

Robert Kennedy: Well, if we decide tomorrow morning, isn't it possible to decide tomorrow?

McNamara: Yes, we can wait until about noon tomorrow.

Robert Kennedy: We can actually discuss it now.

Rusk: Mr. President, just to remind us of seven things then that will happen today. We need just to see whether they are building up the pressures on Khrushchev with an impact that we can live with.

One was the [White House] statement this morning on the broadcast [message from Moscow].

The second was this business on the intercept for U Thant [formally clarifying the contours of the interception zone].

Third was an announcement [from the Pentagon] on enforced surveillance.

Fourth was our short message to U Thant, diplomatic answer [to Khrushchev's public message] on the two terrific questions.

Five was our answer to K's letter [Khrushchev's letter] of October 26th.

Six was a call-up of air squadrons.

Seven will be a warning to U Thant of an approaching ship.

Now, in general, I think perhaps for one day, that's building up. But I think tomorrow we'll need to be sure that the pressures continue to build up, if we . . .

President Kennedy: Well, we've got two things [we can do]. First place we've got the POL [blockade].

Secondly, we've got the announcement about these [air defense sites].

Whatever happens, if we don't take this ship [the *Grozy*], we announce that the agreement has been broken, and from now on it's POL [being stopped], all ships, and so on.

McNamara: Twenty-nine [reserve] ships ready [to prepare for the invasion] —

President Kennedy: Call up an addition [to] our own ships. So it seems to me we've got two or three things tomorrow left . . .

Rusk: Bob, if you may take this action calling up, how much of the 150,000 [call-up of reservists authorized by Congress] is left?

McNamara: The air squadrons are 14,000 out of a total of 150.

Bundy (?): There are 125,000 now.

McNamara: Fourteen thousand out of 150. We have 135 left.

Taylor: Can't stress too much the shipping, the importance of shipping, Mr. President. That the next step in my judgment ought to be calling up ships.