

**Robert Kennedy:** Well, now, can you actually? If they put them under trees and what we were discussing a week ago, or ten days . . . ?

**Ball:** Well then we'd know that the work has stopped . . . [*Unclear exchange.*]

**Nitze:** The key here is whether they shoot at our reconnaissance planes.

**Robert Kennedy:** Well can't they just stick them under the trees, [*unclear*] on another base?

**Unidentified:** If the Cubans would agree not to interfere with reconnaissance.

**Unidentified:** He said "under international verification" this morning. I think we'd better stick with that.

**President Kennedy:** Well, let's see what he comes back with here. I mean I don't think he's going to get [*unclear*] to this. I mean, let's make it as reasonable as possible. You're not . . .

**Rusk:** See if you don't think you can use Adlai's, his draft and put in the specific things down there where the arrow is.

**President Kennedy:** No, his second paragraph is difficult. Just put in "this should be verified"—"this should be satisfactorily verified"—"this should be verified under" . . . Yeah, right. [*Unclear, aside to Rusk.*]

**Rusk:** What Adlai says about what to do about Turkey and other problems is pretty good.

**President Kennedy:** The only thing is, you see, what he's saying is that they've got to get the weapons out of Cuba before we'll discuss the general detente. Now we're not going to be able to effect that. He's not going to agree to that.

**Rusk:** Let a couple of us go out and try to put the specifics of this [Washington draft] letter in between these paragraphs of Adlai's.

**President Kennedy:** It seems to me what we ought to . . . To be reasonable, we're not going to get these weapons out of Cuba, probably, anyway—but I mean, by negotiation. We're going to have to take our weapons out of Turkey. I don't think there's any doubt he's not going to—now that he made that public.

Tommy, he's not going to take them out of Cuba if we . . . ?

**Thompson:** I don't agree, Mr. President. I think there's still a chance that we can get this line going.

**President Kennedy:** That he'll back down?

**Thompson:** Well, because he's already got this other proposal which he put forward [to remove the missiles for a promise not to invade Cuba].