

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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 21A

Conversation #4: President Kennedy and Dave Bell

June 4, 1963

President: Hello. Hello.

Mr. Bell: Mr. President.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: I just had a call from Bill Gould in Paris . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: . . . reporting on this Indian consortium.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: Other countries are doing not much better than we anticipated. The British did come through . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: . . . with the same amount as last year.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: Response to your cable, obviously.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: The other countries are likely to pledge about 310.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: The bank has about 200 to 220 . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: . . . in its pocket.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: The question is, what should we do? If we match the 310 pure and simple, this would bring the total to around 820 . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: . . . which is close to the 400 million shy of where it should be.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: Furthermore, that restricts . . . that keeps us to this rigid exact matching. Now, I have had a long talk with George Wood, and he has persuaded me, as others of my staff have, that we should get away from the exact rigid matching pattern, because it puts us too much in the hands of other people.

President: Well, I accept it's one of the ways we get them to do a little more. Otherwise, they think the United States is always going to take up the slack.

Mr. Bell: Well, that's . . . we do not want to do that. And, therefore, the proposition we have is the following. We would say tomorrow the pledges by these other countries are disappointing and they don't recognize India's needs. There are some other funds available to India outside the consortium, and in view of this and in view of the urgency of the Indian requirement, the United States is prepared now to pledge a minimum of (and here we would propose) 375 million.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: We recognize this does not make a total that meets India's needs and we suggest that those countries which pledged less than last year, which is the Germans, the Italians, the French and ourselves, (under this proposal) would meet again under the auspices of the bank in thirty to sixty days.

President: Yeah.

Mr. Bell: We would be prepared to do more as a part of a joint effort, to enlarge the total.

President: Ok, very good, fine, Dave, bye.

Mr. Bell: Thank you, sir.