

But I think this . . . Otherwise, I'm afraid they will say, well, we worked with you but . . .

**Dillon:** We ought to state very clearly that we aren't pushing them either way. We aren't suggesting that—

**Gilpatric:** We ought to leave out the penultimate paragraph, the first—just go down to the top of page 3, and take the last paragraph, which could mean many things.

**Rusk:** For example, some of them may come up with an idea that would unlock this damn thing, something that we haven't thought of. It's just possible.

**Thompson:** Can't we just report to them all these actions that are being taken, and not anything further?

**Rusk:** [ *Unclear* ] main choices.

**President Kennedy:** Well, now, with the introduction of Turkey, we think that if we take an action which we may have to take—I don't think we ought to say—which we may well have to take the way it's escalating, they [the Soviets] may hit Turkey and they may hit Berlin. We want them—if they want to get off then now is the time to speak up.

**McNamara:** Mr. President, do we believe that we will be able to settle Cuba more easily with or without the Jupiters in Turkey? I think we ought to decide this point before we—

**Robert Kennedy:** I think—

**McNamara:** —open the door to NATO.

**Robert Kennedy:** That's what . . . Can't we wait? Isn't it possible to get through tomorrow at three or four without even getting into the NATO with the Turkey business?

**Unidentified:** Yeah.

**Robert Kennedy:** And then figuring—I mean if we lose the gamble with [Khrushchev] . . .

I think that once, if they find us playing around and figuring on Turkey, and that we're willing to make some deal, and I were they, I'd push on that. And then I'd push on Italy, figure that well, if they are going to go on that, they are going to carry out the discussions one step further.

But if we are hard on this thing, this exchange that we have [with the Soviets], we know that it's got some [ *unclear* ] left. I believe we may see some way in Moscow because [otherwise] they wouldn't have made the offer [of October 26] initially. Why don't we just wait another 18 hours? See if that's received at all. We're hard and tough on this. We call up these planes tonight, and then we wait. We find out if U Thant is successful.