

Turkey or Italy, whoever you're talking to. We are therefore considering whether or not it would be in your interest for us to remove these, taking other steps to do this, and we may be having to take this up in NATO. Now this is just a preliminary—

President Kennedy: Something like that, well, that's what we suggested to Hare, not only their interests—

Thompson: We didn't send it.

President Kennedy: No, but that's what we were talking about doing. We ought to send that to the Turks, because it's their neck. Because they're liable to say: "Well, we can take it." So we've got to have it look to the general interest as well as theirs, and a more effective defense for you [Turkey]. Now, they're not going to want to do it, but we may just decide we have to do it in our interest.

Now the question is, if we decide we have to take it [the Jupiters] out, wouldn't we much rather have the NATO saying it rather than—

Bundy: See, I don't think we would get that [from NATO], Mr. President. I don't think we should expect—

President Kennedy: You don't think, once we start explaining to them what's going to happen?

Bundy: I doubt if the [North Atlantic] Council will recommend that we stand down Turkish missiles.

Thompson: Even with an offer of a Polaris?

Dillon: Who would oppose it other than the Turks?

McCone: Well, those missiles kind of make us a hostage. We have to go through NATO. I think that's the way that I interpret the Turk's position now and also a couple of years ago on this.

Rusk: When we talked [in the spring of 1961] about Polaris in place of the missiles, the Turkish reaction was: "The missiles are here. And as long as they're here, you're here."

President Kennedy: Well, I tell you, there's a few members of NATO who won't like it much. Most of the NATO members aren't going to be very happy about it because the [*unclear*] problem is [going to be] Berlin is suddenly [*unclear*].

McNamara: Well, here's one way to put it. The Jupiter missile is obsolete. It's more obsolete than the Thor missile. The British have recognized the obsolescence of the Thor and have decided to take it out and replace it with other systems, of which the Polaris is an effective one. And we propose the same thing be done for Turkey.

Ball: And Italy too.

McNamara: And Italy too. Exactly. Both of them are obsolete.

Taylor: The Turks have asked for planes and plane parts—