

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:

The donors assigned copyright that they might have in the recordings to the United States; however, copyright of the donors does not extend beyond statements uttered by John F. Kennedy, his minor children, and the donors themselves. Statements uttered by officials of the United States government in the course of their duties are considered to be in the public domain. Users of this material are cautioned, however, that not all persons recorded were members of the Kennedy family or government officials. A number of the people recorded were, at the time of recording, private citizens. Therefore, those intending to quote from this material beyond the accepted limits of fair use are cautioned to determine the copyright implications of any intended publication.

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 XXXA

Dictabelt Found Among Doodle Books

November 28, 1962

[President dictating memoranda to officials and aides]

President: One, two, three, four, five. One, two, three, four, five . . .

Memorandum for Mac . . . *[then recording shifts to following]*

I'd like to get a report on the arguments and techniques that were used by Malraux, et cetera, in the last French election. Does it have any lessons, uh, for us? Perhaps, uh, Chip *[Bohlen]* could get us this.

Memorandum for Robert McNamara: I think that, uh, we should, uh, pull it out. Start again.

What is your judgment about our bringing up with NATO the excessive, uh, contribution with the United States is making to the maintenance of the infrastructure et cetera of NATO? My understanding is that it's thirty percent. Period. If we are going to bring this matter up, it would seem to me that *[General Lauris]* Norstad would be--should be active in it, so that it will not be blamed on *[General Lyman]* Lemnitzer, if we should direct him to discuss it in the winter of 1963.

Memorandum to Tom Walsh: *[indistinct at first; one or two words missed]* \$1,000 this year, divided equally between St. Francis at Hyannis, St. Stephen's in Washington, and the church in Middleburg, Father Perera. That should be put down in my accounts.

Memorandum for Anne Lincoln: Ask--make sure that Anne gives us the information about who is authorized to go and get liquor downstairs for the government, for my official White House entertaining as well as my private,

President
(continued)

because they may be taking excessive amounts there. [One word?] We request Mr. West will review this.

Miss Lincoln, arrange with Mary Gallagher that I see all the checks before they're mailed out . . . at least all the bills, not only mine, but Mrs. Kennedy's, et cetera.

Memorandum: Ask Andy Hatcher to get me the, uh, literature that the Republicans used in the, uh, South, in support of Republican candidates. If he doesn't have sufficient, the Democratic Committee should plan to, uh, get all that it can, Alabama, and, uh, Tennessee, et cetera. It may be then that John Bailey should issue a blast on the matter.

[Meyer "Mike"] Mike Feldman memorandum. Reminder for Mike Feldman: Uh, . . . Mike, you were going to check on the story that, uh, Poland was going to buy grain from France and Canada was going to ask us for it on a soft, . . . on a, uh, . . . soft currency deal. We don't want to have them using their hard currency with Canada and France while we give it away. Or do we?

[Begins to echo and
repeat at this point/
[echoing stops]

Ask, uh, Jerry Wiesner to make a, uh, talk to Arthur Schlesinger about the report which Schlesinger has about the Soviet use of cybernetics c-y-b-e-r-n-e-t-i-c-s . . . him and perhaps a panel take a look at what were doing compared to what they're doing, and, uh, what--what, uh, this means for the future.

[echoing returns]

Type out memorandum for me for my files. Personal. Problems, uh, the week before last, uh, consisted of some disintegration in the Laos government; the, uh, increasing disintegration in the Congo; the problem of Yemen with Saudi Arabia, UAR; uh, Jordan and uh, increasing coordinating our plans with the British; the uh, . . . uh, . . . uh, . . . continuing problem of transportation, et cetera, in Cuba; and, uh, reports of bankruptcy in Brazil, as well as discontent in other Latin American countries.

[echoing stops]

The next, uh, major change of administration, uh, it seems to me are that Secretaries of State should be, uh, . . . should be, uh, nominated first and should work for two months . . . in between, next to the man they're succeeding, otherwise you have this dangerous interim gap of three months. We were faced in January 19th almost cold with the prospect of an in-- . . . military action in Laos. This seems to me a wholly unsatisfactory way to arrange for transition. The result, of course, was the Bay of Pigs.

Wednesday, November twenty . . . -eighth. I am reluctant to give assurances on, uh, Cuba, because it--psychologically it will, uh, strengthen Cuban regime--uh, Castro regime, which is hostile to us. Period. Even while it's

President
(continued)

obvious we would not invade Cuba unless there was an extreme situation there, and regardless of our assurances we could carry out such an invasion if the situation so warranted, nevertheless, it will appear to give Castro a base from which to operate, and the Russians the same. One of the difficulty [SIC] is that our negotiators, McCloy and . . . Stevenson, wish to work out a satisfactory--who have been working with Kuznetsov, feel that it's a matter of our good faith. This happens to negotia--/needle stuck/ This happens to negotia--This happens to negotiators when they're--they get into a psychological position with their opposite number and feel that, uh, they are personally inv--and speak sort of . . . on an individual basis rather than considering the -- solely the national interest. With the Russians, you have to do the latter.

[echoing again]

Uh, write a note to Jim Landis, and ask him, uh, if he could send down to me . . . I'd like to have somebody take a look at them and make a judgment as to when and if they should be released.

[end recording]