

Robert F. Kennedy During the Cuban Missile Crisis: A Timetable

This timetable was produced for the article, ‘Robert Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis: a Reassertion of Robert Kennedy’s Role as the President’s ‘Indispensable Partner’ in the Successful Resolution of the Crisis’. This is primarily a timetable of RFK’s movements, although certain key events have been included to provide benchmarks. The timetable focuses on the thirteen days at the heart of the crisis, to illustrate the intensity and breadth of RFK’s contribution. For broader timetables of the crisis, please consider Laurence Chang and Peter Kornbluh’s chronology in *The Cuban Missile Crisis* (New York, 1998).

Date	Event	Reference
08:45am, Tuesday 16 th October	National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy informs President of placement of missiles in Cuba.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , (New York, 1998), p. 359.
AM, Tuesday 16 th October	JFK informs RFK of missiles by telephone.	Ibid.
AM, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK is briefed on missiles by Ray S. Cline, Deputy Director (Intelligence), CIA, and responds with ‘one four-letter word, off the record’.	Ray S. Cline, <i>Memorandum for the Record</i> , “Notification of NSC Officials of Intelligence on Missile Bases in Cuba”, 27 October 1962 in Mary S. McAuliffe, ed., <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , (Washington, 1992), pp. 151.
AM, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK meets with Richard Helms, Deputy Director for Plans, CIA.	Seymour Hersh, <i>The Dark Side of Camelot</i> (New York, 1997), p. 479.
11:45am, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK attends first meeting of the National Security Council (NSC). This group is subsequently convened under as the ‘Executive Committee of the National Security Council’ (EXCOMM). Photographs presented and possible responses (air strikes, invasion, blockade) debated. RFK makes famous Pearl Harbor remark.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 359. Carter, <i>Memorandum for the Record</i> , 17 October 1962 in Mary S. McAuliffe, ed., <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , (Washington, 1992), pp. 145-147.

PM, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK and JFK hold a brief private discussion on a walk back to the White House Mansion after the group meeting.	Robert F. Kennedy, <i>Thirteen Days</i> , (London, 1969), p. 36.
PM, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK attends meeting of Operation Mongoose, expresses dissatisfaction with progress, pushes for greater effort and a daily meeting.	Richard Helms, <i>Memorandum for the Record</i> , "MONGOOSE Meeting with the Attorney General", 16 October 1962. in Mary S. McAuliffe, ed., <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, pp. 155-157.
6:30pm, Tuesday 16 th October	RFK attends second meeting of the NSC. Three broad options are outlined by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara: diplomacy, blockade, and military action.	'Off the Record Meeting on Cuba', 16 October 1962, in <i>Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS), 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1996), Document 21.
8:30am, Wednesday 17 th October	RFK joins further discussions at the State Department, absent JFK. McNamara reports that air strikes would need to be followed by invasion.	The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), <i>Chronology of Specific Events Relating to the Military Buildup in Cuba</i> , October 14, 1962 to December 4, 1962. Available here: https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/chron.htm [accessed 28 Aug 2018]. John A McCone, <i>Memorandum for Meeting Attending in Secretary Ball's Conference Room</i> , 17 October 1962 in Mary S. McAuliffe, ed., <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, pp. 159-160.
4:00pm, Wednesday 17 th October	RFK joins continuation of earlier State Department discussions, again absent JFK. RFK concludes the meeting by summarising opposing views and courses of action proposed.	John A McCone, <i>Memorandum for the File</i> , "Memorandum of Meeting, Wednesday October 17 th , at 8:30 a.m., and again at 4:00 p.m.," 19 October 1962 in Mary S. McAuliffe, ed., <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, pp. 169-173.
Wednesday 17 th October	RFK receives message from Khrushchev via Georgi Bolshakov back-channel that the arms being sent to Cuba are only for defensive purposes.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, p. 361.

8:30-9:00am, Thursday 18 th October	RFK meets with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara.	Robert S. McNamara, <i>Secretary's Calendar</i> , 18 October 1962. Available here: https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB398/docs/doc%205A%2010-18-62%20rg%20330%20secdef%20CMC%20files%20box%201%20cuba%20381,%201962%20(20%20Oct-25%20Oct%2062O-8.pdf [accessed 27 Aug 2018]
9:30am, Thursday 18 th October	RFK meets Edward Lansdale, Chief of Operations for Operation Mongoose.	Desk Diaries 1961-1964. Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Series 05. Attorney General's Confidential File, Box 146, Folder: "1962" John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Also available here: https://jfk14thday.com/robert-kennedy-desk-diary/ [accessed 30 August 2018].
10:00-10:35am, Thursday 18 th October	RFK joins Cabinet Meeting.	<i>President's Daily Diary</i> , October 1962, President's Office Files, John F. Kennedy Library. Available here: https://jfk14thday.com/presidents-daily-diary-october-1962/ [accessed 30 August 2018].
11:00am, Thursday 18 th October	RFK joins EXCOMM meeting. RFK questions whether surprise air attack morally acceptable course of action.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 361.
2:30pm, Thursday 18 th October	RFK joins further discussions at the State Department.	Ibid.
5:00pm, Thursday 18 th October	JFK meets with Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko. Gromyko continues to assert arms in Cuba is solely for defensive purposes, even when JFK reads out statement warning of US response to offensive arms.	Ibid.
9:00pm, Thursday 18 th October	RFK joins evening meeting of the EXCOMM. Initial consensus for blockade breaks down; JFK concludes the meeting by asking the group to continue their deliberations.	Ibid., p. 362.
PM, Thursday 18 th October	RFK telephones his deputy, Nicholas dB. Katzenbach, instructing a legal brief for the blockade. Separately,	Ibid.

	the State Department also examines legal basis for blockade.	
AM, Friday 19 th October	JFK, in a reference to the NSC and the importance of a consensus course of action, asks RFK to ‘pull the group together’ and to call him if and when he should cut short a planned campaign trip.	Theodore C. Sorensen, <i>Kennedy</i> , (New York, 1965), p 692.
11:00am, Friday 19 th October	RFK attends State Department group meeting. State Department and Katzenbach legal opinions on blockade presented. No consensus on response emerges, so groups break up to develop each option in detail.	Record of Meeting, 19 October 1962, 11 a.m., in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 31.
PM, Friday 19 th October	RFK joins continued State Department discussions. Consensus builds around blockade option.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 362.
Evening, Friday 19 th October	RFK calls the President with an update: ‘the situation had developed far more rapidly than had been expected’ and RFK recommends the President return to Washington.	Dino A. Brugioni, <i>Eyeball to Eyeball: The Inside Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , (New York, 1991), p. 304.
9:00am, Saturday 20 th October	RFK joins continued EXCOMM meetings at State Department. Sorensen’s draft speech for JFK amended and approved.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 362.
2:30-5:10pm, Saturday 20 th October	RFK joins NSC meeting, with JFK present having returned early from campaigning trip. JFK indicates support for blockade option, as air strike option proves increasingly unlimited. Adlai Stevenson, US Ambassador to the United Nations, makes famous proposal for withdrawal of missiles from Turkey.	Minutes of the 505th Meeting of the National Security Council, Washington, October 20, 1962, 2:30-5:10 p.m., <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 34.
5:10pm, Saturday 20 th October	JFK takes RFK and Sorensen out to the Truman balcony of the White House for a private discussion.	Michael Dobbs, <i>One Minute to Midnight</i> , (London, 2009), p. 31.
Afternoon, Saturday 20 th October	RFK has private conversation with CIA Director, McCone. McCone’s memorandum of this meeting suggests it took place in person, following an earlier	‘Memorandum for the Files’, <i>FRUS, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer,

	group meeting. McCone expresses concern over Stevenson's approach, intimating that he wishes RFK to convey this in later meeting with the President.	Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 35.
9:00pm, Saturday 20 th October	RFK calls CIA Director McCone reassuring that the President is also wary of Stevenson's approach and agrees with keeping door open to military action.	Ibid.
AM, Sunday 21 st October	RFK joins meeting with President, General Taylor, McNamara and General Sweeney. Becomes clear that air strike could not destroy all missiles. RFK is asked for opinion by JFK – says opposes strike.	Memorandum of Meeting with the President, Attorney General, Secretary McNamara, General Taylor, and Mr. McCone, 10:00 a.m. – 10/21/62," <i>CIA Documents on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , ed. Mary S. McAuliffe, Document 71. Robert McNamara, <i>Notes on Military Briefing for President Kennedy</i> , 21 st October 1962. Available here: https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/19621021m_cnam.pdf [accessed 28 August 2018].
2:30pm, Sunday 21 st October	RFK joins meeting of NSC. Quarantine rules of engagement discussed as well as President's speech to the American people. RFK urges personal tone to Cubans and that US approach in the UN should not be on the offensive.	Minutes of the 506th Meeting of the National Security Council, Washington, October 21, 1962, 2:30-4:50 p.m., <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 38.
AM, Monday 22 nd October	RFK joins brief EXCOMM discussion with the President. Legal basis to blockade changed to emphasise Organization of American States' right to collective security.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 365.
3:00pm, Monday 22 nd October	RFK joins NSC meeting. EXCOMM formally established for the first time.	Minutes of the 507th Meeting of the National Security Council, Washington, October 22, 1962, 3 p.m., <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 41.
4:45-5:30pm	RFK joins Cabinet Meeting.	<i>President's Daily Diary</i> , October 1962, President's Office Files, John F. Kennedy Library. Available here:

		https://jfk14thday.com/presidents-daily-diary-october-1962/ [accessed 30 August 2018].
5:30pm, Monday 22 nd October	JFK briefs congressional leadership. Majority in favour, though a number criticise 'weak' response to Soviet action.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, p. 366.
6:00pm, Monday 22 nd October	Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, meets with Soviet Ambassador, Anatoly Dobrynin and hands advance copy of President's speech to the nation. Intimates Turkey missile trade.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, p. 366.
7:00pm, Monday 22 nd October	President's famous television address confirms presence of Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba and announces blockade.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, p. 366.
8:00am, Tuesday 23 rd October	First response from Khrushchev is received. Criticises US action as provocative.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , 1962, p. 366.
10:00am, Tuesday 23 rd October	RFK joins first formal meeting of the EXCOMM (though, as above, its members had met under different auspices many times prior to this during the crisis). Group discusses possible responses in event U-2 aircraft shot down.	Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Attorney General's Confidential File. 6-2-5: Cuba: Executive committee meetings: RFK notes and memos, 23 October 1962. RFKAG-215-006. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum 'Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council', 23 October, 1962, in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 47.
6:00pm, Tuesday 23 rd October	RFK joins second EXCOMM meeting. Discussion includes intelligence that Soviet submarines have moved into the Caribbean.	'Record of Action of the Second Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council', 23 October, 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1996), Document 50.

Unknown, Tuesday 23 rd October	<p>RFK speaks with journalist Charles Bartlett by phone. There is no record of the precise content of this discussion, but it appears to be referenced in the private conversation between RFK and the President later that evening in which it is clear RFK asked Bartlett to convey a message to Georgi Bolshakov, a previously used back-channel to Khrushchev.</p>	<p>Desk Diaries 1961-1964. Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Series 05. Attorney General's Confidential File, Box 146, Folder: "1962" John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.</p> <p>Ernest R. May and Philip D Zelikow (ed.), <i>The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis</i>, (New York, 2002), pp. 220-221.</p>
7:10pm, Tuesday 23 rd October	<p>Private discussion between RFK and President. Impeachment discussed.</p>	<p>Ernest R. May and Philip D Zelikow (ed.), <i>The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis</i>, pp. 218-222.</p>
Sometime after c. 7:20pm, Tuesday 23 rd October	<p>Private meeting between RFK, President, special assistant Kenny O'Donnell and speechwriter Ted Sorensen in which analogy is made to the beginnings of the First World War and the theme of 'miscalculation'.</p> <p>In his private notes of this meeting, RFK also mentions being approached by Secretary of State Dean Rusk about an article due to be published the next day claiming he was to be replaced by National Security Advisor, McGeorge Bundy. RFK calls the Publisher of the Washington Post directly to successfully 'kill the article'.</p> <p>RFK and President discuss possible meeting with Dobrynin to relate 'the various violations of trust by Russian representatives and how this had already affected the President's attitude toward Khrushchev and how much more difficult it made their understanding'. (A number of words in this extract are</p>	<p>Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Attorney General's Confidential File. 6-4-1: Cuba: Cuban Crisis, 1962: Kennedy-Khrushchev Letters, 1962: September-November.</p>

	handwritten over the original type. ‘Understanding’ may have been misread.)	
9:30pm, Tuesday 23 rd October	RFK meets with Dobrynin privately at Russian Embassy for 45 minutes, after which he returns to the White House to give a verbal report directly to the President.	<p>‘Memorandum From Attorney General Kennedy to President Kennedy’, 24 October, 1962. In <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i>, eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1996), Document 53.</p> <p>For the draft of this memorandum, see also Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Attorney General’s Confidential File. 6-4-1: Cuba: Cuban Crisis, 1962: Kennedy-Khrushchev Letters, 1962: September-November.</p>
10:15pm, Tuesday 23 rd October	RFK joins meeting with JFK and David Ormsby-Gore.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 369.
9:35-9:55am, Wednesday 24 th October	RFK has private meeting with JFK. There is no record of the content of this conversation, although some accounts of the crisis mistakenly attribute Tuesday evening’s impeachment conversation (see above) to this time.	<i>President’s Daily Diary</i> , October 1962, President’s Office Files, John F. Kennedy Library. Available here: https://jfk14thday.com/presidents-daily-diary-october-1962/ [accessed 30 August 2018].
9:58-10:00am, Wednesday 24 th October	RFK and JFK joined by Press Secretary Pierre Salinger and Special Assistant Kenny O’Donnell.	Ibid.
10:00am, Wednesday 24 th October	RFK joins third EXCOMM meeting. Soviet ships approaching the quarantine line appear to show no signs of stopping. In the course of the meeting, the ships appear to turn around.	<p>Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i>, p. 370.</p> <p>‘Record of Action of the Third Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council’, 24 October, 1962, in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i>, eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S.</p>

		Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 55.
Evening, Wednesday 24 th October	RFK dines with JFK and a 'small group of intimates' including journalist Charles Bartlett. National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy pops in and out 'with news of the quarantine line'.	Michael Dobbs, <i>One Minute to Midnight</i> , p. 107.
10:30-11:15pm, Wednesday 24 th October	RFK meeting with JFK and David Ormsby-Gore, British Ambassador.	Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Attorney General's Confidential File. 6-4-1: Cuba: Cuban Crisis, 1962: Kennedy-Khrushchev Letters, 1962: September-November.
10:00am, Thursday 25 th October	RFK joins fourth meeting of the EXCOMM. Programme to drop propaganda leaflets on Cuba discussed (this programme does not move forward).	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 372. 'Memorandum for the Files', 25 October, 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 70.
5:00pm, Thursday 25 th October	RFK joins fifth meeting of EXCOMM. Blockade implementation leads discussions. President joins meeting as group discusses East German ship approaching barrier line. RFK and others advise against stopping ship which appears to persuade initially bullish JFK.	'Summary Record of the Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council', 25 October, 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 72.
Unknown, Thursday 25 th October	RFK calls Chief of Operations for Operation Mongoose, Edward Lansdale. It is likely that Lansdale briefs RFK on the ongoing operations in Cuba at this point (see below note re Friday's Operation Mongoose meeting).	Desk Diaries 1961-1964. Papers of Robert F. Kennedy. Attorney General Papers. Series 05. Attorney General's Confidential File, Box 146, Folder: "1962" John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Also available here: https://jfk14thday.com/robert-kennedy-desk-diary/ [accessed 30 August 2018].
10:00am, Friday 26 th October	RFK joins sixth meeting of EXCOMM. JFK expresses doubt that blockade alone will lead to removal of the	'Summary Record of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council', 26 October, 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile</i>

	missiles and authorises further low-level flights over Cuba.	<i>Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 79.
12:00pm, Friday 26 th October	RFK joins private intelligence briefing with the President. CIA Director John McCone and photo analyst Arthur Lundahl lead briefing.	Ernest R. May and Philip D Zelikow (ed.), <i>The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , pp. 289-292.
2:30pm, Friday 26 th October	RFK joins meeting of Operation Mongoose where it was decided that ‘no major acts of sabotage should be undertaken at this time.’ Participant accounts foreground this dry record of the meeting. When RFK discovered through Chief of Operations, Edward Lansdale that sabotage teams were engaged in Cuba at the height of the crisis he was furious for ‘going off on a half-assed operation’ without his approval.	‘Memorandum for the Record’, 26 October, 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 82. Michael Dobbs, <i>One Minute to Midnight</i> , p. 152.
6pm, Friday 26 th October	The first of two letters is received by Khrushchev. This one, private and in RFK’s words ‘very long and emotional’ proposes missiles can be withdrawn from Cuba in return from non-invasion pledge by the US.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 374.
10:00pm, Friday 26 th October	RFK joins extraordinary session of the EXCOMM to discuss Khrushchev’s letter.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 374.
Late evening, Friday 26 th October	RFK meets Dobrynin for the second time during the crisis. During this meeting he reportedly leaves the room to telephone the President for further instructions on an offer relating to the Turkey missiles.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , pp. 374-375.
9:00am, Saturday 27 th	Radio Moscow broadcasts second Khrushchev letter. In contrast to the letter of the previous evening, this explicitly calls for removal of the missiles in Turkey in trade for those in Cuba. This letter is only received	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 375.

	by the EXCOMM group in the middle of their 10:00am meeting.	
10:00am, Saturday 27 th October	RFK joins seventh meeting of EXCOMM. The second Khrushchev letter is received during the meeting. The group subsequently discusses how to respond to these different letters.	‘Summary Record of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council’, 27 October 1962 in <i>FRUS, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 90.
2:30pm, Saturday 27 th October	RFK joins meeting of EXCOMM members without President at State Department. RFK continued to counsel against forcibly stopping a Soviet tanker, but keeping missile strike option available.	Ibid.
4:00pm, Saturday 27 th October	RFK joins eight meeting of EXCOMM discussing letters to Khrushchev and U Thant at the UN, as well as notion of missile trade. Meeting ends with discussion of U2 shot down over Cuba and response to that.	‘Summary Record of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council’, 27 October 1962 in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 94.
Late PM, Saturday 27 th October	RFK joins private meeting with the President, including Secretary of State Dean Rusk, National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy and others. Agreed that RFK should meet with Dobrynin and provide oral message to Khrushchev alongside Presidential letter. There is no tape or memorandum of this meeting, but Bundy recalls that: ‘the other part of the oral message was proposed by Dean Rusk: that we should tell Khrushchev that while there could be no deal over the Turkish missiles, the president was determined to get them out and would do so once the Cuban crisis was resolved’. RFK was to convey this.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 377. Ernest R. May and Philip D Zelikow (ed.), <i>The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , pp. 388.

7:15pm, Saturday 27 th October	RFK telephones Dobrynin, arranging meeting at his office in the Justice Department thirty minutes later.	‘Memorandum From Attorney General Kennedy to Secretary of State Rusk’, 30 October, 1962. in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 96.
7:45pm, Saturday 27 th October	RFK meets with Dobrynin at his office in the Justice Department. RFK conveys urgency of the situation, including likelihood of military action. Carefully worded response to missile swap given.	Ibid.
8:05pm, Saturday 27 th October	President Kennedy’s letter to Khrushchev, drafted earlier in the day, is transmitted to Moscow.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 378.
9:00pm, Saturday 27 th October	RFK returns from Dobrynin meeting to join ninth meeting of EXCOMM. Military preparations agreed. RFK recommends, and President agrees, no action to be taken against Soviet tanker <i>Graznyy</i> approaching the quarantine zone. NATO briefing discussed.	‘Summary Record of the Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council’, 27 October, 1962, in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 97.
Evening, Saturday 27 th October	At the President’s instruction, Rusk telephones Andrew Cordier, a former UN undersecretary to plan UN-proposed mutual missile withdrawal (Soviets from Cuba; US from Turkey).	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 379.
9:00am, Sunday 28 th	Effectively ending the crisis, or at least these critical thirteen days, Khrushchev broadcasts new message through Radio Moscow confirming dismantling and withdrawal of missiles from Cuba.	Laurence Chang & Peter Kornbluh, eds., <i>The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962</i> , p. 380.
Morning, Sunday 28 th October	RFK meets with Dobrynin at his office. Dobrynin conveys in person Khrushchev’s agreement to dismantle and withdraw missiles from Cuba. As a result, RFK arrives late to tenth meeting of the EXCOMM.	Robert F. Kennedy, <i>Thirteen Days</i> , p. 110.
11:10am, Sunday 28 th October	RFK joins tenth meeting of EXCOMM, Khrushchev’s reply, offering to withdraw Cuba missiles in exchange	‘Summary Record of the Tenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council’, 28 October,

	for non-invasion pledge, is discussed. Group see this as resolution of the crisis.	1962, in <i>FRUS, 1961-1963, Volume XI, Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath</i> , eds. Edward C. Keefer, Charles S. Sampson, Louis J. Smith, and David S. Patterson, Document 103.
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