

## 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 19A**

### Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Dean Rusk

May 16, 1963, 10:00 a.m.

Sec. Rusk: Mr. President.

President: Yes, yes.

Sec. Rusk: I hope that you are fully satisfied about Bill Crockett's nomination. If we took a plebiscite of the top people here in the Department and in Congress, I think that you'd find that he would be the choice by acclamation. He has had a . . . he's had had great confidence among people in his daily operations. He has been loyal to the Administration, to me, to you. He, um . . . uh . . . is a very quiet worker, but he's been very effective. And I just a . . .

President: That's fine. I don't know him. The only thing is that I thought, uh, I didn't want to have him exactly picked by /Congressman John/ Rooney . . .

Sec. Rusk: No . . . that's a . . .

President: . . . and . . . because I just figure those fellows really get along well on the Hill and it's always because they do what the Hill wants.

Sec. Rusk: You see, we, uh . . . we, uh . . . we almost nominated him before at the time that Jones left. But then the name of Bill Orrick come up and Bill . . . Bill Orrick has been so allergic to Capitol Hill that he never really had any effective relations down there. And didn't really go to see them very often. Didn't work at it.

President: One of the things that Orrick said and I don't know, he came over to see me the other day, and I guess that you've talked to him on this. The problem, of a . . . at least as he saw it, of who he goes through. Evidently, he goes through Ball, does he? It seemed to me that a . . . George has got a . . . really is your

deputy and ought to be doing all these policy matters and not screwing around with administration.

Sec. Rusk: Well, they . . . it depends on the subject. I a . . . had a . . . I saw Orrick myself, I suppose averaged once every two weeks. We tried to set up a weekly appointment. But if Ball doesn't see him, then I have to, and the question is which one of us does. What I wanted to do was to have that man take that ball and run with it and act just independently as possible and get on with the job.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Sec. Rusk: But, uh . . . and this is the kind of thing I think that Crockett will know how to do. I have known him for many years myself, here and in the service, and I am sure that he will work out very well, indeed.

President: Good, fine. I just thought that I'd meet him because I don't think that I have ever met him.

Sec. Rusk: Right.

President: What else is new on the horizon?

Sec. Rusk: Well . . . the a . . .

President: What about Haiti?

Sec. Rusk: I think that we got to review the bidding from the ground up on that now, and see where just we go on that. If it is possible for us to trade a fresh start on our side with a fresh start on [Francois] Duvalier's side, maybe we have to work at it from that direction at the moment. But most of our fellows here think that Duvalier is absolutely irretrievable, but yet there is no clear answer now as to what that means and what you do about it. So I will be talking with the fellows later this morning.

President: Seems to me we ought to be able to build up some sort of a force that we could use as the excuse. In other words, the Bay of . . . the Cuban thing, but do it with a little more judgment. But it seems to me we ought to have that force being developed, anyway.

Sec. Rusk: Yes, I think that we ought to look at the big alternatives here, and . . . and . . .

President: The other thing is really whether Thurston . . . if he's gonna stay on . . . there's no sense, really, having an ambassador . . . I am sure that is isn't Thurston's fault he's persona non . . .

Sec. Rusk: Well, if we could trade that for some changes in Duvalier's government.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Sec. Rusk: After all, if he is asking us to change some top people, we might get across to him that if he gets rid of a couple of these bad eggs right next to him . . .

President: Yeah, yeah.

Sec. Rusk: . . . that we could pass both of them and start off on a fresh start.

President: Yeah.

Sec. Rusk: Try it out.

President: Alright.

Sec. Rusk: The Vice President wants very much to go to Scandinavia in the Fall. Now, we have an Americas Day celebration in Finland on September 6 and 7, where it would be entirely appropriate for him to be there. And then come back through Norway, and Denmark. Do you see any objection of that?

President: No, somebody told me that a . . . I don't know who I was talking to about Finland, said something about . . . that Bobby was supposed to go there.

Sec. Rusk: Yes, well, I talked to Bobby about it, and he had talked to the Vice President about it and that part of it is all cleared away.

President: Oh, I see, so there is no, uh, well a . . . that seems . . . a, that is fine.

Sec. Rusk: Thank you, sir.