

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.

Dictabelt 4F, Item 4F7

[October 1, 1962?]

Abrams¹: Mr. Geoghegan reports to me that there are [more?] than enough trucks at the strip, with a hundred and eighty men in the helicopters.

RFK: You got a hundred and eighty men? Where, where are the rest of them?

Abrams: Moving on the road.

RFK: The, when will they be there?

Abrams: Uh, 'bout two hours and three quarters. That would be, uh, quarter of three in the morning our time.

RFK: Quarter of five our time? How, how, how many, how many of them are there?

Speaker?: [Off the phone in the room.] Quarter of five.

RFK: How many of them are there?

Abrams: Uh, h-, the, uh, five hundred.

RFK: And when do the rest of . . .

Abrams: Behind that, behind that's another battalion, with a, marching right behind them, of six hundred and eighty.

RFK: They're MPs?

Abrams: MPs.

RFK: What was the delay in getting them out of Memphis?

Abrams: They, uh, thi-, uh, I don't know the details of it, uh, Mr. Kennedy. They, uh, this is the best response they could make, apparently, under the circumstances.

RFK: Well, who's in charge of that?

¹ Creighton Abrams

Abrams: Each, uh, each of those battalions have a, has a battalion commander, and, uh, the, uh, the, uh, both battalions are under the command of General Billingslea. Uh, they had a meeting over here this afternoon, which I did not attend. But they had a meeting in which they discussed all these plans.

[Unintelligible conversation in the background in the room.]

RFK: Well, didn't they say that they could get off with, and down there within an hour?

Abrams: Yes, they, uh, they, uh, expected a much more rapid response than has occurred. I know General Billingslea did.

RFK: What happened then?

Abrams: I don't know.

RFK: Is somebody gonna find out?

Abrams: Yes, sir.

RFK: *[Lets his breath out.]* What about the battle group?

Abrams: Uh, we have gotten ahold of the battle group and, uh, have diverted them. We got ahold of them at *[Selmer?]* . . .

RFK: When will they be down there?

Abrams: . . . Tennessee. I don't have a new, uh, estimate on that, sir. We've, uh, it's only been within the last fifteen or twenty minutes that we got ahold of 'em, and it hasn't been recast. But, uh, I can get it very shortly.

RFK: Yeah. Will you call me back at the White House?

Speaker ?: *[Words unintelligibly]*

[Continued on Belt 4G.]