

FOREWORD

Transcript Warning:

All written transcripts are imperfect abstracts of spoken conversation. Variations in sound quality and in the aural acuity of listeners can and do produce wide variations in what is heard. Even though transcripts may be prepared at great effort and with great care, many points of ambiguity are inevitable, and erroneous interpretations from transcripts are always possible. Therefore, to ensure full confidence in any and all quotations from the presidential recordings, users are strongly urged to check all transcript renditions against the actual tape recordings before publication.

Copyright:

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Punctuation:

The following conventions are used throughout the transcripts:

- * * * To indicate a pause in the recording while the speaker listens to the person speaking at the other end of the telephone. Used when only one side of a telephone conversation is recorded.
- [?] When the transcriber is not certain of what is said on the recording.
- To indicate a sentence which the speaker trails off without completing it.
- . . . When a speaker is interrupted before a sentence is completed.
- _____ To indicate the speaker's emphasis.
- [/] Used to enclose editorial comments of the transcriber such as /Meeting appears to be breaking up/ or /Several speakers speak at once and none of the words are intelligible./

Names:

The first time a name is mentioned, the full name is provided whenever it is known. "JFK" and "RFK" are used for President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, respectively. When the identity of a speaker is unknown, "Speaker?" is used; when the identification of a speaker is uncertain, a question mark follows the name. The heading of each transcript gives the names of all participants listed in the President's Appointment Books as scheduled to attend the meeting.

Preparation:

These electronic documents were created from transcripts available in the audiovisual research room in the John F. Kennedy Library. The transcripts were scanned using optical character recognition and the resulting text files were proofread against the original transcripts. Some formatting changes were made.

Dictabelt 10A, Item 10A4

March 6, 1963

Helms¹: . . . involved. Absolutely not, sir.

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: I've just verified and reverified that.

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: That's absolutely certain.

JFK: What . . . Were they down in Nicaragua and, uh, . . .?

Helms: They were in Guatemala.

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: And there were eight of them who were, uh, officers; In other words pilots, navigators, planners . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: . . . who were involved in training the Cubans. The other sixteen were involved in ground crews - mechanics and things of that kind.

JFK: I see. How come they were recruited in the South and not the North? I notice Faubus said they couldn't recruit in the North.

Helms: Uh, I don't know why, sir

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: I think that was pure happenstance.

JFK: Yeah.

¹ Richard Helms

Helms: Your states that were represented were Georgia; there was one from California; there were several from Washington, D.C.; and then there was Alabama and Arkansas.

JFK: Oh, I see. Now, these were recruited from . . . ?

Helms: All from national guard units.

JFK: I see.

Helms: And they totaled a hundred and twenty-four.

JFK: Recruitment . . . hundred and twenty-four?

Helms: Yes.

JFK: That they recruited. Okay.

Helms: And then we had some others . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Helms: . . . that were . . . some pilots from CAT² that were rotated in and out, and so forth.

JFK: Okay. Good. Fine. Thanks now.

Helms: You bet.

[There follows about 3 minutes of blank tape - only machine noises and surface noise - before the beginning of item 10A5]

² Civil Air Transport.