

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 4H

[October 1, 1962]

Voice 1: [Word unintelligible.]

JFK: Hello.

Vance¹: Yes, Mr. President.

JFK: Oh, yeah, I understood they're having, uh, some rioting downtown and so on, it's throwing rocks and so on at the troops. Now how are we doing on our schedule?

Vance: Our schedule is still proceeding as I gave it to you, [Phone seems to hang up.] sir.

JFK: Yeah, well, you don't know. . . . Has anybody arrived this morning?

Vance: [Speaking off the phone to someone in the room.] Uh, has anybody arrived this morning from those seventeen hundred? [Speaking to JFK.] Not yet, uh, due in earliest at, what, [Speaking off the phone to someone in the room.] uh, uh, ten o'clock their time is it? Let's see, what's their time?

JFK: Midnight. That'd be mid-day.

Vance: Eleven twenty.

JFK: Eleven twenty their time?

Vance: Yep.

JFK: That's one twenty our time, isn't it?

Vance: Yes.

JFK: Now that's what, seventeen hundred more?

Vance: Yeah. That, uh, let's see, that first increment is nine hundred. Yeah.

¹ Cyrus Vance

JFK: And they're due in at one twenty? What group is that?

Vance: One twenty. Yeah, one twenty our time.

JFK: What group is . . .

Vance: That is the Eighty-second . . .

JFK: Right.

Vance: . . . Airborne . . .

JFK: I see. Okay.

Vance: . . . Airborne Command.

JFK: Fine. All right. Are you going to come over to this ceremony² ge- . . .

Vance: No, I thought I'd better stay here, sir.

JFK: I see. Well, now I talked to Secretary McNamara, he said something about you might have, be able to have twenty thousand troops by midnight. Is . . .

Vance: That's right. We are, we've taking steps to get them in. Uh, the orders have been given. The only limiting factor may be the weather, which is closing in. But we're developing alternates so that, uh, we can get 'em in some way or other.

JFK: I see. You mean you might send 'em to, uh, Memphis and then, what . . .

Vance: If we can't get into Memphis, we'll try Columbus. Now this may add a little bit of time in getting them back, so we may not be able to finally make it by twelve o'clock, but we'll do everything we can to get 'em as soon as possible.

JFK: I see. Okay. Fine. [Th-?]. . .

Vance: Uh, just a second, Bob is here.

² The Distinguished Service Medal was presented to General Lyman L. Lemnitzer in the White House Rose Garden on October 1, 1962. Roswell L. Gilpatric read the citation.

McNamara³: Hello, Bobby.

JFK: Yes. Oh, this is. . . . No, this is the president.

McNamara: [Words unintelligible], oh, Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

McNamara: Uh, I think that with the priority the Air Force is giving this and we're diverting all our MATS aircraft and our troop carrier aircraft, we can get them there by midnight.

JFK: Right. I see. You coming over for this . . .

McNamara: No, .sir. I, I just gave my, my citation to Ros . . .

JFK: I see.

McNamara: . . . and he will read it. I thought I'd stay here . . .

JFK: Okay.

McNamara; . . . and follow this.

JFK: Righto. Fine. Thank you.

McNamara: Thank you.

[Phone hangs up. Pause. Phone rings faintly. Remainder of tape is office noise.]

³ Robert S. McNamara