

**Bundy:** If we start talking about what?

**Thompson:** About that we are willing to discuss this question of bases with only a freeze in Cuba.

**Bundy:** Yeah.

**Thompson:** You see, then, this other thing—

**Bundy:** What did Zorin say this morning?

**Dillon:** That the first one was for public consumption and wasn't the real Soviet position.<sup>20</sup>

**McNamara:** To reduce tensions.

**Dillon:** Public relations. Totally different.

**Thompson:** For one or two reasons they changed their minds on this. One was that they may have picked up this [Austrian foreign minister Bruno] Kreisky thing [suggesting the trade with Turkey], and thought they could get more.

The other is Khrushchev may have been overruled.

But in either case, we have got to change that. That means we have to take this other line. If he starts this wobbly . . .

**Rusk:** Why don't we go back to the original idea of putting a final paragraph [suggesting other matters can be negotiated if there is a standstill in Cuba] on this letter [to Khrushchev] that we have drafted?

**Unidentified:** That's what I think, because—

**McNamara:** That's what I propose.

**Rusk:** Because we really ought to leave U Thant a chance to work on the original track if possible. I think that we heat up the situation a bit in Cuba. Because Khrushchev may find that he wins out again. It looks more dangerous then.

**Dillon:** Well, the way the situation is going in Cuba with this fellow [in the low-level reconnaissance flight] being shot at? We haven't got but one more day.

**Bundy:** That's right.

**McNamara:** That's right.

**Thompson:** I'd much prefer the track of this letter [to Khrushchev] in beefing up the last part of it.

**Paul Nitze:** The real question is whether its target is Khrushchev or whether it's the U.N.

**Bundy:** That's the point. It seems to me that Turkey and Cuba is all very well for us to [*unclear*]. Turkey and Cuba is not workable for us

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20. Zorin reportedly explained the first, private letter was aimed at reducing tensions. As a private letter that was not made public, it was not aimed for public consumption.