

## 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 18A**

Conversation #6: President Kennedy and Dean Rusk

May 6, 1963

President: Hello.

Sec. Rusk: Good morning, Mr. President.

President: You had a good trip, I thought.

Sec. Rusk: Well, they kept me pretty busy, but we got a few little things done.

President: I thought the stuff that came out of Yugoslavia was good.

Sec. Rusk: Uh . . . I think myself that George Kennan has been quite right there. That if you leave . . . if you can leave assigned a man at the top, and they are finding ways to leave him assigned now, that the rest of them really do want to work on good relations.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Sec. Rusk: And even he was pretty relaxed. By the way, I did talk to him about the possibility of you and he seeing each other briefly somehow, and he was quite receptive to that.

President: I see. Fine.

Sec. Rusk: Are you heavily engaged the rest of the morning?

President: No, I tell you what, I got this eleven o'clock, uh, what are you doing now?

Sec. Rusk: Well, I am meeting here on Haiti now at the moment. And seeing Tommy Thompson at eleven thirty on the Moscow business. Perhaps if you could see me a few minutes around twelve.

President: Well, I got some fellow called Tad S [inaudible] of the Pakistan National Assembly.

Sec. Rusk: Oh, yes.

President: So why don't we meet about 12:20 or so?

Sec. Rusk: That will be fine

President: Fine.