

Unidentified: Yes.

Thompson: You can never be sure when they were sent to Moscow. Delivery time is certainly indicated. It's after.

More faint conversation during this lull. Someone suggests calling the Soviet Embassy, presumably on the timing issue. Rusk appears to receive a telephone call.

McCone: [Unclear] some Russians to go through. [Unclear] to keep them all out. I remember [unclear] first, then somebody said, how about petroleum? They had their own ships that they have involved in their [confronting the] embargo, so [unclear] change that so it's [unclear].

Thompson: [Unclear] whether we should release this. We [unclear] release this, it's the first time we've released what we regard as a secret correspondence, message.

Bundy: Hmm?

Thompson: I said I would not release this.

Bundy: No. [Unclear.]

Nitze: Attack this Turkish thing hard. It seems to me that's the thing to do with that Turkish . . .

Bundy: In what way?

Nitze: Say we're not going to do that.

Bundy: Yeah, I agree. That has to be said.

Nitze: It's an entirely separate situation. It's not a threat. This is a diversionary tactic.

Bundy: And then direct attention back to the fact that the Cuban matter remains urgent. The buildup is continuing. Ships have not yet obeyed the instructions on which Mr. Khrushchev gave assurances to U Thant.

Unidentified: I think we should be talking about our program.

Gilpatric: Our program ought to be Bob's four-step program.

Bundy: Which is what?

Gilpatric: Stop construction, and [unclear], and removal, and [unclear] removal.

Bundy: Now, what is the four-step program? That's the really . . .

Gilpatric: It's to stop construction.

Bundy: [writing it down] Stop construction.

McNamara: Defusing [unclear]. Assure nonoperability.

At this point in the discussion, the group, or at least Rusk, finally appears to get some copies of the text of Khrushchev's message to