

## FOREWORD

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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 17A**

Conversation #2: President Kennedy and David Ormsbv-Gore

April 2, 1963

President: Hello.

Amb. Gore: Hello.

President: David?

Amb. Gore: Yea, I just thought I would have a word with you before you see Wilson.

President: Sure, right.

Amb. Gore: One of the impressions he has got talking to Senators and indeed some people in the Administration is that there's no enthusiasm for the Multilateral Force.

President: Yeah.

Amb. Gore: I don't know whether you want to correct that impression or leave him with it. But I thought you ought to know.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Amb. Gore: The other thing is that the impression that he strongly got in talking to Senators is that any questions of doing away, United States veto of use of weapons in Multilateral Force is really not a political possibility.

President: Yea, I think that is correct. I don't think that we ought to use the word "veto," but there should be unity on the firing. Or at least, the firing ought to include the United States, the decision to fire.

Amb. Gore: That absolutely suits us, but you know the Germans look as though they may insist that some sharing, uh . . .

President: Well, then, I think we just have to, uh, it is just not a start. I mean, you can't have some Europeans who have got about three weapons deciding we are going to fire everybody's. And I would think that they wouldn't want to be firing any weapons if the United States isn't going to fire its. But anyway, we couldn't possibly go for that, and we are making it very clear, and I'll say that. I think that a . . . we ought to give the MLF a little help until, so if we ever get the Germans in on it on the basis we are now talking about, surface ships and with American acquiescence, and if they think that . . . seems to me that's got some merit.

Amb. Gore: Correct, but chiefly political merit.

President: That is correct, but I think that they see it as that. But I think it really sticks it to the General [de Gaulle]. If it fails, it is just going to play into the General's hands. So, I am going to give him my little ginger. I thought he had a good speech yesterday, because I thought it was . . . as a political speech it was good because it didn't have too much hot air in it. It had a lot of hot air in it, but it didn't look like hot air [laughs].

Amb. Gore: No, I quite agree, I thought it was very sensible.

President: How is he with you?

Amb. Gore: Oh, well, fine. Everything's going alright.

President: Is he enjoying his visit?

Amb. Gore: I think so. He looks . . . [inaudible]

President: The liquidity was, uh . . . [laughs] he and Macmillan are just about as close, uh, actually, he and Macmillan are, uh . . .

Amb. Gore: They're extraordinary close together on most things.

President: Aren't they. Who is like [Hugh] Gaitskell just personal. It is like all these, uh, sort of like Nelson Rockefeller, isn't it.

Amb. Gore: On nuclear test ban, I think the Prime Minister will be coming back with another message in the next twenty four hours or so.

President: Right, ok.

Amb. Gore: He sent me a draft and I have made some comments on it. So what he would hope is to get some agreement by the end of this week on what a joint message to K [Khrushchev] would look like.

President: Right, right.

Amb. Gore: And then how we would play the hand with that will take a little bit time more.

President: Right, right. I saw a British plane was fired on in the corridor or right out of the corridor, a Cessna.

Amb. Gore: Oh, really . . . I haven't seen . . .

President: In the a . . . Berlin, but I guess it had moved out of the corridor a bit.

Amb. Gore: Probably doing something silly.

President: I was Smathers this morning. He was with his wife and son. I said, well, it just shows how lucky some guys are. [laughs] OK. What other impressions has he got, anything else that he ought to be, uh, about Nassau. He hasn't got any impression that we are not for Nassau, has he?

Amb. Gore: No, uh, . . . But of course I mean you saw from his speech his view is that we don't need the weapons and he would do his best that some arrangement was made so that whatever the Polaris submarines being built are handed over for some other use. Whether he will think like that when he sees all the facts and figures remains to be seen, uh.

President: Well, he may decide politically he doesn't want to quite go that hard in my judgment before he's finished.

Amb. Gore: I think that's very likely.

President: The national deterrent, uh, he may find himself in trouble on that one.

Amb. Gore: On other things, I mean, you will find he agrees on most of these things: trade and Kennedy Round and all that. Of course, I think that he is very optimistic about what might come out of the Kennedy Round. I mean, our report from Paris is pretty gloomy.

President: I know. Well, de Gaulle is just . . .

Amb. Gore: Yea, he can easily wreck that round if he wants to.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Amb. Gore: And then by mid-summer next year, I don't know what we will look like as forward policy. I mean, you can't . . . in trade barriers. The agriculture service is all building up and everyone getting very angry with, with each other. You might see quite a mess. He . . . he . . . Harold Wilson happily goes on and thinks that there will be a great conference and which all these trade barriers will come down. You will allow in lots of raw materials and temporary foodstuffs from the Commonwealth and the undeveloped countries. It is a nice picture but I can't see it happening with the Six.

President: Ok, good, fine.