

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 14A

Conversation #3: President Kennedy and Edwin Martin

March 9, 1963

President: Hello.

Mr. Martin: Ed Martin here

President: Oh, Ed, on the Latin American, those six Presidents gonna issue some statement on Cuba before we get there?

Mr. Martin: Not to my knowledge.

President: Well, there was some talk about that on the idea that they would say something so that it wouldn't look like we had dragged them into it. On the other hand, given the disposition of one or two of them, we don't want them to look like they are sort of challenging me to come up with something. We didn't want that interpretation to be given to it.

Mr. Martin: We'll double check it. I think . . . I haven't heard anything. Mr. Collins is just back this morning from down there and did not mention this, but I will double check it.

President: Wait a second, Pierre is here. Well, now Henry . . . told it to Pierre. I know that they are getting there the day before. Now, there was some talk with the foreign minister of Costa Rica. So at that time we didn't want to make it look like we had pushed them into it. But now that I think about it, it may look a little like they are son of challenging.

Mr. Martin: Yeah, no, we are planning to have a meeting with them on Sunday with respect to the communique, but I know of nothing they are planning to put out, but we will double check it. I do think it would look like they are challenging us.

President: Okay, well, now, are we, uh, when will we meet again on Costa Rica?

Mr. Martin: We are meeting with the Secretary tomorrow with a talking paper for you. It is just what you say at the meeting, and we ought to meet again, say Wednesday or Thursday.

President: Okay, can you check this matter, then, and see if there is anything to that?

Mr. Martin: I will let you know.

President: Okay, thanks.