

January 16, 1963
Memorandum to the Secretary of State [Dean Rusk]
from McGeorge Bundy

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Summary:

During the luncheon for Fanfani, Bundy sent Rusk this short memo about the Fanfani-Kennedy conversation, noting the former's concern that removing the Jupiters could lead to attacks from the right about "softness toward left-wingers who want the missiles out." When Kennedy spoke with McNamara after the meeting, he asked him to emphasize to Fanfani the military advantages of replacing the Jupiters with Polaris. McNamara wanted to emphasize that very point to offset any talk of a "nefarious Cuban bargain" with the Soviets. Bundy also highlighted the debate between George Ball and McNamara over whether Jupiters and Polaris should be mentioned in the communique on the Fanfani-Kennedy discussions.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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January 16, 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM TO

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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The President and Fanfani talked mainly about the Jupiter problem this morning and they did it entirely alone, with a translator. Fanfani took the line that while the missiles were of no military significance, he might come under political attack if they were removed. He had been warned by his Foreign Minister and his Defense Minister that there would be a political debate, and he apparently felt that he himself might be accused of softness toward the left-wingers who want the missiles out. The President asked Bob McNamara to press home with Fanfani this afternoon the degree of military advantage that would come from getting the Jupiters out and getting on with other and less vulnerable weapons systems. Bob plans to do this especially by emphasizing how much of a hostage the missiles are at a moment of tension. The President's view is that we should go hard down this line, on the ground that we shall never have a better chance to get these dangerous weapons off the scene before a new crisis, and he believes that we should continue to emphasize with Fanfani the advantages of a firm and early decision.

There is still some disagreement as to whether Jupiters themselves should be mentioned in the communique. Both Alexis Johnson and George Ball think it is better not, but Bob is very eager to have the general proposition of modernization, including Sergeant-for-Corporal and Polaris-for-Jupiter ~~surfaced~~ ^{mentioned and so} on a background basis at least. The Communists are beginning to talk as if this were some sort of nefarious Cuban bargain, and it seems to Bob important to get our own reasoning and purpose clearly and firmly stated now. I must say I agree with this latter view.

I am having this delivered to you at lunch because it seems to be very difficult to catch up with one another, and you may want to look at it and speak with the President about it before you leave the White House.

McG.
McGeorge Bundy