

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.

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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 4G, Item 4G2

/Phone rings./

Lincoln¹: Hello.

Voice 1: General Abrams calling the president from Millington² Tennessee.

Lincoln: */Off the phone to JFK/* General Abrams is on the line at the other end.

JFK: Hello. Hello?

Voice 1: Here you are, sir.

Abrams³: General Abrams.

JFK: Yes, General.

Abrams: I have a report from General Billingslea.⁴

JFK: That's right. Now, the attorney general has him on the other phone. */Off the phone to RFK/* Is that General Billingslea you got? */Back to Abrams/* We got him on the other phone. So we'll be talk . . .

Abrams: The MP company . . .

JFK: Right.

Abrams: . . . arrived on the campus at 2:15 local time.

JFK: Right. Okay, now, General, what about the rest of. . . . When are these other MPs gonna get there? Do you know?

Abrams: The, uh, 503rd MPs should arrive at approximately zero four-thirty.

JFK: That's local time there?

¹ Evelyn Lincoln

² Location of Memphis Naval Air Station.

³ Creighton Abrams

⁴ Charles Billingslea.

Abrams: Local time.

JFK: That's in, in other words, that's two hours.

Abrams: Local time here.

JFK: That's the group that set out by truck, is it?

Abrams: Yes, sir.

JFK: So, your addition- . . .

Abrams: They're followed by another MP battalion at, that should arrive at 5:00. There, there's just the length of the battalion between 'em.

JFK: In other words, but the next MP group to arrive won't be for two hours. Is that correct?

Abrams: That's correct, sir.

JFK: Then after that there'll be some more in a half hour. Then what about that battle group?

Abrams: They, uh, they, uh. . . . Just a moment, sir. [Off the phone to someone in the room.] The battle group is [here?]/[words unintelligible]. [Back to JFK.] Six o'clock, sir.

JFK: What? Six o'clock.

Abrams: Six o'clock.

JFK: Well, now, General, you oughta consider what kind of communication you're going to set up at that airport because you're going to have people flying in there. Seems to me you oughta have very good communications . . .

Abrams: Yes.

JFK: . . . with that airport as well as the campus.

Abrams: Yes.

JFK: With General. . . . In other words, General Billingslea oughta have a com-, communication with the airport. You oughta have a communication with the airport and Billingslea because we're going to have people flying in there all day tomorrow.

Abrams: Yes.

JFK: And then, of course, we got the problem of transportation and all the rest. So these are all matters that you'll be dealing with. But I think communication is very important.

Abrams: Yes, sir.

JFK: Okay. Fine, General. Thank you.

[Phone hangs up.]