

## FOREWORD

### **Transcript Warning:**

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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 24A, Item 24A5

July 30, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Rusk:<sup>1</sup> Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: Uh, two points. The first one [CLOSED PENDING REVIEW] proposed that the three governments invite U Thant<sup>2</sup> to come over for the signing. It's so hard for us to say no to that one. Uh, there could be some, some advantages, but the disadvantages of saying no would be, uh, pre-, pretty serious, I think.

JFK: Is he going to sign it then?

Rusk: No, he wouldn't sign it. He would be present for it.

JFK: Yeah, well, I think that's probably all right then.

Rusk: Well, now, the point here is though that if U Thant goes then this raises to a new level of sensitivity at our problem.

JFK: Well, I think then that if U Thant goes then Adlai<sup>3</sup> can go.

Rusk: I think he ought to go.

JFK: If U Thant goes.

Rusk: Right.

JFK: But, uh, but that ought to be the condition.

Rusk: All right.

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<sup>1</sup> Dean Rusk, secretary of state.

<sup>2</sup> U Thant, secretary general, United Nations.

<sup>3</sup> Adlai E. Stephenson, United States representative to the United Nations.

JFK: It oughta be, it oughta be sold on that basis that if U Thant's gonna go, 'then Stevenson . . .

Rusk: Right.

JFK: . . . can go.

Rusk: All right, fine. Well, we'll check that out.

JFK: Uh, the, uh, what is the State Department going to put out on, uh, on, uh, de Gaulle?<sup>4</sup> What's the sort of line?

Rusk: Well, we haven't, uh, we thought here that we would not, uh, uh, do anything today on this . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: . . . that you might want to comment . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: . . . in your press conference.

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: But we're studying it. I mean that's the lead . . .

JFK: That'll be our line that we're analyzing it.

Rusk: Because it's pretty, pretty long statement and has a lot of, uh, subtleties in it that we've got to think about.

JFK: *[Laughs.]* I should say it has, right. Okay.

Rusk: All right. Fine.

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<sup>4</sup> Charles de Gaulle, president of France.