

## 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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

## **Dictabelt 27A**

Conversation #3: President Kennedy and Robert S. McNamara

October 10, 1963, 6:50 p.m.

President: Hello.

Sec. McNamara: Bob McNamara, Mr. President.

President: Yeah, Bob.

Sec. McNamara: I just talked to General [ ] McConnell, he was on the line to the commander who had received orders for instructions five minutes before the allotted time to move his two convoys ahead.

President: Yeah.

Sec. McNamara: So that they moved on just about 11 minutes ago.

President: Did they get permission from the Russians?

Sec. McNamara: From the Soviets, that is right.

President: Five minutes before the time.

Sec. McNamara: Yeah, the allotted time ran out . . .

President: 6:30?

Sec. McNamara: . . . at 6:30 our time. And five minutes ahead of that, the Soviets allowed them to move.

President: That is interesting, isn't it?

Sec. McNamara: We have two more convoys, large convoys, going through early tomorrow morning. Normally they would stop, dismount and allow the Soviets to count. We propose to follow the normal procedure. And I don't think there will be any trouble.

President: Right, ok. That is fine, Bob.

Sec. McNamara: Thank you.