

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 9B, Item 9B3

March 4, 1963

JFK: . . . [word missing] are you familiar with that?

Sylvester¹: Yeah, I have a, have it right in front of me.

JFK: Okay. What did Gerrity [Thomas P. Gerrity?]. . . . What did Gerrity go on to say about that? Did he. . . . He quoted Gerrity. Is that an accurate quote? "We actually went into high gear to support the Cuban plan the tenth of October. Nine days later all essential support for the first seven days of operation were in place in Florida."

Sylvester: Apparently he had something like. . . . Here's the answer we are, uh, I was just about to take down to the newsroom that we've worked up here.

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: "The Air Force movement of supplies to support the Cuban contingency plans was not based on any advance information about Soviet missiles in Cuba and Representative Arends" [Leslie C. Arends] "knows it. General Gerrity's own testimony made it clear that these supply movements were the results of a continuous review of our Cuban contingency plans. As General LeMay" [Curtis E. LeMay] "pointed out to Mr. Arends following his questions about General Gerrity's testimony, 'We had no more intelligence than anyone else or no more idea than anyone else that the Cuban operation was coming off. The reinforcement of our air defenses in the southeast U.S. had, in fact, been going on for several weeks prior to October 10th.'"

JFK: Yeah, that was just that one, uh, squadron, wasn't it?

Sylvester: You remember Ros Gilpatric [Roswell L. Gilpatric], uh, we sent a Navy squadron down, uh, to Key West?

JFK: Is that what he is referring to?

Sylvester: Well, he's not, but that's what we're referring to in that last sentence. In other words . . .

¹Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense (public Affairs).

JFK: I think you ought to lead with LeMay. Just say that, uh, Congressman Arends, uh, knows that the statement he made at St. Petersburg is untrue and, uh, that General LeMay, uh, stated, uh, subsequent to Lt. General Gerrity at a meeting at which Congressman Arends was present that, uh, the, uh . . .

Sylvester: We had no more . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: . . . intelligence than . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: . . . anyone else or no more idea than anyone else.

JFK: Yeah, put that right at the top and then say, there was, some supplies to which Lt. General Gerrity were moved, uh, were because of a, put into Cuba, uh, into southern Florida because of the military build-up in, in, uh, Cuba and were unrelated, and were not the result of any knowledge about missiles.

Sylvester: Now let me start with, The time that, uh, we . . .

JFK: Yeah. Okay.

Sylvester: . . . the chief explanation that we made were the reinforcement of our air defenses . . .

JFK: That's correct.

Sylvester: . . . in the southeast United States. That what we . . .

JFK: That's right. But, which Congressman Arends. . . . All this Congressman Arends knew very well and it's regrettable, uh, that he did not, uh, explain it, uh, in Florida, that he chose to give a different explanation in Florida.

Sylvester: All right. I'll just draw up. . . . I'll redo. . . .

JFK: Yeah. Better do that quickly though.

Sylvester: Adam, Adam Yarmolinsky did this one in the short [word missing/].

JFK: Yeah. I think LeMay is the place to lead with though.

Sylvester: But, I'll change this around. I think you're right.

JFK: Yeah. Okay.

Sylvester: *[Words missing]*, Mr. President.

[Telephone disconnects.]