

SRT_0-969-1_Love and Prayers

Date: 1963-11-22

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Lady Bird Johnson

Participant: Rose F. Kennedy

Participant: Malcolm M. Kilduff Jr.

Participant: Air Force One

Participant: Andrews Air Force Base

Participant: White House

Start Time: 15:15

Place: Air Force One

SCROLLER TITLE: "Love and Prayers"

SCENE SETTER: Some 30 minutes after leaving Dallas, Texas, the site of President John F. "Jack" Kennedy's assassination hours earlier, President and Lady Bird Johnson placed a telephone call to the Kennedy family compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. The Johnsons offered their condolences to Rose F. Kennedy, mother of the late president. Sergeant Joseph Ayres, the steward aboard *Air Force One* who initially talked with Mrs. Kennedy, would later tell biographer William Manchester that he had to check himself from saying "President" Johnson in this call. But Rose Kennedy used the appellation without hesitation.

Andrews AFB: *Air Force One*, Andrews. Give CROWN a call.

AF-1: Break CROWN, *Air Force One*. VOLUNTEER requesting a patch with Mrs. Rose [F.] Kennedy as soon as possible. Go ahead.

White House: Roger. Understand VOLUNTEER wants a patch with Mrs. Rose as soon as possible.

AF-1: Mrs. Rose Kennedy. Roger.

White House: Roger, Roger. I'll work on that right away. And also, while I'm working on that, could we have a confirmation, a confirmation, on earlier transmission from AF-1, stating that the commercial telephone service—I say again, commercial telephone service—for the Johnson residence should be discontinued with direct lines through White House. Do you Roger that?

AF-1: Stand by one. We'll have to check it out.

White House: Roger, Roger. While you're checking on that, I'll work on the call to Mrs. Rose Kennedy for VOLUNTEER. Stand by.

End of excerpt 1.

White House: [A]F-1, AF-1, AF-1, from CROWN. Come in.

AF-1: CROWN, this is *Air Force One*. Do you read us? Over.

White House: I'm reading you loud and clear. I have Mrs. Kennedy standing by. Are you ready with VOLUNTEER? Go ahead.

AF-1: Yes, we are ready. Can you put her on, and I'll turn her over to him. Over.

White House: Roger, Roger. She's coming on now. [*Pause.*] AF-1 from CROWN. Mrs. Kennedy on. Go ahead, please.

AF-1: Hello, Mrs. Kennedy. Hello, Mrs. Kennedy.

Rose F. Kennedy: Hello.

AF-1: We're talking from the airplane.

Kennedy: Yes.

AF-1: Can you hear us all right? Over.

Kennedy: Yes, thank you. Thank you. Hello?

AF-1: Yes, Mrs. Kennedy. I have, uh, Mr. [Lyndon B.] Johnson for you here.

Kennedy: Yes, thank you. Hello?

President Johnson: Mrs. Kennedy?

Kennedy: Yes. Yes—

President Johnson: Mrs. Ken—

Kennedy: —yes, yes, Mr. President. Yes, [*unclear*]—

President Johnson: I wish to God there was something that I could do, and I wanted to tell you that we were grieving with you.

Kennedy: Yes. Well, thanks a mill—thank you very much.

President Johnson: Here's [Lady] Bird [Johnson].

Kennedy: Thank you very much. I know. I know you loved [John F.] Jack [Kennedy], and he loved you. [*Unclear*]—

Lady Bird Johnson: Mrs. Kennedy, we feel like we've just had—

Kennedy: Yes. All right.

Lady Bird Johnson: We're glad that the nation had your son—

Kennedy: Yes. Yes.

Lady Bird Johnson: —long as it did.

Kennedy: Well, thank you, Lady Bird. Thank you very much. Good-bye!

Lady Bird Johnson: Love—

Kennedy: Yes.

Lady Bird Johnson: Love and prayers to—

Kennedy: Yes.

Lady Bird Johnson: —all of you.

Kennedy: Thank you very much. Good-bye. Good-bye. Good-bye. [*Hangs up.*]

Malcolm M. “Mac” Kilduff Jr.: CROWN, CROWN, this is WARRIOR. I think that trans[mission] is over. Is that a Roger? Over.

White House: That is a Roger, WARRIOR. That is a Roger. Mrs. Kennedy has hung up. Go ahead.

Kilduff: CROWN, now would you give me that patch to Walter [W.] Jenkins in President, uh, Johnson’s office? Over.

White House: Roger. Stand by one.

End of excerpt 2.

CITATION: “AF-1 (President Johnson, Lady Bird Johnson, and Malcolm Kilduff), Andrews AFB, the White House, and Rose Kennedy on 22 November 1963,” Sound Recording Tape 0-969-1, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition [The Kennedy Assassination and the Transfer of Power, vol. 1, ed. Max Holland]* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014–). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/9010053>