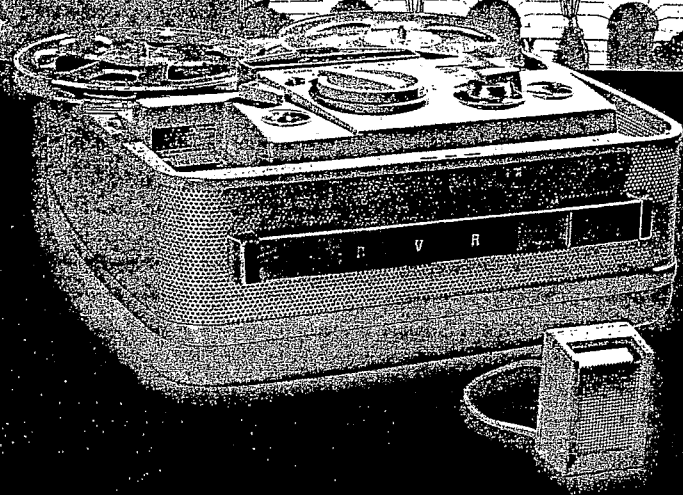


# *The White House Tapes*

EAVESDROPPING ON THE PRESIDENT



PRESIDENTS INCLUDE:

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

*Harry S. Truman*

*John F. Kennedy*

*Lyndon B. Johnson*

*Richard M. Nixon*

*Gerald R. Ford*

*Ronald W. Reagan*

EDITED BY JOHN PRADOS  
PUBLISHED IN COLLABORATION WITH  
AMERICAN RADIOWORKS®

# The White House Tapes

---

EAVESDROPPING ON THE PRESIDENT

---

John Prados

---



THE NEW PRESS

NEW YORK  
LONDON

## CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>A Note on Transcriptions</i>	xiii
<i>Using the Recordings and Guidebook</i>	xvii
<i>Introduction</i>	1
<b>FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT</b>	26
<i>September 27, 1940: President Roosevelt Meets with African American Leaders</i>	26
<i>October 4, 1940: President Roosevelt Meets with Speaker Sam Rayburn and Representative John McCormick</i>	39
<b>HARRY S. TRUMAN</b>	47
<i>Unknown Dates, 1947-48: President Truman, Telephone Conversations</i>	47
<b>DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER</b>	52
<i>January 7, 1955: President Eisenhower Meets with Senator Walter George on the Bricker Amendment</i>	52
<b>JOHN F. KENNEDY</b>	63
<i>August 28, 1963: President Kennedy Meets with Civil Rights Leaders</i>	63

<i>October 29, 1963: President Kennedy Meets with His National Security Council on the Question of Supporting a Coup in South Vietnam</i>	92
<b>LYNDON B. JOHNSON</b>	151
<i>March 2, 1964: President Johnson Discusses Vietnam with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara</i>	151
<i>March 4, 1964: President Johnson Discusses Vietnam with State Department Policy Planner Walt W. Rostow</i>	161
<i>March 4, 1964: President Johnson Discusses Vietnam and His Rostow Conversation with National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy</i>	164
<i>June 9, 1964: President Johnson Discusses Vietnam with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara</i>	169
<i>June 23, 1964: President Johnson Discusses the Investigation of Deaths of Three Civil Rights Workers in Mississippi with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover (in Two Conversations)</i>	177
<i>August 3, 1964: President Johnson Discusses an Incident in the Gulf of Tonkin with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara (in Two Conversations)</i>	183
<i>August 4, 1964: The Gulf of Tonkin Incident Continues—President Johnson Discusses Bombing North Vietnam with Robert S. McNamara (in Four Conversations)</i>	189
<i>August 4, 1964: FBI Finds the Bodies of Slain Civil Rights Workers—President Johnson Discusses Events with FBI Deputy Director “Deke” DeLoach, Political Adviser Lee White, and Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson (in Four Conversations, Interrupted by Another Call from Robert S. McNamara)</i>	199
<i>August 4, 1964: The Gulf of Tonkin Incident Continues—President Johnson Discusses U.S. Retaliation with Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara</i>	203
<i>August 4, 1964: Conversations about the Slain Civil Rights Workers Continued</i>	208
<b>RICHARD M. NIXON</b>	214
<i>March 26, 1971: President Nixon Meets with His National Security Council on Vietnam, the Invasion of Laos, and Other Issues in the War</i>	214
<i>February 1, 1972: President Nixon Meets with Evangelist Billy Graham</i>	238
<i>June 23, 1972: President Nixon Holds Meetings with White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman on Handling the Watergate Break-In Controversy—the “Smoking Gun” Tape (in Three Conversations)</i>	255
<b>GERALD R. FORD</b>	283
<i>July 17, 1975: President Ford Talks to American and Russian Astronauts Aboard the Docked Apollo and Soyuz Spacecraft on a Joint Orbital Mission</i>	283

CONTENTS

ix

92	<i>September 1, 1975: President Ford Discusses Middle East Truce Agreements with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat</i>	288
151	<b>RONALD REAGAN</b>	302
151	<i>November 25, 1986: President Reagan's Public Statement Accepting the Resignation of National Security Adviser Admiral John Poindexter over the Iran-Contra Affair</i>	302
161	<i>December 1, 1986: President Reagan Makes Opening Remarks at the Initial Meeting of the Special Review Board (Tower Commission) Created to Review White House Participation in the Iran-Contra Affair</i>	309
164	<i>December 2, 1986: President Reagan's Address to the Nation on the Iran-Contra Affair</i>	312
169	<i>December 4, 1986: President Reagan Makes Remarks and Answers a Few Questions from Reporters at His First Meeting with New National Security Adviser Frank C. Carlucci</i>	318
177	<i>December 6, 1986: President Reagan Makes New Explanations of the Iran-Contra Affair in a Weekend Radio Speech</i>	321
183	Notes	329
189	For Further Reading	
199		
203		
208		
214		
214		
238		
255		
283		
283		