

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.

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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 41

Note for Researcher

No Kennedy Library Transcript was prepared for Dictabelt number 41.1.

Dictabelt 41

Item 41.2

October 28, 1962

JFK: Hello?

Operator: Yes, please.

JFK: Oh is the General on --

Operator: I'll put it on, yes sir. Ready?

JFK: Hello?

Eisenhower¹: General Eisenhower, Mr. President.

JFK: General, how are you?

Eisenhower: Pretty good, thank you.

JFK: Oh fine. General, I just wanted to bring you up to date on this matter, because I know of your concern about it. We got -- Friday night got a message from Khrushchev which said that he would withdraw these missiles and technicians and so on providing we did not plan to invade Cuba. We then got a message, that public one, the next morning in which he said he would do that if we withdrew our missiles from Turkey. We then, as you know, issued a statement that we couldn't get into that deal. So we then got this message this morning. So we now have to wait to see how it unfolds, and there's a good deal of complexities to it. If the withdrawal of these missiles, technicians, and the cessation of subversive activity by them, well we just have to set up satisfactory procedures to determine whether these actions will be carried out. So I would think that if we can do that we'll be -- find our interest advanced, even though it may be only one more chapter in a rather long story as far as Cuba is concerned.

Eisenhower: Of course, but Mr. President, did he, does he put any conditions in whatsoever in this?

¹ Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president.

JFK: No, except that we're not going to invade Cuba. That's the only one we've got now. But we don't plan to invade Cuba under these conditions anyway. So if we can get them out, we're better off by far.

Eisenhower: That's great. I quite agree. I just wondered whether he was trying to, knowing we would keep our word, whether he would try to engage us in any kind of statements or commitments that would finally one day could be very embarrassing. [This is], suppose they got in – they started to bombard Guantanamo.

JFK: Right.

Eisenhower: What I'm getting at, I quite agree this is a very, I think, conciliatory move he's made. Provided that he doesn't say that --

JFK: Right. Oh well I agree. Oh yeah that's right. I think what we've got to do is keep -- that's why I don't think the Cuban story can be over yet. I think we will retain sufficient freedom to protect our interests if he

Eisenhower: That's all I want--

JFK: -- if he, if they engage in subversion, if they attempt to do any aggressive acts and so on then all bets are off. In addition my guess is by the end of next month we're going to be toe-to-toe on Berlin anyway. So that I think this is important for the time being because it requires quite a step down really for Khrushchev. On the other hand, I think that as we all know they're - they just probe and their word's unreliable so we just have to stay busy on it.

Eisenhower: As I've [unintelligible] before, Mr. President, one thing about -- they, these people do not equate, and I think it's been a mistake to equate, Berlin with Cuba or anything else. They take any spot in the world, they don't care where it is,

JFK: That's right.

Eisenhower: And it's just a question is, are you in such a place where you either can't or won't resist?

JFK: That's right, yeah.

Eisenhower: Yeah but we got them into Tibet. It has nothing to do with Tibet, up them mountains . . . [unintelligible]. We couldn't reach them. And so what we can do then is [unintelligible]. So they get to and they probe when you can't do

anything. Then if they get another place where they think that you just won't for some reason or other, why then they go ahead. I think you're doing exactly right and go ahead, but just let them know that you won't be the aggressor. But if the others proceed, then you've always got the right to determine whether the other guys would be the aggressor.

JFK: Well we'll stay right at them and I'll keep in touch with you, General.

Eisenhower: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

JFK: Okay, thank you.

Operator: I'll put it right through. Waiting.

Dictabelt 41

Note for Researcher

No Kennedy Library Transcript was prepared for Dictabelt numbers 41.3 and 41.4.