

## FOREWORD

### **Transcript Warning:**

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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 8B, Item 8B4

March 2, 1963, 6:46 PM.

[begins in mid-conversation]

JFK: We were just talking about the fact that, uh, in . . . in interrogation last week of the Stennis Committee, Senator Goldwater asked some questions about the use of the carrier aircraft from Es-- . . . the aircraft from the carrier Essex. . . .

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: . . . with their markings painted out, which . . .

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: Well, we figure that, uh, somebody over there has told them about . . . you, know, that thing on Wednesday morning? . . . that we . . . ?

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: And that, uh, therefore, either Dirksen's gonna spring it or Goldwater's gonna spring it, and they're gonna spring it in such a way that it looks like there was U.S. air cover and that you were . . . wrong, and I was wrong in saying there wasn't. Now, the question is . . . how . . . What exactly is it . . . We . . . We're gonna get Max Taylor to look up exactly . . . or 're you familiar with what the, uh, . . .

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: . . . what happened on that?

RFK: Ah, . . .

JFK: Did . . . did we paint out the markings on the planes?

RFK: Yeah. Yeah. We painted out the markings on the planes.

JFK: How many planes?

RFK: And I think there were three planes.

JFK: Yeah?

RFK: And they flew air cover for an hour.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: O-- . . .

JFK: . . . but didn't see anybody.

RFK: . . . over the beach.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: And, uh, they were supposed to give, uh, air cover to the B-26s that were coming in.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: And, uh, unfortunately, they . . . between all of them, they got the hours mixed up. I think you gave 'em from seven to eight or something . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: and, uh, they must've thought it was seven . . . CIA thought it was seven to eight Central American time.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: So the result was that the . . . B-26s came in an hour . . .

JFK: Late.

RFK: . . . late, and were all shot down.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: Or, two of them shot down.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

RFK: And I think that's probably the ones that had the Americans in them.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: I think, uh, that . . . that has been in the paper, . . . about the fact that, uh, the, uh, they flew this . . . air cover for an hour.

JFK: Has that been in the paper?

RFK: Uh, I've seen references to it in the paper. I don't know if any formal story's been written on it, but, uh, it's been in the paper that they, uh, . . . and it's been in U.S. News and World Report.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . that they uh, specifically, . . . I'm almost sure, . . . I've read it someplace in the last couple of months.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . about the fact that they've, uh, that they, uh, flew for that hour.

JFK: Well, my guess is it's gonna come out. We're just trying to figure out how to get it out. If we can say it's been all printed . . . otherwise Dirksen will announce that United States planes with their paintings marked out flew over the Bay of Pigs, and were only used an hour, and therefore either you were wrong or I was wrong in not using 'em more, or . . . and so on and so forth. So we're trying to think about how to get . . .

RFK: Well, I think if somebody could look up . . . uh, . . . uh, uh, . . . where it's appeared in the newspapers. Do you have that kind of people over there?

JFK: [laughs] I would think that's a rather difficult assignment.

RFK: Not really.

JFK: It isn't?

RFK: No. I mean, just look in the . . . If they have an index and they got it under Bay of Pigs . . ., [both laugh] . . . and they go down . . . Wednesday . . . six o'clock . . .

JFK: Yeah?

RFK: But, uh, I'm sure it's in U.S. News.

JFK: It's been in U.S. News, you think?

RFK: Yeah. In fact, I think it was in the . . . in their answer to me, I think they put it in, but I think it was in even before that.

JFK: They had an answer to you?

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: U.S. News did?

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: What other ways do you have . . . How would you handle it, then, in the committee, or . . .

RFK: Uh, . . . Well, again, I think probably we'd go back to the fact that the Congress was informed about this.

JFK: Was it?

RFK: Yeah. I'm sure they were. They were told everything else. Uh, . . . [pause] . . . Well, I think it's awfully important if we could get the fact that that was out, uh, I mean there was some mention about it in the newspaper sometime ago, and we could document that.

JFK: OK. Well, I'll see what we can find out here.

RFK: All right.

JFK: All right.

[phone hangs up]