

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1965

Dear Mr. Mann:

I have your letter of May 20, with its attached telegram. Your letter removes the temptation to deal with some of the annoyance which the telegram arouses. It is fundamental to my own judgment of this matter that I did not break a commitment. I left the country at the President's direction, and I had given clear and fair warning that something of this sort might happen -- little as I myself expected it.

But I wholly agree with you that this is not the real point. The real point is that it is useful to make it clear to ourselves and to others that we believe in the processes of discussion. I understand that you are coming to a meeting with my colleague, Chester Cooper, in June to consider the ways and means of conducting such a discussion, in the light of the fact that it hardly makes sense to repeat the precise format of May 15. This meeting seems to me the sensible next step, and unless you advise me to the contrary, I will assume that this letter and the plan for this meeting constitute an appropriate answer to your letter and your telegram at this time.

Sincerely,

*McGeorge Bundy*

McGeorge Bundy

Mr. Richard D. Mann  
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