

which your military speaks demonstratively.” That will affect our whole base system.

**President Kennedy:** He has only intended this for Turkey though, hasn’t he?

**Dillon:** Well, no. Then he goes on and says that. But he’s left it open to be able to say it’s—

**President Kennedy:** That is propaganda. But the direct trade is suggested with Turkey.

**Thompson:** Mr. President, it’s far beyond the missiles, because he says “the means which you consider aggressive.” This would include planes, the presence of technicians, and everything else. This means the real abandonment of our base in Turkey is what he’s looking for here.

**Bundy:** Obviously that’s subject to various shades. See, he could take missile for missile, which wouldn’t be good enough from our point of view with due respect to Cuba. It would be tough, anyway.

**President Kennedy:** Well, we could talk for three weeks on that message, couldn’t we?

**Bundy:** That’s right.

**President Kennedy:** But the problem is, at least, work on their bases to stop. And that, in my opinion, is what our defensible position is.

**McNamara:** Stop to discipline the operability of it [missile sites in Cuba], change, Mr. President. I certainly would put that in the same message. It isn’t enough to stop work on a base that is already operable.

**President Kennedy:** All right. Have we got everything? Let’s see now. Let’s see what Stevenson is suggesting.

[*speaking into a phone or intercom*] Hello? Hello? Yeah.

**Nitze:** [*faintly*] I don’t think it’s a strong line—

**President Kennedy:** What did you say, Paul?

**Nitze:** I don’t think it’s a strong line to suggest the confusion in the various translations. It just looks to the public as though we’re confused.

**President Kennedy:** Well no, the only thing that I’m trying to suggest is all these proposals come, they’re all complicated and what he can do is hang us up in negotiations on different proposals while the work goes on.

**Nitze:** That looks like a rationalization of our own confusion. I think we’ve got to take a firmer line than that.

**Bundy:** I myself would send back word by phone, for example, that last night’s stuff was pretty good. This is impossible, at this stage of the game. And that time is getting very short.

**President Kennedy:** What is our public position?

**Bundy:** Our public position is as you outlined it. But I think it’s very