

JFK Assass. File
Bx 2 "Pres' Diary,"
11-22-63

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CODE NAMES USED

WAYSIDE	Pierre Salinger
VOLUNTEER	Lyndon B. Johnson
CROWN	White House
WATCHMAN	General Clifton
WITNESS	Captain Shepard
LACE	Mrs. Kennedy
DAGGER	Rufus Youngblood
VALLEY	The Elms - 4040 52nd St., N. W.
VENUS	Luci - however, believe this
VICTORIA	Mrs. Lyndon Johnson
WING	General McHugh
SLUGGER	Captain Stoughton
WARRIOR	Mr. Kilduff
WINNER	Mr. Hatcher
TANKER	Colonel Cook
TIGER	Colonel Swindall

RADIO TRAFFIC - November 22, 1963

WAYSIDE: Give me all available information on President.

SIT. ROOM: All information on President follows: "President John F. Kennedy and Governor Connally of Texas have been hit in the car in which they were riding. We do not know how serious the situation is. We have no information. Mr. Bromley Smith is back here in the Situation Room now. We are getting our information over the tickers."

WAYSIDE: That is affirmative. Please listen hard -- this plane on which Secretary of State Rusk and other Cabinet members headed for Japan is turning around and returning to Honolulu -- Will arrive there in approximately 2 hours.

SIT ROOM: Understand. Those departing Honolulu are turning around will be back there in 2 hours. Is that correct?

WAYSIDE: That is affirmative. Will read all information and decide whether some of party should go directly to Dallas.

SIT. ROOM: Do you wish information as to whether some of members of that party should go to Dallas?

WAYSIDE: That is affirmative.

SIT. ROOM: Do you have anything else?

WAYSIDE: No. Any other information, please get ahold as quickly as possible.

SIT. ROOM: The AP is coming out now to the effect that they believe the President was hit in the head. That just came in.

WAYSIDE: Hit in the head?

SIT ROOM: Roger, will pass on any additional information we get as soon as we hear it.

WAYSIDE: Will standby for your call.

SIT. ROOM: Wayside, I read from the AP bulletin -- "Kennedy apparently shot in head. He fell face down in back seat of his car. Blood was on his head. Mrs. Kennedy cried, "Oh no," and tried to hold up his head. Connally remained half-seated, slumped to the left. There was blood on his face and forehead. The President and the Governor were rushed to Parkland Hospital near the Dallas Trade Mart where Kennedy was to have made a speech."

WAYSIDE: Heard that.

SIT. ROOM: Have nothing else for you. Will contact when we have further information.

MURRAY JACKSON: (Speaking to aircraft returning from Japan) Colonel, this is Murray Jackson. The President of the United States has been shot and seriously wounded in Dallas, Texas. (Repeating) The President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, has been shot and seriously wounded in Dallas, Texas. Governor Connally was also shot at the same time. Would you please get this message to Secretary of State Rusk and I will standby.

SAM 86972: We have already received that news. We have UPI on. We have turned around. We are returning to Hawaii. We are estimating Hawaii in 1 hour and 20 minutes. Will be on the ground in Hawaii in 1 hour and 20 minutes. Will be returning to Washington or Dallas, Texas. We have one other aircraft alerted to take some of the party to Dallas and we will be returning to Washington.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much, Colonel. I will relay this to Mr. Ball right away.

SAM 86972: The Secretary (Rusk) has talked to his office in Washington, I believe, and also Pierre Salinger has been in contact with the White House from the aircraft.

MR. JACKSON: Ok. Thank you very much.

STRANGER: Kilduff asked that all Cabinet members return to Washington immediately.

WAYSIDE: We are heading for Honolulu.

STRANGER: Will they notify us at time of arrival and location?

WAYSIDE: Correct. Some are going to Dallas.

STRANGER: We do not have anything firm down there as to the exact status. I'll get that information to Hawaii.

SIT. ROOM: Wayside, I'll read you latest bulletin. "President Kennedy has been given blood transfusions today at Parkland Hospital in an effort to save his life after he and Governor John Connally of Texas were shot in an assassination attempt." Over the TV we have the information that the Governor has been moved to the operating room. The President is still in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital. Are you getting front coverage or do you want us to continue to relay it to you.

WAYSIDE: Continue to relay.

SIT. ROOM: New subject: We will have information for you on whether to proceed to Dallas by the time you land at Honolulu.

WAYSIDE: Also tell us whether Secretary of State Rusk should also go to Dallas.

SIT. ROOM: Will do. Get determination whether Secretary of State should also go to Dallas.

SIT. ROOM: Wayside, we have conflicting reports now so were getting no confirmation. We will call you again. I have relayed your intentions and your present position to the front office. Your office has the word. We will call you again when we get confirmation.

MURRAY JACKSON: I'd like a patch with SAM 86972.

OPERATOR: They are talking with the Situation Room now.

MR. JACKSON: What we want to tell the plane is that Under Secretary Ball requests that the Secretary and all the passengers return to Washington instead of going to Dallas.

OPERATOR: They received that message.

MR. JACKSON: One other thing -- the Secretary is supposed to call Mr. Ball when he gets on the ground in Honolulu.

OPERATOR: Will relay.

SIT. ROOM: (To SAM 86972) Relay following to Wayside: "We have report quoting Mr. Kilduff in Dallas that the President is dead, that he died about 35 minutes ago." Do you have that?

SAM 86972: Is dead?

SIT. ROOM: Correct. New subject: Front office desires plane return Washington, no stop Dallas.

SAM 86972: (Wayside) Would like to know the whereabouts of the Vice President.

SIT. ROOM: The Vice President is in the hospital building -- Parkland Hospital in Dallas. He is not injured. Repeat, not injured.

KELLERMAN: We're at the airport now.

BEHN: Ok, go ahead.

KELLERMAN: We're waiting for the swearing-in before takeoff.

BEHN: That of Volunteer?

KELLERMAN: We're waiting for Judge for swearing-in.

BEHN: That is for Volunteer, is that right?

KELLERMAN: Yes, we're having it done before we take off.

BEHN: Do you have any idea what Lace wants to do and Volunteer wants to do upon arrival here?

KELLERMAN: No, I will call you back. We have a 2 hour 15 minute flight into Andrews. We have a full plane, about 40.

BEHN: Yes, go ahead.

KELLERMAN: I'll have to call you back. Get a couple of men, rather the Volunteer boys to go over his car and so forth. We'll also need hers and several others.

BEHN: Let me know what Volunteer wants to do -- if they want to come in to Crown by helicopter?

AF COMMAND POST: What is your estimated time of departure?

AF-1: In a few minutes.

AF COMMAND POST: Do you have any passengers aboard?

AF-1: Full load, 40 plus.

AF COMMAND POST: Is Mrs. Kennedy aboard?

AF-1: Affirmative

SAM COMMAND POST: We have request from the Chief of Staff's office, is Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kennedy's body aboard?

AF-1: Affirmative on all of those questions.

SAM COMMAND POST: Are you airborne?

AF-1: Airborne at 2047Z. Estimated block time Andrews 2305Z.

AF-1: We want a patch with General Heaton, Surgeon General of the Army.

KELLERMAN: Arriving Andrews 6:05. The body will go to Walter Reed. Have an ambulance from Walter Reed to take the body there.

BEHN: Arrangements have been made for a helicopter to take the body to Bethesda Medical Center.

KELLERMAN: Standby, Jerry. I'll get Burkley here.

DR. BURKLEY: This is Dr. Burkley. What arrangements have been made?

BEHN: Everybody aboard AF-1 with the exception of the body will be choppered into the South Grounds. The body will be choppered to the Naval Medical Center at Bethesda.

BURKLEY: It will be choppered to go by ambulance to the Naval Medical Center?

BEHN: Will be choppered.

BURKLEY: I have called General Heaton and asked him to call the Military District of Washington regarding military arrangements. The body is in a casket and will have to be taken by ambulance and not by chopper.

BEHN: I'll tell Captain Shepard that.

BURKLEY: General Heaton, this is Admiral Burkley. Did you contact MDW in regards to taking care of the remains of President Kennedy taking him directly to Walter Reed? Probably Mrs. Kennedy will also be going out there. We will clarify that later.

HEATON: All right.

BURKLEY: Just a minute. General Clifton is here.

CLIFTON: This is General Clifton. We do not want a helicopter to go to Bethesda Medical Center. We do want an ambulance and a ground return from Andrews to Walter Reed, and we want the regular post-mortem that has to be done by law under guard performed at Walter Reed. Is that clear?

HEATON: That is clear, General Clifton. An ambulance and another limousine at Andrews and we want the regular post-mortem by law done at Walter Reed.

CLIFTON: Correct.

BURKLEY: What arrangements have you made? (I believe here Dr. Burkley at first thought he was speaking to Behn.)

HEATON: We have made no arrangements so far, but I will follow through on what you just told me -- have an ambulance and a limousine at Andrews and arrangements in regards to the post-mortem studies.

BURKLEY: Some arrangements have already been made. Here realizing that General Heaton was on the line.) We will have to clear that before we can go further.

CLIFTON: (To Behn) This is Watchman. I understand that you have arranged for an ambulance to take President Kennedy to Bethesda. Is this correct?

BEHN: It has been arranged to helicopter the body to Bethesda.

CLIFTON: Ok, if it isn't too dark. What about the First Lady?

BEHN: Everyone else will be helicoptered into the South Grounds.

CLIFTON: Are you sure that the helicopter operation will work? We have a very heavy casket.

BEHN: According to Witness, yes.

CLIFTON: Don't take a chance on that. Also have a mortuary-type ambulance standby in case the helicopter doesn't work.

BEHN: Affirmative.

CLIFTON: Now, some other instructions: Listen carefully. We need a ramp put at the front of the aircraft on the right hand side just behind the pilot's cabin in the galley. We are going to take the First Lady off by that route.

BEHN: Understand.

CLIFTON: Also, at the left rear -- at the rear of the aircraft where we usually dismount, we may need a fork-lift rather than a ramp. A platform to walk out on and a fork-lift to put it on. The casket is in the rear compartment and because it is so heavy we should have a fork-lift there to remove the casket. If this is too awkward we can go along with a normal ramp and several men.

BEHN: Affirmative. We will try for the fork-lift.

CLIFTON: Next item. There is to be normal Press arrangements at Andrews. They should be in front of the aircraft because that is where he'll come off. He is going to the White House by chopper.

BEHN: Should the Secretary of Defense and others be at Andrews on your arrival?

CLIFTON: No. I am about to call the White House. President Johnson wants to have the White House Staff, the leadership of Congress and as many of the Cabinet members available at the White House at 1830.

BEHN: Affirmative.

CLIFTON: Repeat that to me.

BEHN: All the leaders of Congress, as many Cabinet members as possible at the White House at 1830.

CLIFTON: And key members of the White House Staff, Sorensen, Bundy, etc. Hold for Kellerman.

KELLERMAN: Have helicopter to transport President Johnson and party to the White House Lawn.

BEHN: Affirmative. Everyone will be choppered to the South Grounds.

KELLERMAN: Have White House cars 102 and 405 for transportation to Hospital. I will join Hill and party at Navy Hospital.

BEHN: You will accompany body aboard helicopter.

KELLERMAN: Would you call Dr. John Walsh in Washington and advise him of our arrival?

BEHN: Affirmative. Where does Lace want Dr. Walsh to meet her?

KELLERMAN: At the White House.

(Note:) The next part of the tape is traffic between SAM COMMAND POST and AF-1 advising them of weather conditions -- tornadoes in AF-1's immediate flight path. I'm not putting in this traffic but I do have it in my draft if you want it.

DAGGER: Messages from Volunteer relative activities tonight. You are aware we will go to White House for meeting.

BEHN: Affirmative.

DAGGER: Volunteer will reside at Valley for an indefinite time. Venus will go to Valley with agent. Boring will go to Valley after first going to Crown.

MESSAGE FROM WING TO SLUGGER: "Slugger is to meet aircraft as soon as possible. If he cannot do this he is to see Wing as soon as possible."

MESSAGE FROM AF-1 to BEHN: "Cancel commercial line at Valley and install security phone there."

WARRIOR: Will you please advise Press that normal press coverage, including live TV, will be allowed at the Base. Volunteer will make statement on arrival.

WINNER: Will do. Is Mrs. Kennedy aboard AF-1?

WARRIOR: Yes.

WINNER: I'm setting up the press section on the South Lawn about 50 yards from position of Helicopter 1. Will that meet with Mrs. Kennedy's and the President's approval?

WARRIOR: She is not returning to the House. They are going someplace else. There will be an arrival there but it will be Volunteer.

WINNER: Thank you. I will hold that information and we can say something after you arrive. Is it true that the body of President Kennedy will go to Naval Hospital?

WARRIOR: Right. But we are not saying that yet.

WINNER: Well, we have already said it. I should have checked with you before doing it. I don't think it makes too much difference.

WARRIOR: There is no objection to that.

WINNER: Anything else I should know.

WARRIOR: The pool aboard this aircraft is Chuck Roberts and Smith. We lost Bell somewhere. I don't have AP aboard, but we have given them the statement of Volunteer on the death which he will make at the airport. You can announce that on arrival at the White House the President will meet with McNamara and Bundy and Rusk if he's in town. If not, without him. I understand he's on a plane to the Far East. It will probably be Ball. About half an hour after that meeting is over we will meet with the Congressional Leadership at 8:00

WINNER: Bipartisan or Democratic leadership?

WARRIOR: Bipartisan.

CLIFTON: (To Bundy) A meeting tonight with Bundy and McNamara at 6:30 at the White House. Rusk if he's in town. If not in town we do not want an acting secretary.

BUNDY: Will you tell him that the coming Cabinet will be at the airport to meet him. He can bring McNamara and me in his chopper to the White House.

CLIFTON: Another message. I called Jerry Behn about a White House Staff meeting. There will be no White House Staff meeting tonight. It will be tomorrow.

BUNDY: Ok. Let me repeat your message. President wishes to meet with SecDef and me at the White House on return from Andrews. Secondly that there will be no other meetings -- there will be a White House Staff meeting tomorrow on call.

CLIFTON: No. He wants to meet with the leadership about 7:30.

BUNDY: Right, does he wish us to arrange that?

CLIFTON: He wants you to arrange that. Two meetings tonight -- McNamara and Bundy and the leadership about 7:30.

BUNDY: Does he mean the Democratic leadership only?

CLIFTON: Bipartisan leadership and I'll give you some names. Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, Hale Boggs, Leslie Arends, Mansfield, Humphrey, Smathers, Dirksen, Kuchel and Hickenlooper.

BUNDY: About 7:30 at the White House.

CLIFTON: 7:30 in the Cabinet Room.

BUNDY: Tell the Vice President that the Cabinet Room is under rearrangement, but the Oval Room will be ready.

CLIFTON: The Oval Room it will be. No, you mean the Fish Room.

BUNDY: I mean both the Fish Room and the President's Study, and we will try to have the Cabinet Room, but that's a detail, we can work that out.

CLIFTON: He does not want to go into the mansion or in the Oval Room or in the President's Office or the President's Study. So if the Cabinet Room isn't ready, then put it in the Fish Room.

BUNDY: I understand. Always in the West Wing.

CLIFTON: Please tell Behn about the change so we don't confuse it.

BUNDY: All right, I will.

CLIFTON: See you in a little while.

MRS. ROSE KENNEDY: Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Mrs. Kennedy, I wish to God that there was something that I could say to you, and I want to tell you that we're grieving with you.

MRS. KENNEDY: Thank you very much. That's very nice. I know you loved Jack and he loved you.

MRS. JOHNSON: If there is anything we can do -- (Here Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Johnson are both trying to talk at the same time and the tape becomes almost inaudible.)

MRS. KENNEDY: Thank you Lady Bird. Thank you Mr. President.

WARRIOR: That first meeting will be Bundy and McNamara only. The President will meet with Rusk when he returns. It will probably be a different meeting.

WINNER: Ok.

MRS. JOHNSON: (To Mrs. Connally) Can you hear me? The surgeon speaking about John was so reassuring. How about it?

MRS. CONNALLY: The surgeon that just got finished operating said that John is going to be all right unless something unforeseen happens.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I know that everything's going to be all right.

MRS. JOHNSON: Yes, everything's going to be all right.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: God bless you, darling.

MRS. CONNALLY: The same to you.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: A hug and a kiss from me.

MRS. CONNALLY: Good luck.

TANKER: I have been informed from Dallas that it was desired that the aircraft be parked in an isolated spot when you arrive here. However, Watchman had a long discussion with Behn and nothing about that was mentioned. The present plan on the ground here is to spot you in the regular place unless Watchman says now that this is not desired.

TIGER: I believe that they are parking in the regular place. Where did you get that information from down in Dallas?

TANKER: It was from the USAF Command Post agent there and I heard from him that you had told him to do this.

TIGER: We told him to look into that to see if the family had ordered it done. We were going to discuss it on the plane. Go ahead and park in the regular place. We need steps in the right front of the aircraft, the press box will be on the left of the aircraft, and President Johnson will deplane in the front of the aircraft. We need a fork-lift at the rear of the aircraft.

TANKER: Understand. Have all been carried out. We will continue with the plan to spot you in the regular place. There will be a ramp left front, a ramp right front, a fork-lift left rear, the Press area left front.

The remainder of the tape is traffic between AF-1 and Andrews checking on weather.
