

Bundy: I think the message should begin that it is now decided that your briefing should *not* be related to the Soviet proposal but to the situation. I think that's really what's concluded, especially in the light of the fact that tomorrow is the day of signals to the Soviet Union. Is that right?

Robert Kennedy: I think it could go into much more detail. I think you really—

Bundy: Put it in.

John McCone: [*returning to his draft message discussed at the end of the previous meeting*] Well, are we going to start any communications with Khrushchev on this provocation?

President Kennedy: The plane going down? The plane going down?

McCone: Yeah.

President Kennedy: That's the next one.

Rusk: There's a [draft] message there that would keep the finger pointed on Cuba on this business of surveillance, but I gather that those points have already been covered.

President Kennedy: What are we going to announce in regard to tomorrow's planes?

McNamara: We shouldn't announce anything.

President Kennedy: Not whether we are continuing or—

Gilpatric: Because we've already announced that we are going to continue.

McNamara: But we didn't say tomorrow. We just said we're going to continue surveillance.

President Kennedy: We've got enough messages right now, John. I think that he knows about the plane. He's announced it. So I think that . . . let me see this, John.

Sorensen: I think in some ways it's a sign of weakness if we keep responding in messages.

President Kennedy: I think we shouldn't send him one again. I think we ought to just let that one go tonight. The boat [the *Grozny*] is going to be the important thing. Whether he is going to turn that boat around. We've got . . . who's notified Stevenson? The media . . . ?

Ball: We're trying to call. Alex [Alexis Johnson] has talked to New York and they're going to call back. Whether U Thant goes down [to Havana] or not apparently isn't clear—quite clear yet.

Rusk: Goes down where?

Ball: To Havana.

President Kennedy: Well, I was thinking about that ship because we're going to be faced with the problem of that ship tomorrow. Do we