

## 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.

## Dictabelt 11A, Item 11A4

March 7, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Ball<sup>1</sup>: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: There's a piece in the Washington . . .

*[Tape skips.]*

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: . . . a piece in the Wash- . . .

*[Tape skips.]*

Ball: . . . seen of a *[close-up?]* interview with this fellow Frederick Erroll who is president of the Board of Trade.

JFK: Yeah, I saw that. Yeah.

Ball: And I wanted you to understand that as far as the department is concerned, we hit him very, very hard and he had no basis for saying he got any sympathy.

JFK: He said not only on the woolens, but the other thing is that we understood, we were sympathetic about his trade with the Soviets.

Ball: Well, that's what I mean, no . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: . . . on, on the Soviet trade.

JFK: Yeah.

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<sup>1</sup> George Ball

Ball: I talked to him myself and we've never been rougher with anybody. So I've gotten, getting David Ormsby Gore in and we're going to have him send a message to London that if Erroll hadn't, got any such idea he's, he's completely mistaken. That this is a matter we feel deeply and strongly about and it's gonna cause great trouble here.

JFK: Is this on the pipe or just generally?

Ball: On the pipe. Uh, on the dif- . . .

JFK: Did he bring up the pipe?

Ball: Well, I brought up the pipe, I brought up the ship for oil deal and I brought up the sale of the Viscounts. All three.

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: We hit him very hard. I told him that on the pipe that that they weren't gonna get anything out of the pipe, but they were gonna break the line and the Germans were gonna get the orders. But it would be very hard to, to, uh, enforce anything under, uh, uh, on the Western embargo after this and that, uh, furthermore, the, this was something that was really hurting the Soviet Union, as it made clear to us. And that if they went ahead with this, I foresaw very great problems in this country on cooperation on a lot of other things and on the ship for oil deal, that this was the beginning of Soviet penetration, oil penetration that was gonna cause trouble in the Middle East. Gonna cause great trouble here and so on.

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: So that there was no doubt that he got the point and this is a, this is c-, rather a crude play on his part . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yes.

Ball: . . . to, to try to put us in this position.

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: So when the secretary has his press conference tomorrow, why, we're gonna cook up a question and let him hit it hard there, too.

JFK: Right. Right.

Ball: So that there'll be no doubt back in London as to what the . . .

JFK: I thought Walt Lippmann<sup>2</sup> had a good article this morning.

Ball: Well, I think that's useful to begin . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: . . . to get this out. He, he misconstrued a little what, what Hallstein<sup>3</sup> was saying but, I think, the more we create the impression of concern here on this, why the, the stronger our position will be. So it doesn't . . .

JFK: Right.

Ball: . . . doesn't worry me a bit.

JFK: Okay, fine, George.

Ball: Right, bye.

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<sup>2</sup> Walter Lippmann.

<sup>3</sup> Walter Hallstein.