

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.

Copyright:

The donors assigned copyright that they might have in the recordings to the United States; however, copyright of the donors does not extend beyond statements uttered by John F. Kennedy, his minor children, and the donors themselves. Statements uttered by officials of the United States government in the course of their duties are considered to be in the public domain. Users of this material are cautioned, however, that not all persons recorded were members of the Kennedy family or government officials. A number of the people recorded were, at the time of recording, private citizens. Therefore, those intending to quote from this material beyond the accepted limits of fair use are cautioned to determine the copyright implications of any intended publication.

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 8B, Item 8B3

March 2, 1963. 11:25 AM

JFK: Hello.

McNamara¹: Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah.

McNamara: On the two points that you raised this morning . . . I talked to General Carroll of DIA, who says we have no new equipment on our electronic intelligence aircraft. It is simply the typical electronic intelligence equipment which is sensitive to electronic emanations, and perhaps, uh, could pick up generators associated with SAM sites, for example.

JFK: Yeah.

McNamara: In any case, it is a violation of security. So I called General LeMay who is . . . is a close friend of Goldwater's, and . . . and, uh, asked him to get in touch with Goldwater and handle it directly and we are also going to try to get a . . . a senator on . . . on the Armed Services Committee to say in the Senate this is a violation of security.

JFK: Very good.

McNamara: We'll handle it that way. Secondly, on the Ward article . . . We will brief Ward as well as other newspaper correspondents on a background basis as to the difference between maintaining surveillance over a . . . a fleet, including the carriers and other escort ships on the one hand, following a known and prescribed course between the U.S. and Gibraltar versus maintaining surveillance over merchant ships, uh, using the coastal waters, channels, bays, harbors, etc., of Western Europe. I think we can stop the story that way.

JFK: The, uh, . . . we, uh, . . . I noticed, uh, I read the Manchester Guardian. They had another . . . they had a story about this, probably, . . . the fact the United States itself does not use surface vessels for Polaris indicates that they're not as good. Of course, uh, . . .

McNamara: Well, now, they . . . We've got a real problem with Great Britain. We have to let them use some of that because of their decision . . .

¹ Robert S. McNamara

JFK: Yeah.

McNamara: . . . to use Polaris submarines.

JFK: I see.

McNamara: As far as Western Europe is concerned, we have a good strong argument as to why they should use surface ships, and we use submarines.

JFK: 'course, if we were arguing submarines, they would be around saying that they have to buy 'em from the United States . . .

McNamara: That's it exactly.

JFK: . . . and they got too much control for the United States . . .

McNamara: And . . . and the two strong arguments, therefore, in favor of surface ships for Western Europe are, one: they can build them and, two: their waters are entirely different than the waters we have to operate our subs in around the world.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

McNamara: And these two arguments . . . I . . . I've used them on Von Hassel, and . . . and, uh, Admiral Lee is with Livy Merchant and using them in the North Atlantic Council. We talked to Lee by telephone yesterday, and he says that . . . that they are acceptable.

JFK: Right. Right. Good. OK. Fine. Thank you.

/phone hangs up/