

**Dillon:** If it's a very serious briefing, this could serve as an indirect warning to the Russians. [*Mixed voices.*]

**President Kennedy:** OK, get Mac to write it to Finletter.

**Bundy:** How much . . . what noise do we want at the end of it [the instructions] in terms of welcoming discussion? Do we want . . . ?

**Rusk:** Let's put the situation to them and indicate that we welcome their views on it. I think Finletter ought to have [*unclear*] of the house some ideas about, about the alternatives.

**President Kennedy:** Well, no, what I think . . . I don't think that yet . . .

We need NATO to get, in order to prepare this groundwork for a disaster to NATO later in the week in Berlin or someplace, you ought to be saying to them that the reason we're consulting with them is that the situation is deteriorating. And if we take *action*, we think there will be reprisals, and they should . . . We want them to now get a—

**Bundy:** We better say we think there might be—

**President Kennedy:** Well, I think this is just a draft.

**Robert Kennedy:** Do you think, Mr. President, that somebody that's been involved in these discussions and knows as much about the background, like . . . should be there and explain all of this?

**Bundy:** Mr. President, it's only seven hours until the [planned NATO] meeting. I don't—

**President Kennedy:** Is it?

**Sorensen:** [*presenting a rewritten instructions cable*] It's essentially Ros [Gilpatric]'s draft, and there's one paragraph dropped. You're not recommending any policy. I wonder, though, whether you want to raise, not a policy question, but a military question. Ask them to examine how valuable are the Jupiters.

**McNamara:** I would suggest we not lead into discussion of this. This is a report. We don't want discussion tomorrow [on the Jupiters] because they may split up, and you may have chaos.

**President Kennedy:** And they're not going to be . . . [We're] saying we're going to have the meeting on Monday on all of this.

**Gilpatric:** In that case, you better cut out—

**McNamara:** The last paragraph, go over the last paragraph. You might want to— [*Several voices mix in, discussing the draft.*]

**President Kennedy:** [*speaking over them*] I think we'd better give them [the U.S. ambassadors] some of this stuff—for your eyes—about not bringing up the Jupiters at this point, because it will leak and so on. Mac [*getting his attention while Bundy is drafting*], I say, I think we shouldn't bring up the question of Jupiters at this point because it may leak and our efforts to get the Russians—