

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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 26A

Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Dean Rusk

August 16, 1963

10:15 A.M.

Sec Rusk: I am in a press conference in 30 minutes. I will get a question on France. I am inclined just to limit myself to Article One, paragraph Two, under which we would not be able to give any help to anybody carrying on explosions.

President: What does it say; that article?

Sec Rusk: It says, "undertakes furthermore to refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapons test explosion or any other nuclear explosion prohibited by this treaty."

President: Well, I think that obviously we would not give them aid if . . . I mean that would . . .

Sec Rusk: I mean this would be a violation of the treaty if we uh, I think I will just stay with that and say I am not . . .

President: Why don't you generalize it and not make it just sort of France.

Sec Rusk: That's right. That's right.

President: So that it doesn't look like you are just talking about France.

Sec Rusk: That is right. Now if they press me on France, I will say well President DeGaulle . . . I might say President DeGaulle in his press conference referred to this question as quite hypothetical and I think I would leave it at that.

President: Yea, ok, fine. Listen I wrote you a note about going up to [Camp] David, when are you going?

Sec Rusk: Yes, I am going up Monday morning I think.

President: Oh that is fine.

Sec Rusk: Looking forward to it.

President: Oh it is very nice there. Thank you.

Sec Rusk: Thank you, I appreciate it.