty quickly.

McCone: Well, we have evidence that they are . . . Let me see this picture.

President Kennedy: This photography is [*unclear*]. We took more pictures today, did we?

27. The Pershing I was a short-range ballistic missile with a range of less than 500 miles. Pershing I missiles were stationed in West Germany under German control, with the nuclear warheads remaining under the separate custody of the United States. The Pershing I's range could not reach targets in the Soviet Union, a fact which annoyed the Adenauer government in West Germany (because the deterrent force on their soil was therefore less threatening) but pleased almost everyone else.