

FOREWORD

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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 21A

Conversation #2: President Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson

June 4, 1963, 4:10 p.m.

LBJ: -----knew he was going to. But all I know is he had never talked to me. [C. Douglas/ Dillon told me that he thought that it was important that we make an announcement soon.

President: I know it, but I mean, my God, I only got your report last weekend. Did [Juan T./ Trippe ever know that we were about to go ahead on this thing.

LBJ: I don't know. I assume that Dillon, uh . . .

President: Were there any conversations with Trippe on this?

LBJ: Not with me. He never talked to me. He talked to Dillon. Dillon had a conversation with him.

President: I think it's very pec . . .

LBJ: I believe [Robert/ McNamara talked to him.

President: I think that it is very peculiar that he would announce that today at a time when he knew that the government was about to go ahead.

LBJ: [Najeeb/ Halaby urged him not to. He told me he had had to do it to protect his interests. But I think Dillon had the same impression. Halaby and Dillon had financial discussions with him and, why, Dillon told me that he was going to talk to you yesterday, and again this morning at the Indian Embassy, he asked me if I had discussed it with you any further, and he said yes, and I hope that you would announce it maybe tomorrow. He said that he thought it very important because Trippe had told him they have some, uh . . .

President: But, I mean, my God, we been, uh, your group has looked at it for a couple months. And we get this thing last weekend, I don't understand why Trippe feels he has to go ahead just when we are about to do something about it.

LBJ: I don't know, I haven't talked to him. Trippe talked to Halaby and talked to Dillon. And the only thing I know about his company position is what he has told Dillon.

President: Well, this makes it, uh, I think we have to take it along now, it's rather stupid of us putting it out tomorrow, if he is already buying a European plane, it would make it look as if we don't know what the hell our market is. Fine, ok. Well, I will see you at five, then.

LBJ: Is he on the . . . is he on the wire with it?

President: He's put it out, yeah. That they are buying, uh, "Pan American World announces that it has ordered six new Concorde supersonic jet transports which will fly to the United States in two and half hours. He made the announcement. They will be equipped . . . will be built jointly." Now, that is very peculiar for him to do that at a time when he knew we were about to do it. So there's something . . .

LBJ: See, what . . . he's . . . he's been negotiating them with Halaby, I think you can get your story better, though, from Dillon. They may have some interest together. I don't know what it is. Dillon got this and got it in the greatest confidence, and in some degree accelerated our action.

President: Yeah, yeah.

LBJ: He stepped it up and McNamara agreed to work over the weekend. But he may have told McNamara, but I know that he discussed it with Dillon. I don't know, but he never discussed anything with me. Dillon may tell you what is behind it. There may be some motivation. Maybe trying to hold his position or maybe trying to pressure us. Maybe trying to influence you. I don't know.

President: Right. Ok, fine.

LBJ: Thank you.