

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 11A, Item 11A1

March 6, 1963

Operator: I'm sorry to keep you waiting, uh . . .

Ball:¹ That's quite all . . .

Operator: . . . Mr. Ball.

Ball: Yes.

Operator: He'll be right with you.

Ball: All right. Thank you.

Speaker ?: [Words unintelligible]

JFK: Hello.

Ball: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: George, how are you? Did you ever. . . . We've got some information, you know, that Joxe's² visit has been canceled to the United States by de Gaulle.³ That he didn't want him coming around here. That French minister would be misunderstood. That lends a special interest again to Adlai's⁴ trip. Have we ever found out what the genesis of that was?

Ball: Yes, I, I spoke to him yesterday. He's coming down tomorrow, uh, to be here Friday.

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: What he said was this. That he's going over to a, NATO War College has a, a session . . .

JFK: Yeah.

¹ George Ball.

² Louis Joxe.

³ Charles de Gaulle.

⁴ Adlai E. Stevenson.

Ball: . . . and he's, had been asked to go over and, and give a speech. And, uh, he had simply mentioned to, uh, the, uh, French delegate at the U.N. in New York that he was going to do this and this fellow had said, "Well, I hope you'll go see Couve⁵ while you are there," and, uh, uh, Stevenson said, "Well, I don't have any particular business to do." And he said, "Well, I think he'd like to see you." And so, uh, uh, this fellow went back to Paris and apparently he arranged a meeting with Couve. But I don't get, didn't get the sense from Adlai that there had been anything firm arranged with the general.

JFK: Oh, I see, okay, fine.

Ball: That this fellow had simply said that, uh . . .

JFK: Well, as long as we keep on that basis, that's fine.

Ball: Yeah.

JFK: Just . . .

Ball: He's going to be down on Friday and I think he could . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Ball: . . . we could either have him . . .

JFK: When does he go? When does he go?

Ball: Oh, at the end of the month, at, uh . . .

JFK: Right. Okay.

Ball: . . . a couple weeks to go anyway.

JFK: Good, okay, thanks, George.

Ball: Right. Thank. . . . Thank. . . .

⁵ Maurice Couve de Murville.