

upon the removal of the weapons in Cuba and assurance of peace in the Caribbean. I am reading your letter to mean that this is acceptable.

President Kennedy: Your [Khrushchev's] letter of October 26th?

Rusk: "I read your letter of October 26th to mean that this will be acceptable."

Bundy: That's unacceptable.

Rusk: What is? [*Unclear exchange.*]

Unidentified: [*reading from the Washington draft*] "The elements of the proposal which you have put forth seem to me to be as follows."

Unidentified: What does that mean? [*Unclear exchange.*]

Robert Kennedy: Yeah. I think we've got to list all the things which we can accept.

Unidentified: "These are, it seems to me, to be as follows." And write them down.

President Kennedy: As I say, they're not going to . . . he's not going to now [agree just to the terms of his October 26 letter]—Tommy isn't so sure. But anyway, we can try this thing. But he's going to come back, I'm certain.

But the only thing is, I don't want him to. . . . That's why we've got to end with saying, whatever we're going to do, that we've got to get a cessation of work.

Bundy: That's right, Mr. President. But I think that Bobby's notion of a concrete acceptance on our part of how we read last night's telegram is very important.

Taylor: Mr. President—

President Kennedy: In other words, you want to . . . you're suggesting we say: "We accept your proposal of last night."

Robert Kennedy: Spell it out and accept it, and then say: "Now you've made—I just read the last paragraph of the other letter"—however we phrase it.

Taylor: Mr. President, the Chiefs have been in session during the afternoon on studying the same issues we have over here. The recommendation they give is as follows:

That the big [air] strike, that is Oplan [Operations Plan] 312, be executed no later than Monday morning, the 29th, unless there is irrefutable evidence in the meantime that offensive weapons are being dismantled and rendered inoperable.

That the execution of this strike plan be followed by the execution of 316, the invasion plan, seven days later.