

## INTERVIEW I

DATE: June 21, 1985

INTERVIEWEE: WILLIAM F. JACKSON (with comments by Mrs. Lucy Ginter Jackson)

INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette

PLACE: Colonel Jackson's residence, St. Clair, Missouri

### Tape 1 of 2, Side 1

G: Okay, let's start with that.

J: I was in command of Fort Slocum, New York, at the time I was first approached by a member of Mr. Deegan's staff in New York City, Tom [Thomas] Deegan, and asked if I could come down to talk about an interview with Mr. Johnson, perhaps, after I had a chance to talk to him. I went to see him and of course was very much impressed by his offices in the business district of New York City, and there had quite a chat with him. He told me he had been to see other officers in Germany and Europe and had interviewed other people in other parts of the country, too. I don't recall how many. That there was nothing to be presumed from this, that I would hear from him again sometime.

In the meantime I had a call from Washington saying did I know that I was being considered as the military aide to the Vice President. Until I had seen Mr. Deegan, I hadn't known about it. Well, I went down again several weeks later for another interview with Mr. Deegan. Following that I was to make a talk before a civic club in New Rochelle, New York, one day, and I was called by the assistant secretary to the general staff who said, "Can you be down here [in Washington] at nine-thirty in the morning?" I said, "No, I'm making a talk at noontime." "Well, get down here anyway, Bill." He's a good friend of

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mine, of course. So I didn't know what was up, but I went down. When I arrived at his office he told me I was supposed to have an interview that afternoon at three-thirty with the Vice President.

So I went in and talked to Mr. Johnson at three-thirty. When I went in the outer office, why, it was quite impressive to me to come up to the Capitol from a little military garrison outside New York City. Although we were in the metropolitan area, why, it was still a small military garrison. I waited a few minutes and was ultimately ushered in and saw Mary Margaret Wiley [Valenti] and then talked with him. I was, of course, impressed by his size. He was soft-spoken, friendly, and sat at his desk. He ultimately put his feet up on his desk and chatted for a while. The phone rang. He said, "Yes, Drew"--it was Drew Pearson calling him on the phone. And he put his feet down and looked at me for a minute. I nodded my head as if to excuse myself and he waved me back to my chair where I was sitting by his desk. After he hung up, why--he had no thought of withholding any thing in his conversation nor having me take off, no.

At the conclusion of our conversation he said, "Well, how long would it take you to get here?" I said, "Well, Mr. Vice President, if you want me I'll be here tomorrow." He said, "Oh, to get your family down and take care of your affairs." I said, "Certainly two weeks." He said, "Let's wait until we have an opportunity to see more about this. I'd like to have you meet some members of the staff." I believe it was that day, not a later date, that he took me in to meet Howard--called Howard Burriss and George Reedy in, and I had a chance to meet and talk with them for a while. I liked both of them. I liked both of them. Of course, George I consider a very fine bird.

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G: Did the Vice President describe the nature of the job to you?

J: Not in great detail. Just to come down and serve with him as an aide. He seemed to feel that, by mentioning that, I would know generally what an aide did, which I do, and that there wouldn't be anything unusual about it except, and he emphasized this and I thought this was not only very kind but I thought it was very thoughtful, that he mentioned the fact that he did not expect me to have any part in politics. As far as politics was concerned, I was to have nothing to do with it, knowing my position in the army. And he feels like many of us in the army do, that an army officer should not have politics, and I agree with that. So that was easy. He never mentioned politics to me, asked me anything about a political preference or persuasion, which I thought was very broad-minded of him.

Well, after talking with George and Howard, as I recall I left and went back to my post at Fort Slocum. I didn't hear anything for about a couple of weeks until I had a call one day, and I believe again the assistant secretary of the general staff called me and asked if I could make arrangements to come down, that they had cut orders on me to come to Washington to serve with the Vice President. So I did.

I think I'm digressing slightly, because I recall I believe I came back the next day for some reason or other. Now, I don't know why; I can't quite get it in my mind why I came back the next day. But Mr. Johnson had, as you know, an outer office in the Capitol and his large inner office, which was a very beautiful office. When I came in the first day, one of the young ladies--gosh, I can't recall her name right now, knew her very well--was in the outer office. The next day I came in and I walked up to whom I presumed was the same attractive young lady, and I introduced myself, said, "I'm Colonel Jackson in to see the Vice

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President." "Oh, yes," she said, "Yes." And it was Mrs. Johnson. I said, "Oh, I'm sorry, I misstook you for"--Darling?

LJ: Yes.

J: What was the name of the young lady in the office who lived up on VanNess Street?

LJ: Ashton?

J: Ashton Gonella. Yes. I couldn't think of her name to save my neck.

LJ: You see, that's why it's so helpful to have two people who think alike.

J: Well, anyway, I had seen Ashton. And the following day I went by--that's what it was; it was a two-day interview and the second day is the day that I saw George and Howard. Anyway, the second day she said, "Oh, I'm just flattered that you'd think of me being Ashton Gonella because she's so attractive." Well, I waited outside. She said, "Mr. Johnson is busy now but could you wait just a few minutes?" Well, certainly. So I sat down. It happened that while I was in the office sitting outside, one phone started ringing. Mrs. Johnson picked it up to answer it. Another phone started ringing, one of the other girls in the office answered it. The third phone started ringing, and someone else answered that. And the phone was ringing again, so I saw a phone by me and looked over to Mrs. Johnson, I picked it up and answered it, "Vice President's office." We got sort of a kick out of that, because here I'm not even on the staff yet, answering the phones.

Well, anyway, I then went in for another interview with Mr. Johnson after that. That was the second day I saw him. Yes. But I found him to be very easy to get along with at that time. I will say, despite what a number of people think, I always felt that he was not too difficult to get along with. I've worked for more difficult people.

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G: Really? At what point did you actually know that you were going to have the job? When your orders were cut, or did--?

J: I always waited until I saw my orders before . . .

G: But did LBJ tell you in any of those meetings that you would be hired or that he had selected you?

J: He did not say so, no. He did not. He did not tell me that. He just told me there was a possibility he might ask me to come down and work for him. I had been told informally since that there were a number of officers who were considered for the job and inasmuch as I had had a [inaudible].

Anyway, there I was. And when I reported in to him, why, it was just before this trip to Southeast Asia, not long before. I think he was a little upset at that time. Not upset. It was the first trip of any stature I think that he had been on since he became vice president. He had been on numerous trips as a senator, of course, or as majority leader.

But anyway, one day he got Howard and Dickie [H. V.] Bird, the naval aide, and me in his limousine, and as we were cruising along he turned to me, he said, "Colonel, I want you to take charge of this whole trip," looking at Howard and looking at Dickie Bird, who had been here long before and were senior to me as far as the rating on the staff was concerned. They had had experience, they had been there. They sort of looked and I did, too. "Yes, sir." Actually, of course, I was not in charge of the trip. As usual I think the man who chaperoned the whole thing was Walter Jenkins. Surely Walter was behind most everything like that that happened in the office. That was my introduction.

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G: Let me ask you one other question about that aspect. Was there anything in your own experience or background that you think led to your selection?

J: The fact that I was from Texas, I think that had something to do with it. I'm just guessing. I've never known. It's probably when he said he'd like to have a military aide. Dick Bird was not from Texas, but he had known him in the Pacific. Howard Burris was from Texas. He was married to the daughter of a former governor of Texas.

G: Beauford Jester's daughter.

J: Yes. Of Texas. I was from Texas, listed that way in the directory, and I think he just churned out a number of names of colonels from Texas and there was the list. Come over, boys, and see what's there.

I will say that later I saw Tom Deegan in the Capitol a couple of times, and I thought he was a very fine type man to be in the business he was in and things like that. So I was happy to renew my acquaintanceship with him. But after I had done it once I was cautioned by Walter; he said not to seem to be too intimate with Tom Deegan. Why, I don't know. I didn't question Walter. Next time I saw Mr. Deegan, why, I said hello and we chatted for a couple of minutes and that was that. I didn't press any further conversation. I always felt on the staff there was a reason for doing something, some reason behind what was going on that I may or may not have known anything about. I'd like to have been able to renew my acquaintanceship with Tom Deegan and get to know him better, but I never did because I was cautioned about it.

G: Did you ever find out why the reluctance?

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J: Never did. I just don't know. I can imagine any number of things. But I found on the staff it was better--as you know, Mr. Johnson liked to work as a single entity, in my opinion. He wanted to be the end--he had his reasons. He never explained them to me and I never did ask him. It was none of my business. But he wanted to keep things quiet. He wanted to be able to operate and get things done in his own fashion. Some people would call it excessive secrecy. I don't know. I don't consider it that now, I might have at the time. But I don't think it was excessive secrecy. I think he had his reasons for wanting to accomplish as much as he could as quickly as he could without any encumbrances, without any fringe flak, I'll put it that way.

G: Let's talk about the Asian trip. There's an indication that he was very resistant to the idea of going at first.

J: I understood that. Of course, I only got that from other members of the staff.

G: Why didn't he want to go?

J: In his discussions, few discussions--they were group discussions, two or three of us together with Mr. Johnson at the time--he gave us no indication that he didn't like it particularly. But from other members of the staff I learned that he did not want to go.

G: Why didn't he want to go, do you know?

J: I have an idea--this is my own idea; no one ever expressed it to me that I know of that I can recall--that he felt that he was going out there and had he not performed, had he not achieved the results that might have been expected of him, it would be sort of one strike on him as vice president, I'll put it that way. I'm guessing, that it could have been used as a

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tool to belittle or to denigrate his position or his own effectiveness as an individual. I'm guessing at that.

G: Do you think he was concerned that an ugly incident such as Vice President Nixon had [experienced] on that South American trip might have been duplicated with him?

J: I didn't have any indication of it at that time, nor in the intelligence that we had from the State Department and the Pentagon at that time was there any indication that that could have happened or should have happened. The countries we visited, there was no unrest, tremendous [unrest]. Vietnam, of course, but I don't think it would have happened in Vietnam. Things were well under control; [Ngo Dinh] Diem had things well under control in Saigon while we were there, for instance. That was the only place it might have been a problem as I saw it.

G: Okay. Well, let me ask you to recall as much about that trip as you can. Started out from Travis Air Force Base in California and went from there to Hawaii.

J: Hawaii. We were met by the Governor of Hawaii at that time. I believe that was Governor Burns.

G: John Burns, yes.

J: We stopped at the--oh, the very fine hotel there, I recall. I know the name of it; I can't think of it right now. Anyway, we had a very good afternoon when we arrived. Royally greeted and then went through the town, went up to the Capitol. In the evening there was a tremendous entertainment; all the best entertainers in Hawaii were there for Mr. Johnson, and it was a good show. The following day we flew to the--well, we went up to a cemetery there, too, while we were there, went to a cemetery, but I've forgotten most of that. The



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thing that I was impressed with--this is my first trip with him then--was the number of people who turned out to see him and the friendliness of the crowds and his desire to get out and be with people, shake hands and see them, and how genial he was with the public. He went over well with the crowd.

We then flew on, my recollection is, to the Philippines I believe.

G: He attended some sort of groundbreaking of the East-West Cultural Center there in Hawaii before he left, didn't he? Do you remember that?

J: I don't recall that. A lot of this I haven't gone over. I don't believe that's in my notes. It might be.

G: What about--he went to Guam and then Saigon.

J: That's right, we flew to Guam. Of course, we had two planes; we had the lead plane, which he was in, and the press plane. Some of the members of the staff, we would shift back from one plane to the other at times. The members of the press who were with us seemed to be looking for something. They had to write about something, so they were looking for small, personal bits of information that would, well, be typical of the Vice President, I'll put it that way. I learned first thing on that trip that I was not going to say anything that could be used against him or for him. You can't tell what will come out of a conversation. So I just decided at that time the best thing to do was just keep your mouth shut. I was approached by several. I had never seen many of the members of the press before, and it was the first time they'd seen me. Here's a new boy, so let's try him out and see what will happen. Well, I thought the best thing to do was to keep my mouth shut.

(Interruption)

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J: --personality of the press, for instance. Carroll Kilpatrick of the *Washington Post* was on that trip, as was--oh, who's the CBS girl? She's married to [Dickerson]--her name isn't in here. Nancy Hanschman was her name at that time. She and Carroll Kilpatrick sat together all the trip, and I think the rest of the reporters were sort of looking down their noses at them. Nancy, of course, was one of the favorites, not the favorites, but she was well known to the Johnsons at that time, and they were looking down their nose at Nancy I think quite a bit on the trip, and Carroll as well, for the association with her. She proved to be far more friendly and on much more intimate terms with the Johnsons later, probably as a result of this first trip she had with them at that time, when I don't think she knew them too well. She knew them beforehand, but not too well, in my opinion. They started quite a friendship with her.

Going to Guam, there was some sort of a mix-up. I don't know what it was. I think they had a press pool go on the vice presidential plane, and some of the other members of the press back in the press plane were a little unhappy apparently with who was going or who was representing them, whether they'd get the full story or not, and they were griping about it, as I recall. When we arrived at Guam, why, we had both landed planes there and I think there were some shifts made at the time in the arrangement. I can't recall in great detail what they were though. There was no time, however, on the entire trip when there wasn't some small factor that was introduced into it that could have been a reflection on something that the Vice President was doing. I think that sort of kept him on the alert always, I'll put it that way, when he was on this trip.

G: Would you say that he was tense?

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J: I wouldn't say he was tense, but he was wary, I'll put it that way. He was not going to be caught off guard. That's one of the things I noticed.

G: Now, at Saigon he was met by the [Ngo Dinh] Nhus.

J: Yes, that's right. Immediately, of course, the first thing we called her was the Dragon Lady. That was pretty obvious.

G: Why was it obvious?

J: Well, because she was quite an attractive person. She wasn't large, she had a nice figure, she wore her clothes well and she was an impressive person as far as personalities were concerned. Diem, of course, had the reputation of being the only well-trained civil servant, man who had had experience in the civil service, trained by the French, and was supposed to be very competent as far as government was concerned, and management of government was concerned. Her reputation, of course, was that she was the power behind the throne and didn't mind displaying it, as his brother, too, had the same reputation. However, we found that Diem was--at least when I saw him, several times. At a luncheon one day, the Vice President--whether it was the first day or the second day, I can't recall--was held up by something in his quarters where we were staying. I was in uniform at that time. Mrs. Johnson came up and said, "Colonel, we're late for the luncheon now. Will you accompany me down to the hotel"--the Zacaranda?

G: Or the Caravelle.

J: Caravelle Hotel, that was it--"the Caravelle Hotel. The Vice President will catch up with us later." Because I think she was a little embarrassed by the fact that we were then late and it looked like he'd be held up another fifteen or twenty minutes. So we went down. I was

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slightly embarrassed because I hadn't had an opportunity to change my uniform all day. I generally changed a couple of times a day if I could, because you perspire rather freely in that climate. Well, I could almost see these Vietnamese holding their noses, this smelly colonel who walked in with Mrs. Johnson. They were surprised not to see the Vice President with her, but she carried it off very well and they were pleasant to talk to, of course quite courteous to her and pleased to see her. He came in later and of course received a very cordial welcome.

I was impressed at that time by the fact that sometimes, for some reason, I don't know why, the Vice President was not given to being the most punctual man on earth. In other words, my feeling was at that time that had he exerted himself a little more or been a little more thoughtful about what was happening, he could have been on time to the luncheon. But whether he gave a continental damn or not, I don't know.

G: You don't think it was a scheduling problem, you think he was just adhering to his own--?

J: I think he had something else in mind, and that was that. About that time, before the luncheon, my recollection was that he was holding a press conference I think in his shorts, for good reason. My recollection is that it was a hot day. And he wasn't an imposing figure in his shorts. At the same time, it was a good way to talk to the characters at hand and save a little time by not having to dress for them and then dress for the luncheon and so on and so forth. That's another thing that I always noticed about him; he knew how to use his time. He calculated his time very carefully, at times. Other people's time was not too important to him, on occasion. But he always tried to fill his minutes, fill the day constructively as best he could, use his time. He always seemed to be out of time, working against time on

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many things. So I think the press conference had something to do with that, although it was no trouble at all I know to call off the--nothing came out of the press conference that I recall that seemed to be too pressing, too important.

We then had dinner that evening at the Caravelle Hotel. During the dinner--oh, among other things on my trip at that time, I was supposed to shepherd a Signal Corps photographer, a young fellow that I had picked up in Washington before we left who traveled with us and was to take pictures of the Vice President most everywhere. One of my orders was to keep the photographer right on his tail, which I did.

G: This was Frank Muto, is that right, was that the one? Well, it doesn't matter.

J: It could have been. We had him a couple of times on trips, but it could have been Frank Muto. I don't recall the name. It's been twenty-odd years ago.

G: Was this a problem, keeping the photographer--?

J: No, it was no great problem except that before we left I told him to be sure to get plenty of film for his cameras. We got about halfway through Saigon and he came to me one evening and said, "Colonel, I'm just about out of film." Well, that was not a happy situation. I didn't want him shooting blanks at the Vice President, so we of course had to scramble to get film for him. We ultimately did get some, but not all we should have had.

But with that in mind, the evening at the Caravelle Hotel at a dinner, I told him he could take the evening off, he wouldn't have to be at the dinner. Well, that was a major error, because he wanted the photographer there that evening, and he looked around and sent over to the table where I was eating with some friends I had known in the service, and

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said that he wanted his photographer there. So I went down and got the photographer and stuck with the photographer the rest of the evening to be sure that he got that done.

It was typical of him, though, at that time and later when we got [Yoichi] Okamoto, because a couple of times I got Okamoto for him at the start when he first came to work for him. And I know [on] a later trip Okamoto was up at Fort Slocum, New York, where I had been in command for three years. [He was there] as a reserve major I believe, captain or major, and was on two-weeks active duty when we were going on another trip. I've forgotten what trip it is right now. And I had to telephone up to Fort Slocum and have him come back. Well, he was a little reluctant; he wanted to finish his active duty there. He got credit for two-weeks active duty. I told him not to worry about it, we'd take care of his active duty on the trip with the Vice President. So he came back and went on another trip. I think that might have been the trip to, I can't recall, Germany or something else. I don't know where.

I was a little embarrassed because I had to leave the table with my friends though, where I'd been sitting, to get the photographer. Now, that same day we had gone out to the cotton [textile?] mill that I had mentioned. While I was out there, a young Vietnamese lieutenant came running up to me and threw his arms around me and said, "Colonel, it's so good to see you." He had been a student at the Army Information School at Fort Slocum, New York. Now, we had always had from five to fifteen or twenty foreign officers in each of our officer classes there, and from Vietnam we had in each class about five to ten officers. While we were there, my wife and I always had a party for them, and they all seemed to remember it and appreciate it. Because when we got back to the hotel that

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evening, I was called by one of the officers who had been with me, and [he] said, "A group of us have come down to see you at the Caravelle Hotel." This was about five o'clock in the evening, I suppose, or five-thirty perhaps. And I walked downstairs and there were about forty of them, officers and their wives, that had come to Fort Slocum. They had all gathered them together there, telephoned each other around Saigon and came in to see me.

Well, I had been busy all day long with the Vice President, going around on the trip and taking care of the little chores that I had to do and I couldn't stay with them long, because I had to get ready for the dinner. I'd forgotten what time it was. I was very pressed for time. But they'd all brought some sort of a gift for my wife--they knew that they couldn't give it to me--little shoes and clogs and hats, little trinkets. Well, it was very kind of them and I felt very nice about it. I would have liked to have called the Vice President down--my recollection is he was not at that hotel at the time; he was staying someplace else--to meet the officers, but I couldn't know. Anyway, I told George that it was necessary for me to get away. I could be with them for about forty minutes to forty-five minutes, and that was it. I felt a little unhappy about that, because these were officers I had known well--not well, but had a good association with--and just had to leave them and take off. I just couldn't do anything else about it. I tried not to have anything like that happen in the future. That was just a good learning experience for me.

G: How could you avoid it?

J: I couldn't have and do my job with him. I would have had to miss dinner, I would have had to miss chasing the--I could have told the photographer to follow him, but had I not been there to see that it was done and had anything happened, why, I'm sure that Mr. Johnson

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would have taken exception to it. And as far as I was concerned, he was my number-one priority and I couldn't do justice to my job with him and see my friends on the outside as well. That was that.

I since felt very sorry for those officers, because when they were at the school at Fort Slocum, New York in 1958-59-60, we gave them the complete picture of how the United States was behind Vietnam. We were going to support them every way we possibly could, which we were doing at that time. Of course at that time in our relationship with Saigon, we just had a military assistance advisory group in Saigon, twenty-five hundred men, as I recall. And these twenty-five hundred men were there to train the Vietnamese troops to fight their own war. "Hanging Sam" [Samuel T.] Williams was the commanding general there and doing a very good job, and we were making gains on it.

Now that brings up another little something that happened after the trip was over, because after we returned--I'll have to digress a minute, because I may forget about it--after the trip was over, Mr. Johnson of course held a press conference up in his office for selected press men. I can't recall, I believe Drew Pearson might have been there and three or four other correspondents, well-known figures in the Washington press corps. And he called me in and asked me to explain to them about what the army was doing over there with this force. I started to explain that we had this project of training Vietnamese personnel, and he asked me how it was coming along. I sat down at the table with them. He was at one end and there were two other people on each side, as I recall. I was at the other end on one side at the table in his office. And as I explained what we were doing there--in much better language than I'm using now, I might add, twenty-five years ago--that



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we were training the Vietnamese officer corps and their enlisted personnel, using our methods of instruction, and training them to fight their own scrap.

Well, the press men there started to question me, and I was answering their questions, and at that time, of course, they were centered on me, looking at me, and he was up at the end of the table. As I spoke, I mentioned something about a personality out there, I've forgotten what it was, he said, "Incidentally, Colonel, where's the paper on that? Where's the paper?" It was a classified paper that we had on this individual. I said, "Mr. Vice President, I don't have it." But I immediately sensed that I had committed an unpardonable offense, in a way, because the attention had been deflected from him onto me, at his conference, and he didn't care for that. I didn't make that mistake again, because actually, after all, he is the principal.

G: But he had called you in there?

J: He had called me in to do that. But he knew that I didn't have the paper. There was no reason I would have had the paper with me at that time. But he immediately said--I said, "I don't know where it is." Actually Howard Burris had it and I'm sure he knew that, because he had an infallible memory. He knew where things were for years back. He had an infallible memory.

But anyway, at that time I think the press corps might have been able to understand what we were trying to do over there as far as training them was concerned. That was the objective of the exercise, to train the Vietnamese forces. That was later set aside and we decided to go in ourselves, you see. My opinion of that is neither here nor there. But we were doing a good job of training at that time, getting results. It's too bad we didn't follow

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through on it in my opinion, given them a chance to fight their own battle all the way through.

But the thing that I bring out is that he did not like to have attention diverted from him to another member, particularly a lesser member of his staff. I wasn't the least member, but I was not an important cog in the machine.

G: Back to the previous point. It seems like the rationale for the commitment of American troops in the first place was the notion that the South Vietnamese were unable to hold the country, that it would fall to the enemy--

J: The Viet Cong.

G: --if we did not. Do you think they would have been able to hold on if we hadn't been able to--?

J: I can't tell. I don't know. That would just be in the realm of conjecture. My feeling at that time was that we were doing a good job of training them with twenty-five hundred men, and had it been necessary to increase our training force, to maybe double or triple the training force, it would still have been comparatively small to the forces we put in ultimately. Had we been able to train the Vietnamese air force to fight and to bomb, given them planes, given them an opportunity to bomb the lines of communication from the North, I think they would have been able to do it on their own. There's no reason in my mind that the people in the southern part of the country were not as capable as those in the north. Whether they had the same indoctrination, whether they had the same arms, the same military support, is something else, because the Russians were very close and the

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Chinese were very close to the North Vietnamese at that time. They were a formidable, formidable foe.

G: In LBJ's meetings with Diem, did you get any insights on his reaction to the conversations or his assessment of Diem?

J: No. I think that at that time that he seemed to be very equable with him. I know I went with the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson to the palace where the Dragon Lady had--I can't recall whether they--I believe they were tiger cubs, yes, two tiger cubs, about this big, in the part of the palace that we saw them. I thought that was rather amusing, after a fashion, to have tiger cubs floating around the place. They could have been lion cubs. Anyway, they were extra large cats floating around, and she had them there on a leash. At that time I thought they seemed to be rather cordial.

G: What was the mission of this leg of the trip?

J: The mission of this leg of the trip, as far as I could see, was to determine how our training out there was going on, as far as the training of the Vietnamese army was concerned. Also to see about a new ambassador, who went along with us, of course, to take his post there and to determine if we could continue to operate the way we had in the past and what changes should be made to improve the situation as far as the Vietnamese were concerned.

G: Do you recall the recommendations that were made?

J: Not now. I'd have to look at them. I'd have to look at the entire folder on that to be--

G: Was the Vice President instructed to urge Diem to make some reforms in his government as well, do you recall?

J: I suppose so. I suppose so, but that's conjecture on my part.

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G: What was LBJ's reaction to the meetings? Did he feel like that part had been successful?

Was he impressed with Diem, do you recall?

J: My feeling was that he considered him easy to talk to. But I was not that privy to the inside goings on at the meeting.

G: Do you think this trip to Vietnam influenced his subsequent attitude toward the country?

J: I'm sure it probably did, whether rightfully or wrongly I don't know. People get some very peculiar ideas on short visits, in my opinion.

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G: --in particular on how this trip influenced his thinking?

J: I think he just felt like he had seen the place. He sort of had a feel for it. As far as anything else was concerned, I couldn't read his mind. And I learned over the years that it was very--and he taught me that you can't read people's minds. (Laughter) That was one of the things he stressed.

G: From Vietnam he flew to Manila. Anything on his stop in the Philippines?

J: He seemed to be very--he was given a warm greeting in Manila, and he and Mrs. Johnson both seemed to be very happy with their association with Ferdinand Marcos, I think it was at that time. They traded gifts and of course seemed to be pleased and happy with what they saw. I can't recall whether he made any talks there.

G: I think he spoke to the Philippine congress.

J: Let's see. I was not present at that. You know, on an interview of this type, it seems to me that it's almost necessary for me to have, to be able to talk rationally and correctly, something that would refresh my memory back you might say almost to the exact day,

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because there are names and places and events. I have a picture in my mind of what happened in the Philippines. We went to the palace and we were in parades and walking in and out in the proximity of all these people, but I can't recall anything that would give me an impression of how Mr. Johnson and Ferdinand Marcos got along privately. The only thing I'd have had any indication [from] there would be from having seen some of the reports that were written on the trip after the trip when we returned.

G: One other question on Vietnam. You discussed this before we turned on the recorder, but I want to get you to repeat it, and that is the collecting of these banners on the parade route.

J: Oh, yes. The banners were strung over the streets, and as we went through, why, Mr. Johnson asked me to cut them down and take them back. He wanted to have them to hang around The Elms in the bar downstairs and on an outside--I think he might have planned at that time he'd have a party when he returned. I don't know, something. He wanted to have all these banners on display, just dozens of them, dozens and dozens. And as I mentioned previously, the cavalcade would move on. I'd be stopped with this jeep and the driver and a couple of men, and they'd hop out and hack down the banners and we'd put them in the jeep. But the cavalcade would move ahead and be out of sight. It was then that I noticed the people sort of lurking in the underbrush, and I felt at that time I hoped they were friendly. I'm not sure that they might have been. The reason I say that is because I think--I had the feeling, my own, in watching Diem and the Vice President at one occasion, they looked across a barbed wire enclosure into a compound of some sort along the road. Mr. Johnson wanted to go in and meet the people, and President Diem [said], "No, it might be dangerous to go in there," or words to that effect, "Don't go in there." Mr. Johnson wanted

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to go over the barbed wire fence and talk to people inside. Well, no, no, that would not do.

And at that point I got the feeling that there was an understanding--because if there was anything dangerous in that area that Diem knew about, they immediately could have fired out at us and thrown a grenade, done something. I felt there was an understanding between the two forces there while the Vice President was visiting. I'm guessing at that, but I got that feeling somehow or other.

G: He visited a textile factory.

J: Yes, the textile factory was where--

G: Tell us about that.

J: That was on this trip that I'm talking about. When he arrived inside, here were the large bales of cotton, "Texas" written on the side, very obviously from Texas, and they were pleased to show it to him and he was happy to see Texas cotton out there being turned into manufactured goods. It was at that point that this young Vietnamese lieutenant came up and threw his arms around me and said, "Colonel, I'm so glad to see you," and made arrangements for this party later that evening.

G: He went from Manila to Taipei and met with Chiang Kai-shek. Anything on that aspect?

J: There again were crowds of people. I was impressed by the show at the airport and my recollection is that he and Chiang Kai-shek and his wife were off to themselves a great deal, away from--wait a minute. I saw them, of course, and was near them several times, but I never heard any conversation or anything that went on. We were taken down into one of the communities there to look around, I've forgotten whether it was an office building or a

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factory or something, I've forgotten what it was, in Taipei. I can't think of anything. The only thing that impressed me was the multitudes of people there.

G: Okay. From there to Bangkok.

J: That was a delightful trip. They had the royal ballet, that's one of my impressions there. Also, Mr. Johnson had a meeting with the Ambassador [Kenneth Young] and members of the security council in Thailand. The head of the American military mission there was General [Briard] Johnson. Before the meeting, I accompanied Mr. Johnson to the place. He went inside with the Ambassador and a couple of other people from the embassy and some Thai personnel. And here General Johnson remained outside. At Fort Hood years ago I was a battalion commander and Johnson, as a colonel, had been the combat commander. It was comparable to regimental commander. So I was surprised to see Briard Johnson not going into the meeting, and I said, "Well, General--?" He said, "Here the Ambassador doesn't want me in." They're discussing military affairs without the head of the military mission being there; that didn't seem right to me. So I went inside, mentioned it to the Vice President, and he said, "Why isn't he here?" In a low voice conversation with the Vice President, of course, I discussed this, and in a couple of minutes, why, someone came out and said, "General Johnson, you go into the meeting." Well, that's how an aide comes in handy at times, if he's not afraid to stick his neck out.

At that meeting I think they discussed, again, the handling of military affairs in Thailand. Later that evening was the ballet. The full treatment, not one or two acts, I'd say, they had a three-act ballet. It was the longest drawn-out thing you've ever seen, if you've ever seen these snake-arm dances. About half an hour will take care of the average

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American citizen as far as I'm concerned, but three hours of it, he couldn't help but fall asleep.

G: What was LBJ's reaction to it?

J: As I say, he couldn't help but fall asleep.

G: Oh, really? He did fall asleep?

J: And then he'd nod off and wake up again. He was being on awfully good behavior.

G: From there he went to India and met with Nehru. Do you recall that?

J: Yes. Yes, very well. It was the warmest place; I think it was 120 degrees at the airport when they landed. Nehru was cordial. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, was a member of his staff who helped greet us there. Of course, Nehru was the principal at that time. They had private conferences. I wasn't in on any of those conferences with Nehru. The Indian fort, they called it the Red Fort, was very impressive. We had a very impressive dinner. The ceiling in the dining room must have been twenty-five feet at least. There was a butler, or a footman I should say, behind every other person at the table, and they would move precisely to serve the courses in and out, very, very beautifully done, regimented. I couldn't understand how they could do it so well. I was looking for their signal, and I suddenly looked, way up in the ceiling there were red and green lights, up at the very top of the ceiling so that you wouldn't notice them. That's what they were getting their cue from. That impressed me.

Anything else, no, I wouldn't have any comment except that it was awfully warm. Mr. Johnson did go out in the countryside and I went out with him. Of course, it was on that trip when he went to the countryside and started talking to--he went out to talk to



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people. He liked that; he was able to go out and talk to people, and he suggested to them that they--I heard him in one small, family compound discuss how he had been responsible for providing electric power and wells, pumps for people to use, how much better they could do if they had them there. Well, that was pretty obvious, it would have been very helpful if they could have modern equipment and modern machinery. But from where we were there was no chance to get electricity, as far as I could tell. And as far as buying pumps is concerned, I think that was beyond their wildest imagination. However, he had seen that happen in East Texas--or, not in East Texas, in--

G: Hill Country.

J: In the Hill Country where he lived as a boy. I know out there it was in the thirties and forties before they ever got pumped water, electric lights. That's what he pointed out to these people, that it had been done in our country, it could be done there.

G: Did he get his point across, do you think, to them?

J: I think they considered it was fantastic. I think they thought he was just talking about dreams, and I have every idea that that's probably what it was, because I doubt if they have the wells there and the electricity yet.

G: He also went to the Taj Mahal.

J: Yes. And it was a very good trip and one that he got some very bad publicity out of, of course.

G: You're referring to his rebel yell?

J: Well, the thing about it was, I was as close as I am to you all that afternoon with him. [John Kenneth] Galbraith was ambassador, and we walked in with Galbraith and his wife and Mr.

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and Mrs. Johnson. We were met by a guide who took us into the place and showed us various things. It's a very impressive building. It was cooler in there than it was outside, thank goodness, although they had no air conditioning, of course. And walked back to the rear, about three-quarters of the way down, and there was the tower. Well, the guide looked at Mr. Johnson, pointed up and said, "Notice the sound," and he shouted up, "Aaahoooh!" You'd hear the sound go up and come down, "Aaahoooh!" right back at you. Well--

G: The guide did this first?

J: The guide did this. And Mr. Johnson looked at him, he looked at everybody, and he looked at me I know, looked at several other people around, looked up and went, "Aaahoooh!" Same thing, up and down. He got a kick out of it. Well, the press of course considered this place was a holy shrine of some sort, which it is not. There is nothing holy about it. It's a building erected by an Indian prince in honor and memory of one of his beloved wives who had died or something like that, nothing particularly holy about it or unusual. But they played it up in the United States as if he had committed a grave social error. Well, nothing of the kind, people went in there and went "Hoooh" all the time.

G: Anything on his reaction to that?

J: To the--

G: Publicity?

J: Publicity? He didn't like it. No, he didn't like it worth a hoot, but at the same time there wasn't anything he could do about it.

G: Anything else on India?

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J: We had dinner there with the Galbraiths. My last recall, I think it was Ambassador Galbraith at that time, might have told the story about how he was in a cave with his wife someplace that impressed me, where they have these erotic statues in India. While they were in this grotto or in the cave, they looked up and here was a fifteen-foot cobra coming down the tunnel toward them. They were well inside the entrance, well inside the entrance. They couldn't run to make an exit. So as this thing came sliding down the tunnel, they froze against the wall, and it went right by them. They made no move and the cobra continued on--about a fifteen-foot cobra though, that's a king cobra. The Ambassador might have exaggerated slightly. Nevertheless, a five-foot cobra would have made me think.

On our departure, it was again a very hot day. We were impressed on the staff, and I'm sure Mr. Johnson didn't miss it, that we saw the number of Russian planes around the airport that were there, Russian military aircraft, which impressed us all, made us think. Indira Gandhi, I saw quite a bit of her, because she was--not you'd say a minor function, but she was a lesser function as far as the affair was concerned. She was still present. Mr. Johnson's dealings were with Nehru at that time. A terribly hot day, 125 degrees that day. We arrived at 122; it was a cool day. [But it was] 125 when we left at the airport.

We flew on to Pakistan. There, of course, we had the motorcade that I recall quite well because I was in the car right behind him at that time. Driving into town, into the capital, up on the right-hand side, on a mound, was a hill and on the hill, this slight rise, [there] were a group of camel drivers with their camels, very picturesque. Mr. Johnson halted the cavalcade, and when he got out of his car I ran up to join him, toward the camels.

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And as we approached them, we were on the windward side. If you've ever been on the windward side of a camel, why, you know how they smell. So we got on the leeward side, walked around to the other side, and of course--I believe Ayub was with him at that time, in the car. I think he was. I can't recall. I'd have to look through the notes to be sure who was with whom, but I believe Ayub Khan was with him.

A camel driver in that country is one of the lowest forms of existence, and it was there that he met Bashir [Ahmad], right on the mound, fortunately on the leeward side by that time, and the camel was spinning around. As he spoke with him, Mr. Johnson asked--I'll try to phrase it as precisely as I can--"Would you be interested in visiting the United States?" He asked that question I noticed of any number of people on the trip, not only in Pakistan but in Thailand: "Would you like to see the United States?" In other words, I gathered from the question that he was asking, "Would you as an individual care, if you had an opportunity, to come and see the United States? Are you interested?" And of course Bashir [said], "Yes, yes, yes!" Well, that was that. We went back to the cavalcade.

That evening in one of the local papers I picked up, I saw a column--it might have been the morning paper the following day, I don't know. Anyway, [in] one of the papers I saw this column written by a local Englishman saying that the Vice President had invited this camel driver to visit the United States. Well, actually, he had not invited him; he had just asked him if he would be interested in visiting the country. It had been misinterpreted but it was quoted by this column. Well, I think I gave it to George Reedy or--I don't know. Anyway, it came out. I probably wasn't the only one who saw it. It ultimately ended up in

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Bashir being invited to the United States because of this publicity that was given the Vice President's trip at that time. That again was another misunderstanding, I think.

G: Was the original conversation between LBJ and the camel driver done through an interpreter?

J: Yes. Yes, it was. Very definitely. I believe the interpreter might have been the same fellow who accompanied Bashir over here, but I'm not sure. I had been told that he had been a Bengal lancer or some thing like that; I've forgotten what it was. But Mr. Johnson did not ask him if he would come to the United States as his guest or anything like that. It was just "would you be interested in seeing the United States?"

That trip, I had a feeling there that both Mr. Johnson and Ayub Khan had a rapport. I got that feeling.

G: Tell me why you felt that way.

J: The way they talked together and the way they chatted together, I think they had sort of a political feeling between them. I think Ayub Khan was a politician and understood many of the things that again, politicians discuss among themselves worldwide. I noticed the same thing between Mr. Johnson in Berlin later at the Berlin Wall, between Willy Brandt and one of the other mayors of Berlin. They had mutual interests.

G: Were the people as a whole more cordial to LBJ in Pakistan than they had been in India?

J: Frankly I didn't notice a great deal of difference. My feeling in India was that it was a pretty well staged affair. Except for going out to the countryside where he had a chance to talk to people and see people, I don't recall Mr. Johnson getting out of the car anyplace and going along shaking hands on the road. I could be mistaken on that though, because there

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were very few places that he went that he didn't get out of the car and talk to people and shake hands with these people on the route.

We left Pakistan--again, it was pretty warm; it was only 112 degrees there. I would remember these things like the heat. We flew from there to Athens. Landing at Athens it was 85 degrees, and we got off the plane and just heaved a big sigh of relief it was so cool. From there we went to the hotel. On the way in to Athens, Karamanlis--let's see, was it [Konstantinos] Karamanlis?

G: Yes.

J: I believe he was the prime minister in Greece at that time, a very impressive man and very popular. He was sitting in the back of the car with Mr. Johnson going into town, and as the procession proceeded down the road, people banking each side of the highway and the streets, they were crying, "Karamanlis! Karamanlis!" It embarrassed him, because here was a visitor [from] the United States, and he pointed to Mr. Johnson. I think Mr. Johnson must have had enough of that, so he stopped the cavalcade and got out and went over to shake hands with people on the street. And Karamanlis got out the other side to shake hands with people, and again, it embarrassed Karamanlis, because nobody went up to shake hands with Mr. Johnson; everybody ran up to shake hands with Karamanlis. Well, Karamanlis quickly ran around the car to the side with Mr. Johnson, and you might say changed them over to him more or less. I thought that was rather amusing. (Laughter) Karamanlis was popular in his country; they didn't know who Mr. Johnson was. They knew who he was, but they were not as impressed with him as they were [with Karamanlis]. That was an amusing incident I thought.

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G: Anything else on the stay in Athens that you recall?

J: No, we went up to see the Acropolis, as I recall. I know I was up there, and he must have been up there or I wouldn't have been there. I can't recall anything, just coming to the city and Karamanlis directing the crowd to the Vice President.

Where did we go after that? Let's see, I'll have to look at the notes here. Oh, I didn't mention Hong Kong, but that was not a working part of the trip, that was a vacation. We took a rest stay in Hong Kong long before we'd gone this far on the trip.

Yes, we went to Tripoli and the Azores and then Bermuda. We stopped at Bermuda. We just had a rest stop, a gas stop, in the Azores, and stopped at Bermuda to write the report and to make contact with Washington, although of course I think he talked to the President on the phone while he was there and a few things like that, or somebody at the White House if not the President. He came back and he made his reports to the President and to the Congress and the Senate and House committees. I believe they had a joint session of some sort.

G: Steve Smith and the President's sister [Jean] went along on that trip as well, didn't they?

J: Yes, they did.

G: Do you recall what they did, what their role was?

J: Yes. He was very--everyplace we went he was--I think they were there to be, you might say, reporters for the President. I think that the President wanted to have someone of his own clique, I'll say, on the trip. That's my guess, and I have an idea that Mr. Johnson felt the same way. But he certainly never expressed it to me, nor did I have any other indication. But he was very insistent that Steve Smith and his wife be presented to

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everyone there, that they be brought in on everything that was done, and that they were given every courtesy and every opportunity to look and see and get the same exposure that he did. I was very new to Washington at that time, and I would have had probably a much different perspective than I have now had I been more experienced.

G: What do you mean?

J: I mean at that time that I didn't know--it's my feeling now that he was sent along by President Kennedy as an observer, to give him a sort of informal account of how things went and how the Vice President behaved and what happened on the trip. I'm guessing at that, but I'm darn sure that's what it was. But at that time no one ever told me that's what it was. I know that he was and I'm trying to recall who the fellow was, and I think it had to do probably something with the ambassador [who] was trying to run the show without--he would get in military affairs without having the chief of the military mission present. That's an indication that I had.

G: This was in Bangkok, was it?

J: This was in Bangkok. Now, I would have to look at the record to be able to--I can't recall the name of the ambassador now. But yes, there was some sort of a misunderstanding. What it was, I can't recall right now. No, I'd have to look at the record to refresh my memory on that.

(Interruption)

G: --let me get that point. You say the morale on the trip was good?

J: The morale of the people that I met on the trip was good. As I say, I met several people I have seen before, the officers who had been at the information school at Fort Slocum. They



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were bright and cheerful; their wives were pleasant. The people I met on the street were accommodating, in Saigon. They were friendly. In Greece, in other places, the members of the military missions that I saw there, and in Saigon at that time, the morale was good. The officers that I talked with there--Freddy Boykin [?] I think was one of them who was there at that time--and they had a good rapport with the people they were working with. And it seemed to me there wasn't any reason we couldn't go right ahead and make progress there, good progress. I think it could have been done at that time. That's my opinion now. Of course, I can say this knowing what has happened subsequently. But in Thailand, the same thing. Briard Johnson, I had worked for Briard Johnson--I hadn't worked for him, he was a combat commander. A battalion commander in an armored division is an independent entity. He was working with some difficulty, but he was surmounting the difficulty there. He wasn't put down a bit. People that I knew in the CIA [that] I saw on the trip, they were interesting, knew what they were doing, and they didn't have any worries at that time as far as I could tell. Knock on wood, because they've had some since.

G: Anything on his report to the President? Did you work on that at all?

J: Very little. The fact is someone might have asked me a few questions about something here or there, but we were in Bermuda at the time. I think Walter Jenkins and a group threw that together. I don't think Bill Crockett was on that trip, was he?

G: I don't know.

J: I don't think so. But the State Department and Walter and several other people more or less threw that report together with the Vice President.

G: Okay. Anything else on that trip? You think we've covered it fairly well?

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J: I think we've covered it pretty well.

G: On tape. Okay.

J: Before we left--

G: Now, you're talking about--?

J: The trip to West Point when he spoke at the commencement, the graduating class at West Point, on June 6. We flew up in a small type plane; it was a propeller type plane, as I recall, at that time. I don't believe we had--I'm pretty sure we had a small, propeller type plane. And General [George] Decker, the chief of staff, his aide had called me a day or so before we left asking if he and Mrs. Decker could fly up on the plane. I checked with Mr. Johnson, and he seemed a little reluctant, but he said, "Yes, if they're going up, they might as well go with us then." He did not seem pleased at the fact that they were aboard. But anyway, I introduced them. He came onto the plane and they sat up at the front of the plane and he sat at the rear of the plane, and it was obvious that during the entire trip he wanted to have nothing to do with them. Well, at the time it didn't upset me, but I considered it was rather rude on his part, and intensely so I think. Now why, I have no idea. But they got off the plane and he got off the plane and went their separate ways, and the only time he saw them again was at the conclusion of the ceremony when there was a party at the superintendent's house, the superintendent at that time being General [William] Westmoreland. When he met Westmoreland; that was the first time that he'd ever seen Westmoreland. That was their first meeting, and I think he liked him.

I had had a talk prepared for the Vice President at the Pentagon by one of the speech writers, and I'd gone over it myself and I'd discussed it with Carl Rowan and gave it to him

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before we arrived on the plane, and he had a chance to read it over. He said nothing about it. And I had copies of it to pass out to the *New York Times* correspondent there, a man named Johnson [?], as I recall, too. I gave it to Johnson and several other press people there. Well, when he made his commencement address he apparently didn't like [it], he decided to change it, didn't want to say what we had written for him, and he got on, you might say, a theme of public service and what the ideals and objectives of the current administration were as far as social objectives and liberal objectives were concerned. This fellow Johnson was furious, because of course he had prepared--I'm sure he had written something in advance, and at the conclusion of the speech he turned to me and said, "Well"--I can't recall his exact words but he was very displeased with the fact that the Vice President hadn't followed his script. I explained to him that there it is. He then spoke to the Vice President. The Vice President said, well, he'd decided he wanted to say something else, so he told him that's what he wanted to say and that was that. Johnson didn't like it, I mean, not the Vice President but this correspondent Johnson didn't like it.

We then went to the garden party at General Westmoreland's quarters there, and at the garden party I introduced several of the officers there whom I knew to Mr. Johnson. I remember General [Willis] Crittenger, he was very impressed with General Crittenger, among others. He seemed to like Westmoreland, too. I was rather surprised at that, because I consider Westmoreland a very fine general officer, at the same time an artilleryman didn't have the full picture as far as I was concerned. Anyway, General Crittenger had long been revered by many of the officers in the officer corps because he was well known and you might say he was an inspiration as well as a guide and a teacher.

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He believed in instructing young officers, and he was well known for that. Well, Mr.

Johnson was impressed with him as well, asked me about him on the way back, "Who is this General Crittenberger?" So I told him who he was, what his background was. That's the last I heard of Westmoreland for some time.

G: What did he say about Westmoreland, do you know?

J: He seemed to like him. I can't recall anything specifically said, but he did like him. He liked what he saw there, although he was a little aloof from the group. I might add at this time that I always felt that Mr. Johnson not only was aloof from the military, but at times I don't think he liked the military. He seemed to somehow or other at times mistrust them.

G: Any particular examples that you can recall that indicate that?

J: Well, the only example I can think of was the way he treated General and Mrs. Decker on the way up to the plane. The fact that at the garden party that day he was interested in talking to these people for a few minutes, but more or less he stood to one side. They would have been happy to talk to him. But he sort of removed himself from them. He didn't seem to want to be influenced by them. Those are specific examples there. Later I think he trusted his civilian advisers at the Department of Defense more than his military advisers and took their advice in contrast to the military. Later.

Let me see. That's about the extent of that trip. He had a luncheon with the Chinese--it wasn't the prime minister--the Taiwanese it was, I think--sometime, it might have been a later date. But at the luncheon at the Sheraton-Park Hotel--no. I've forgotten when it was, but anyway, he had this luncheon, I believe it was the Taiwanese minister or prime minister, someone. I more or less helped honcho the luncheon and was sort of

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responsible for it after a fashion. At the seating arrangements something came up, and I thought that it was better to put one other person, I can't recall who it was, a senior official, either a cabinet officer or a Taiwanese or a Chinese--it couldn't have been a Chinese, it had to be a Taiwanese, and moved Senator Everett Dirksen farther down the table away from him. And fortunately he came in before the luncheon and looked over the table and said, "Who is sitting where?" and I said, "We moved Senator Dirksen down here because"--Colonel," he said, "you get Senator Dirksen right back up here." He wouldn't have Senator Dirksen belittled or put down anyplace; he wanted him right up there with him. I learned that, too, in a hurry. It was a new experience for me, that he wanted Senator Dirksen given every courtesy.

G: Do you think this was because of Dirksen's position or because of his relationship with LBJ?

J: Both. I think he and Senator Dirksen were like this, I mean they were--

G: Close.

J: Very close.

G: Let's see--

(Interruption)

J: --because I was one of the people who was primarily responsible for Ayub Khan's visit at the Ranch. I'm not taking anything away from Walter Jenkins or anybody else on the staff, because they all had their hand in it. But I was sent down there two weeks in advance to be sure that the arrangements were made correctly in San Antonio for a crowd to be out to meet Ayub Khan. So for two weeks I worked with radio, TV, newspapers, and business

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people around town, chamber of commerce and so forth, to get publicity for Ayub Khan, who was going to visit the Alamo and from there go to the Ranch.

About three days before Ayub Khan was to arrive--I talked to Mr. Johnson periodically on the phone--I talked to him three days before, and he said, "How many people are going to turn out, Colonel?" "Well, I can't say precisely, but we should have a good crowd," and I told him what we had done to bring out the crowd. I was not going to tell him that you'd have fifty thousand or seventy-five thousand or a hundred thousand people. I couldn't tell how many people would turn out. Nobody could, in my opinion. "Well, what do you think about it?" I said, "I believe we'll have a good crowd. The temperature here--it's the middle of Saturday afternoon, a holiday weekend. People are off boating and fishing, but I think we'll have a good crowd out to see him. It should be of some interest."

Well, he didn't seem to like it. He didn't like my reply. I told him we had done everything possible to be sure that a crowd did turn out. Apparently he went to see [Robert] McNamara and said, "I'm not sure that my man down there is doing a good job, so I want you to send somebody down to reinforce him." Well, the day before Ayub Khan arrived, an air force colonel came in, reported in to me and said, "Look, I was supposed to"--and he told me the story, McNamara's called, the Vice President is raising hell with him because we're not going to have a crowd out and so forth, "What can I do?" I told him, "Well, here's what we've done. What do you have to add to it?" He said, "There's nothing I can do." So we talked together for a while and that was that. We went ahead, and my recollection is that a hundred and twenty-five thousand people turned out that day, the largest crowd

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they've ever had to meet anybody in town. It was a great occasion. A lot of Texans turned out. The Vice President was delighted with what happened. I don't know whether he ever gave me credit for it or not; I never heard boo or anything else about it. It didn't make any difference to me because I knew that I was the one who had done it.

Anyway, we went from there into the Alamo, and in the Alamo you couldn't have seen a more ecstatic man than the Vice President. Ayub Khan's visit--he had been royally greeted, a much better greeting than he had in Washington, D.C., by comparable standards, you might say. And I think he wanted to show the Kennedys up, if he could, and he did on his own turf. I have pictures that show Ayub Khan with the--ecstatic and happy--

Tape 2 of 2, Side 1

G: --when we're in mid-conversation.

J: Well, we of course went from San Antonio to the Ranch after they had a very nice talk and a speech by Ayub Khan outside the Alamo, and the Vice President, of course. A good crowd. There weren't as many people at the Alamo as there were at the airport to meet Ayub Khan. There was a tremendous gathering at the airport. Well, we went to the Ranch and at the dinner there the Vice President presented Ayub Khan a very nice rifle. When Ayub Khan was going up to his room at the Ranch for a minute, he gave me the rifle to take up with him so he could have it in his room up there, and I went up with Ayub Khan. I was rather amused, here's General Ayub Khan, the army, because he liked the rifle. We went up to his room and I put it down for him and asked if there was any particular place he'd like to have it. "No, right there," and I set it down on something, I've forgotten what. He sort of turned to me and smiled and it was just as if he were one officer addressing another, said,

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"Well, it's quite an affair, isn't it?" words to that effect. Those weren't his precise words, but it was--we chatted for a minute, sort of smiling and chatting with each other. Well, he said, more or less, "This is the way a fellow has to act when he's with civilians doing these things." I thought it was rather amusing. And I don't recall having chatted with him since. I might have seen him someplace, but I don't recall it, not now anyway.

But both he and Mr. Johnson hit it off greatly I thought. They had a great deal of rapport. I can't think of anything else in connection with that trip down there. No, I think that's about it for that one.

G: Apparently President Kennedy didn't want McNamara or [Dean] Rusk to go to that part of the visit, didn't want them to go to the Ranch. Do you recall that?

J: I don't recall that they were there, but any reasoning of the White House or the President on his staff behind that, I have nothing, except that I do know that it was pretty obvious to me by that time--I don't know what the date of that was.

G: That would have been mid-July.

J: July. I'd been there a couple of months by that time, learned a little more about the place. And I could feel something that I had never felt in my career before, and that was, of course, a sense of differences between the various factions, I'll put it that way.

G: Could you identify the factions?

J: Yes, I could identify the factions. I think that for instance Jack Kennedy had his own following, and I think that McGeorge Bundy, [Arthur] Schlesinger, the intimates of the President--what's the royal clown, the little Irishman, I can't think of his name now [Dave Powers?]. Anyway, they all were sort of a clique onto themselves and I think they rather



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looked down their nose at the Vice President. And I rather resented it because as a military man I always felt that if you were on a team, you work with the team, and that's something that was quite a--it wasn't a shock, but it was surprising to me that people at that level of leadership would have so little appreciation for true leadership, in my opinion. In the army, you find a fellow who doesn't work for you, why, you try to bring him around and indoctrinate him until he comes around to your way of thinking, or at least understands what you're trying to do.

(Interruption)

--some differences that I could discern at that time. I think Bobby Kennedy particularly looked down his nose at the Vice President.

G: Can you refer to any particular incidence that would demonstrate that?

J: Yes, I can understand in a way why they felt that way. One of the first things that the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson did was to attend some formal dinner, white tie and tail dinner at the White House. And I was a little surprised when before the dinner we met--we were working late in the office. Howard Burris was there and I was there and I've forgotten whether Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were there. But the Vice President walked in and he had a slate gray tails that had been furnished him by Stanley Marcus, I believe, who had suggested he wear it in Washington, a little something different. Well, now I think most of us know, and I know Mr. Johnson knew later and I'm sure Mrs. Johnson knew all along, that you don't wear slate gray tails to any place unless you're an oddball. And Mr. Johnson felt very badly about it that night, because everybody at the place--and I can't recall if it was the following day that I heard more about it, how people were sort of treating him as if,

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Jesus, you don't wear anything like that at a white tie dinner. You wear the conventional tails, which are black. That was the first time I noticed it. Then later--let's see, do you want to cut it off a minute? The reason I say cut it off, there may have been other times, I just can't recall specifically right now. Probably tonight and tomorrow night I'll be able to think about something.

But one time when we were going on a trip, I went over to talk to McGeorge Bundy in advance, I think, because here we were dallying back and forth. I was carrying speeches for approval and things like that back and forth to the White House, and the White House staff wouldn't commit themselves to what the Vice President was going to say. So I saw McGeorge Bundy. I just talked to him very casually and said, "Can't we get together on these trips in advance and save a lot of hassling back and forth between the staffs?" This is naive, this is the most naive thing you can do, but something should be done, in my opinion. Anyway, I went over to talk to him. I thought, well, I'd been there long enough and maybe knew some of them well enough that we could discuss it on a face-to-face basis. "Oh," he said--I got the impression that it couldn't be done. Now, I also now know, in my own mind at least, that he considered "who is this naive fellow coming over here trying to get us to agree to what the Vice President should say on a trip? Because that means we're telling the Vice President what to do, the Vice President will resent it." Well, the Vice President wouldn't have resented it a darn bit at that time because we were having trouble getting a particular speech okayed for use by the Vice President.

G: Did the White House have to okay the Vice President's speeches?

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J: Not all of them, I'm sure. But I think at times they wanted to know what was being said, but they didn't want to be in the position of censoring his remarks, because he would have resented that in turn. But there were times when the staffs had to get together, in my opinion at least, to try to determine about what their principals thought so that we could at least negotiate out any differences beforehand and save a lot of time with them, their time and our time.

G: Do you think that the speeches that the White House was most interested in approving were those dealing with foreign policy?

J: Probably, because it was for trips like we made overseas that we would have this problem. When we went to West Point, for instance, it didn't make any difference, or a lot of difference at least. It was on the Vice President's shoulders when he made a speech locally. Now as far as censorship was concerned, I think that was one of the points McGeorge Bundy made: they couldn't censor the Vice President's remarks, which is quite right. At the same time, we on the staff could have gotten together beforehand, in my opinion, and they're probably having the same trouble there now that they did then, that it would save a lot of official time in my mind, if the staffs could get together and say, "Well, what about this or what about that?" and then take it up with the principals.

End of Tape 2 of 2 and Interview I

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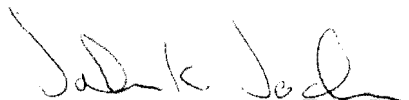
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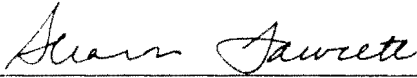
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