

Brief side conversation, involving President Kennedy and Bundy, apparently referring to a draft of some kind. President Kennedy can be heard reading or suggesting the sentence: "And in the event that is agreeable with you generally, let's proceed."

Rusk: And if we publish the letter of last night, Tommy, what other letters will get published on that?

Thompson: I think probably this whole exchange. This [Khrushchev letter of the previous day, October 26] refers—starting with this crisis—this refers to the previous letters. It starts out by saying, "I have received your letter." I've got the feeling that if you have someone telling you the situation, I think you'd have to publish the exchange.

President Kennedy: I know that. Perhaps we don't have to put out the letter as much as we do the three proposals or so.

At this point President Kennedy, along with Sorensen, leave the room, with Kennedy's making some faint suggestion to Rusk about continuing the discussion. There is a short lull in the discussion with a few quiet asides from Rusk and others.

Dillon: [Unclear] just cannot accept a Turkey-Cuba trade at this point.

Rusk: Not with Berlin coming up and all.

Dillon: So we've got to say that presently Cuba, and then that the whole gamut of NATO-Warsaw Pact things will be discussed . . . well, maybe just discussed.

Pause as officials study documents. The officials are also trying to find and recall the message they know they have been receiving in sections from Ambassador Hare in Ankara.

Thompson: There may have been a letter from the Turks.

Alexis Johnson: Was there a letter from the Turks? I saw a conversation; I thought it was a conversation. [*Pause, faint discussion.*]

Unidentified: This was his report of this. You see, this was delayed in transmission.⁸ It comes in pieces.

Robert Kennedy: Can I throw out some ideas?

Rusk: [*Unclear, referring to the President.*]

Robert Kennedy: [*replying to Rusk, discussing a possible U.S. position*] The first point being that this is a question of Cuba and the bases and must be resolved within the next few days. This can't wait. The negotiations and discussions must get on, and the work that is continuing despite our protests has been going on. So therefore it's got to be resolved, and quickly. This

8. See the second paragraph in note 5, discussing the cable Ankara 587.