

## FOREWORD

### **Transcript Warning:**

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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 15B**

President Kennedy and Arthur M. Schlesinger

March 22, 1963

President: Hello Arthur

Schlesinger: Mr. President

President: Hi. I read this letter of Sam Beer's.

Schlesinger: Yeah.

President: I think that's fine. Now the only uh . . . I think in fact we could tell him if he would go to work on his Spanish that we could get him a uh . . . assure him of a country in Latin America or Central America.

Schlesinger: Oh really.

President: So that I . . . we'll just work it out so that he gets uh . . . he goes some place.

Schlesinger: Okay.

President: And then he could go along and he could study Spanish then between now and December. The only caveat I have is that will mean he'll be gone from December 'til the next November during the election. I don't know if we need him for a . . . I don't suppose it is that important for the A.D.A. [Americans for Democratic Action]

Schlesinger: I think if we don't carry Massachusetts . . .

President: Well I wasn't thinking of Massachusetts so much as the A.D.A.

Schlesinger: Well he could come back you know quiet and do backstairs stuff.

President: Which is really all that is needed. Just to keep them from going off the deep end. Well why don't you tell him that I think it is very good. I would be glad to have him go there and I will work out our arrangements so that we send him some place in Central or Latin America. And if he would just go ahead and study Spanish on that expectation.

Schlesinger: Okay. Fine.

President: Good.

Schlesinger: He will be very pleased.

President: We had a good conference in San Jose.

Schlesinger: Sounds great.

President: It was really good. You would have loved it.

Schlesinger: Dick [Richard Goodwin] gave me a full great report of it.

President: You would have loved it. Who did you see over in England?

Schlesinger: I saw everybody.

President: You didn't see Boofy Gore did you? [laughing]

Schlesinger: That was a great \_\_\_\_\_. Did you see that interview in the Sunday Express?

President: No.

Schlesinger: Hell, I should have brought it back. The Sunday Express got him on a Trans-Atlantic steamer. He was very irritated at David [Ormsby-Gore].

President: And then he apologized?

Schlesinger: He said that my nephew or cousin or whatever he is has been apologizing behind my back.

President: Oh did he. He's really . . . What about the uh . . . the uh . . . looks like the conservatives are in real trouble doesn't it, that by-election.

Schlesinger: They are in very bad shape and the whole party is falling apart. And the . . . it is the most accident-prone party that I have ever seen. They have the Profumo [John], you know the Profumo scandal.

President: Yeah, no what is the scandal?

Schlesinger: Well he has written a number of letters to a girl who turns out to have been the mistress of a Soviet military attache.

President: Is that the girl that was written about in this morning's paper?

Schlesinger: Apparently that is the girl that is missing. And she has been spirited out of the country.

President: Is he a Minister?

Schlesinger: He is the Minister of War.

President: So actually there is truth to that story. That Labor fellow brought it up. You saw it was in the paper this morning.

Schlesinger: Yeah. Yeah.

President: And he has written letters to her. Are the . . .

Schlesinger: The letters are in the possession of the Sunday Pictorial . . . .

President: Yeah.

Schlesinger: which is brooding over whether to uh . . .

President: run them or not.

Schlesinger: run them or not.

President: And what is . . . is she a spy?

Schlesinger: Well no one knows that. She is a girl whom he met at Bill Astors . . .

President: Oh, was she?

Schlesinger: --the weekend at Bill Astors. And she's just a sort of fashionable London call girl but who was mistress of the Soviet military attache. There's no . . . espionage hasn't been suggested. It's just typical of what happens to this government.

President: Yeah. Yeah. I know with \_\_\_\_ and all the rest. Did you have any other--any pleasure over there? You didn't see Lee and Stash [Radziwill] did you?

Schlesinger: I did not.

President: You saw the Bruces? [Ambassador David Bruce]

Schlesinger: I stayed with the Bruces in London Monday.

President: Was the conference any good?

Schlesinger: The conference was pretty good. I will give you a memorandum this weekend on the British political situation. I had a long talk with Wilson [Harold] and a number of people.

President: We are going to see him I guess aren't we in a week.

Schlesinger: Yes, a week from Tuesday.

President: Okay. Fine. Well now if you want me to write a letter to Beer or anything you can draft one.

Schlesinger: Okay. Fine.

President: Okay.