

Rusk: By the way, there's another—there's another paragraph to be added:

The first ingredient, let me emphasize, is the cessation of work on missile sites and measures to make such . . . to render such weapons inoperable, under effective international guarantees.

President Kennedy: Well, in any case, the two letters are more or less—there's no policy difference, is there?

Robert Kennedy: Well, I think this has an entirely different quality.

President Kennedy: Well, all right. Look, if we go back to this [Washington draft] letter, all we'd want to change would be 4(b), where we say we'd "undertake to give assurances with respect to territorial integrity and political independence." We would just substitute, "would undertake to give assurances regarding peace in the Caribbean."

Sorensen: No, I thought we said we'd promised not to invade Cuba. That's the language he asked for.

President Kennedy: That's correct. But I don't think, if we're going to make this public at this point, until we know how much we're going to get, we don't want to get into that fight.

Robert Kennedy: I think you can say that, if he comes back, and says I want to—

Bundy: You've got to give him something.

President Kennedy: What?

Bundy: You've got to give him something to get him back on this track.

Robert Kennedy: Well, can't you say: "Like I've said publicly before . . . As I have said publicly before."

President Kennedy: Governor Stevenson's version—he likes his draft so much better. He's going to have to conduct it. I don't see that there's a substantive difference about it, do you?

Robert Kennedy: Well, I think there is.

President Kennedy: Why?

Robert Kennedy: Because I think, one, it's just in general terms, rather defensive. And it just says we don't want to get in—please don't get into the discussions of NATO or Turkey because we want to talk about Cuba.

The other one says: "You made an offer to us, and we accept it. And you've also made a second offer, which has to do with NATO, and we'll be glad to discuss that at a later time."

The other first letter—of Adlai—I don't think says anything. I don't think we're any further along, except we don't like what you said.