

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 5A, Item 5A.3

[This belt appears to have been in a somewhat deteriorated condition as received. The portions in brackets are either unintelligible or rendered with reservations.]

[recording begins in mid-conversation]

Rusk¹: . . . with respect to, say, peace in the Caribbean, so that it would not be necessarily geographically limited to Cuba.

Voice: Yeah. Well, I think that's right. Uh, the . . . the . . . the terms on which the [1 or 2 words?] . . .

Rusk: But, . . . but in relation to invasion. Not in relation to a lot of other things.

Voice: Well, that's right. What . . . what he talked to . . . to . . . uh, the, uh, Castro about was some continuing [people?], presumably in Cuba, uh, itself.

Rusk: Yeah.

Voice: But [1 or 2 words?] have a commission that could travel and, uh, . . . uh, so on.

Rusk: Yeah.

Voice: Now, uh, one other thing, uh, the question of the . . . the return of Major Anderson's body came up. The, uh, . . . uh, Secretary General feels that, uh, well, Castro said that he was prepared to do that through the U.N.

Rusk: Yeah.

Voice: Uh, the Secretary General feels that the best way to have that done is for us to ask the Swiss, immediately, to try to arrange that, and to have the body shipped to Guantanamo, where we could fly it back.

Rusk: Uh-huh.

Voice: So, I think you might want to set the wheels in motion down there on that score.

¹ Dean Rusk

Rusk: Yeah. OK. Yeah. All right. Fine. Now, umh, there is no question here, really, that . . . that the SAMs are under Russian control.

Voice: Yeah.

Rusk: And so, we, uh, we want to . . . we want to find an opportunity here to press on a . . . on a . . . at some point to get all Russian-controlled and manned equipment out of there, you see.

Voice: Well, uh, you know, uh, McCloy is having dinner with Mikoyan tonight.

Rusk: Yeah.

Voice: It would be a good way to do that.

Rusk: Yeah.

Voice: Uh, and . . . and to do it particularly on the . . . on the ground that the real security, in Cuba would be with some kind of U.N. presence.

Rusk: Yeah. Yeah. OK. Fine.