

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Allen, Richard: Papers
Folder Title: [March 30, 1981 – Tape 2 Transcript
Annotated]
Box: 1

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name ALLEN, RICHARD V.: PAPERS

Withdrawer

CAS 1/10/2011

File Folder [MARCH 30, 1981-TAPE 2 TRANSCRIPT ANNOTATED]

FOIA

ALLENSYSTEMATI
C

Box Number 1

6

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
102743	TRANSCRIPT	ANNOTATED TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE 2	49	3/30/1981	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Crisis - March 30, 1981 - Tape # 2

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
NLRR MAIL W/ SYSTEM 10743
BY CX NARA DATE 3/15/11

*to be
correct*

OS

Allen
Voice *EW*

The instructions I initially gave was that we were

not to make any major increase or change in the security.
I did think when I was reported about the somewhat closer
range of the sub...(interruption) oh, that, that...
that it was entirely....

Voice:
Murphy

That, that aise, I don't, y'know, question the decision
(all right, well) but just so that we can tell him when
he gets here what it is that's got to be done...(interruption)

Allen:

Well, I think we'll know, we've got another two hours
before he's here, we'll know what precisely...

Sighs...

Voice:
Murphy

...don't we want to, whatever the answer is from a
number of.... we want to give the impression that this
is in accord with routine precautionary..

Haig:

Surely...yeah...that's right (multiple voices in assent)...

Haig:

Well, I think the...

Voice:

.....

Haig: we need to say anything...but the first thing we have to worry about is the post surgical report...

Voice: That's right...

Haig: And that ought to be the next time anybody opens their yak...

Cal
Voice: I think going up and subjecting anybody to questions up there in that bear pit is a mistake now because nobody has enough information in which to answer questions and anything you want to put out--just a piece of paper handed out with no questions, I think, would be the preferred format.

Allen: Let's just get them to take it out--let them take it out of the area/name (?) multiple voices...we'll just get somebody from the staff...

Murmur of several voices--nothing coherent....

Allen: Here's another one here that's leaking and...take this out and get it replaced, would you please...get some more coffee and...

Voice: What time is it...

Murphy
Voice: ...six-thirty on Andrews and before seven...

Voice: Max, Mr. Berger (?)...here

Voice: I spoke to the leadership...

Babble of voices...

Voice: ^{Wright,}
(name)...could you put that out--do you mind?

Voice: ...to O'Neill, to Mr. Byrd, to Baker and to...

0 1/2 | Voice: I don't know, I think it...

Voice: It seems to me it would... (RT WOULD NOT HAVE...)

~~Voice:~~ Umm, it'll be seen taking off, that's the problem...
the ^{NEACP} KNEE CAP and there's, I don't think there's any
need to move it now...you could move it...

~~Voice:~~ In my judgement, there's no basis whatsoever for that--
(voicing assent)-- none whatsoever...

Haig: Now, if ^{the} a submarine comes in closer...let's talk about
it...if we're going to have an additional alert, until
the Vice President gets here...we'll talk about it.

Allen: Well, in any case, it would be done after dark if you're
going to move it, I think, because it'll stay light now
^{UNTIL ABOUT 6 O'CLOCK AND IF THE NEACP IS SEEN TAKING}

OFF SOMEBODY WINK

Haig: Let me ask you a question, Cap, is this submarine approach

023

Allen: There's another one...

Haig: ...is that what's doing this...or is it the fact that the President's under surgery?

Cap: What, what's doing what, Al?

~~Cap~~ CAP IRRITATED Now

Haig: That we are discussing whether or not to put the KNEE CAP bird up in the air...

Cap: Well, I'm discussing it from the point of view that at the moment, until the Vice President actually arrives here that the mandatory ^{Committee Authority} is what I have...and I have to make sure that it is essential that we do everything that seems proper...(murmur of voices)

Haig: ^(low and distant) Better read ^(low) the constitution... ^(chuckling)

Cap: Hmmm???

Haig: We can get the Vice President anytime we want...

Voice: Well, one way or another...the initial steps because

Cap

he's not in a position there to take all of them WITHOUT CONSULTATION, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ONE OUGHT TO

prepare at least enough so that we can move more rapidly
than we could otherwise... and so...(interruption)

Haig: why...because of the...

Cap: ...so the discussion of the KNEE CAP is...

Haig: is it because of the submarine or because of the incident...
that's the question I'm asking.

Cap: The reason that I asked to have the move to the planes
is because of the incident.

Sherr

Cap
Voice: The reason that I asked to have the ^{PA} move to the plane is because of the incident and I would continue to take that position until I know absolutely definitely that it's an isolated incident, which I think it is. But I don't know that yet, and I don't want to take any kinds of risk. The risk of some newspaper story or some rumor is a hell of a lot less than not having the things in place.

35
Wick
Voice: You got some news Dave?

~~OFF~~ *Wick*
Bull Bulletin Bulletin - ---
Voice: Bulletin, hold on we got something here.

Voice (from TV): is undergoing surgery at GW hospital. A Secret Service Agent from Chicago was on the Presidential Security detail, Timothy McCarthy suffered a chest wound. He is at GW hospital and his condition is listed as stable. The D.C. police officer, Thomas Delahanty was listed critically at first, listed as critical and he is now in serious condition. He has been a canine officer for some years on the D.C. police force and --

AWA
Voice: Manny. What's the situation on the Polish strike? Is it off? ^{*M: OFF!*} Indefinitely.

Allen: What was the -- Have you got daylight. Daylight in ²⁰ 60 minutes. I'd bring him right in here, right into the pad,

RVA: Bring him right into the South ground.

Voice: Right here.

100 South Ground

Allen: Bring him right here. Bring him right, the question was whether to bring him in; yes, bring his right in here.

(Low mumbling, TV background)

2 After Chicago because (P) could become known

5:57
3 CD 1
KFR

RVA
Voice: shock trauma unit is used many times a day.

Who would say present capability because ...

? Check to

62

FFY
Voice: You better read this, one would say present capability, say that again from me.

Hope to RVA - of
OTO

RVA moves CW and WJ Casey to RVA OFFICE

Allen: Jesus ~~Christ~~. I didn't know he was going to make any God damn statement up there Cap and sorry I'm not like a watchdog. Shit, I thought he was going to pull Speakes off, I didn't know that Speakes had gone up to make a statement.

Your doing what's prudent and --

Cap

Voice: Rumors are unfortunate but it's better to have a God damn rumor that you can deny later than --

RVA

RVA
Voice: I don't appreciate carrying the turf battle over into this sort of thing so when George is here it will be fine but you have the command authority now as I understand it. He has the succession authority, however.

Voice: Yes, I understand.

RVA
Voice: An that is why he went up to declare himself in charge.
Capt put

CW
Voice: It's important that the other countries know that there is something in charge and all that. I don't have any problems about that but I don't want to have the worry about whether ^{or not} somebody's going to have a rumor going ^{or} whether or not he has made a correct or incorrect statement dictates the decision as to whether we put this stuff in the air or not.
Cat

WV
Voice: This is your call and I think what your doing is absolutely -- and it's within a state of readiness, so who's going to learn that they moved to their ~~new plant~~
i.e. pilots from shack to cockpit NO PACE NO DECCO!

CW
Voice: NOW, I think that's a very minor point. Now on the KNEE CAP, we can certainly wait on that because they can get that up but with the SAC notification these fellows would be in the plane.

083
AW
Voice: With the engines running?
CW
Voice: Sure.

Bill
(low mumbling, TV in background, telephone ringing)
Back THE 15 STEPS TO SIT ROOM
FF
Voice: Who's going to hear it. What time is the VP due?

1 Minute
6:30 at Andrews and I'd give it another 15 minutes.

*NOTE: Kegan
At 9:40
PR 3 call
Rex Stokes see
fune - ~~other~~
check this - Kegan*

Voice: The news on Brady and the agent is not very good.

Gust
Voice: Is he in surgery still or what.

Kegan
Voice: Yes.

Voice: What does it say?

Kegan
Voice: Just that they're having difficulty.

Voice: Difficulty? Where it is - well, trouble getting to it.

Voice: Yes. Brain damage, stuff like that.

Voice: Who?

2.
Voice: Mr. Elling ^{wood} - he's upstairs.

Voice: Who is he?

*Make
deputy*
Voice: He's Deputy Counsellor

Voice: Low discussion of command authority and line of succession.

RW
Voice: Well the command authority as I understand it rests with Cap. Command authority. Ed, as a matter of fact, precisely mentioned that.

Voice: Yes he did. He spoke to me specifically.

me
live Voice: The succession of command authority.

live Voice: Can we get that checked? Close that door will you please.

live Voice: I think we better have that down. Fred, are you coming right back?

live Voice: What does the constitution say when the right man is not available to make a decision?

(Mumbling about something be closed)

Smith? Voice: They closed them at 3:15.

Pagan Voice: The bullet is still in the President.

Voice: The bullet is still in?

Allen Voice: How long has he been under?

Pagan Voice: I don't know.

Pagan Voice: Just confirming what you said about Brady, he's in critical condition.

1970
Voice: This is just straight wire service stuff?

RWA
Voice: Yes. Straight wire service.

Other
Voice: You guys want a cup?

RWA
Voice: Oh that looks good doesn't it. Make sure the Mess stays open. Keep a full complement on at the Mess.

(Discussion about the java and Irene being asked to get a pot of Sanka.)

RWA
Voice: Just pray for Brady. This is an incredible thing. His child is two, yes.

FJH
Voice: Where does he live? In Arlington?

Allen: He lives near us, a block and a half or two blocks, no five blocks from us. He lives right near us. I have alerted Pat.

RWA
Voice: Larry, did you see Jim? Were you at the scene. Did you see his head? Did anyone see his head? Did he catch it right smack in the front?

SP
Voice: (mumbling the nurses pointed it out)

RWA Did the bullet go in? It's in his brain? Oh my God!
... Did the bullet go in? It's in his brain. Oh my God!

CD 1 ends
CD 2 Beyond

Speaker
Voice: The nurses pointed here. *I know*

Voice: Right smack in the front.

AAA
Voice: What I was surprised at, if it's a 22 long it
blew that agent away. I saw that agent twisting, he was really
knocked for a loop.

CW
Voice: A terrible blast ^{from} from those things.

Bob
Voice: A 22?

Voice: Depends on the heading. If its a new high velocity
hollow point. I have a hollow point high velocity and I
shoot small varments --

WNA
Voice: no a message has gone out to all posts. Is that right?
Al, you sent a message to all embassies. So don't worry about
that. We want to collect the messages as they come in obviously,
but that's of no consequence right now.

Haig: The next message we need is --

WNA
Voice: I just got a FLASH out that the bullet is still in
the President.

Allen: Oh, Jesus, forgot about him.

Discussion of the hospital and surgeon--about another resident doctor's --opinion---"that would be logical that they've have to."

We alerted the Maryland trauma center just in case it's needed, but I doubt it. (TV news in the background).

(Haig's TV broadcast from the White House press room is on the air...)

Allen: Would you keep that door closed out there, Larry, when you go, pull it closed.

Voice: Will you turn that up a little (referring to the sound of the TV)...it's all right.

(Haig's White House press room conference is now clearly heard)

Allen: If Dan Murphy was in ... (murmur of voices)

Allen: Jesus....

(Continuing TV broadcast with reporters posing questions to Haig about the time he arrived, who's in charge, etc.)

(Frank Reynolds saying that was a video tape of the SecState's conference held about an hour ago.)

Allen: Oh sure, we're fine.

Voice: Well, I know the President will be all right--we'll wait and see -- we have ~~another~~ long arduous months ahead of us now... (Allen)

Voice: As far as the President's concerned they opened the abdominal section--couldn't find any bullet--and they're presently opening his chest.

Voice: Well, for Christ's _____ sake, didn't they X-ray?

Voice: Oh, God. The abdominal section. They found no blood in the abdominal cavity so they've gone into the chest.

Voice: What'll they do if they don't find it there?

Voice: You would think they what the hell they were looking for -- loud babble of voices--not clear who is speaking and what they are saying).

Voice: ...you would think they were trying to locate it before they went in...

Voice: (Allen) I don't doubt they know what they're doing, but for God's sake to go in the abdomen and then open up the chest---

Smart
that just sounds crazy.

Voice: *W* Yeah...I can believe it...

Voice: *W* Did you hear that medical report?

W
Voice: The report that we got is not an official medical
W bulletin, it's from our own people. But they opened
up the abdominal cavity, found no evidence of blood or
bleeding and now they've gone into the chest.

Voice: Yeah, but its

Voice: ...he was telling me privately, I was just talking to
W Jim (?) about the type of bullet and they say that
it is considered a very high velocity...

(Incoherent discussion of bullet and damage it would do.)

Allen: Oh, yeah, I heard about that.

Smart
Voice: Hand gun control--we better think that policy through
W again--in light of this. I'll have to testify on this
----so we better get something started on hand gun
control---cause this is going to be, you know, why
don't you--here we go (Notetaker: could be Casey?)

Voice: ...and what is our policy.

Voice: Well...that's pretty clear.

Voice: I'm sure that won't change. The President will be out
sure of surgery in ten minutes and in the recovery room for two hours -- they have still not located the bullet.

Voice: My God. When did he go in? He'd been in about an
from hour, right? Or forty-five minutes?

Voice: It's a 22, but they can't find it.

Voice: If he's out in ten minutes, that's five o'clock.

Haig: ...you've got a Major General running around there --
is who's got a half of a junk yard....

Voice: ...it's those bullets can spread if they hit something
Saw

Allen: Is it right here...on the side?

Haig: Around the back--

Voice: They're giving Brady the last rites of the Church.
is

Voice: Oh, my God.

What is he talking about?

Voice: It's called the sacrament of the sick.

Voice: There's conflicting reports from the military hospital as to where the Vice President going to land.

Voice: He's going to land at the residence.

Voice: Oh, the residence. ^{Murphy} And don't screw it up...that's where he wants to go and drive him here directly.

Voice: (Haig) What did you do with that statement...the letter (from another)...yeah...Reply: Darman has that...he's going to hold onto it.

Voice: Don Edleman, when you go out, see that _____ comes in...staff secretary... and somebody else in addition to

Allen: I don't want any breaks in continuity...and he will that's what Baker says he wanted, let Darman hold onto it (from another voice).

Voice: ^{WURST} He's from Tim Wurst's (sp.?) district...Congressional district.

Allen: Evergreen is just outside of...General Lincoln used to live outside of...

Babble of voices.

Voice: One thing that might be of interest if we pick up anything would be foreign press...foreign reaction

Voice: I'm sure it will start coming in...

Voices (multiple) discussing length of surgery... Allen heard to mention Irene's name...the agents...^{He-er}"they're not doctors so...I mean, they're getting it relayed second hand to them from nurses and what have you." ^{He-er}You're getting this through Secret Service channels (from Haig)

Allen: It's secure---you want a secure line, Al?

Haig: No.

Allen: Punch two and pick up--Pick up and punch two.

Haig: Yeah...get me my office in the State Department, this is Secretary Haig.

(TV broadcast is on re Evergreen, Colorado -- describing area)

(Continuing discussion of the assailant and his family background from the TV broadcast).

(Dallas being mentioned...Haig comments: "they really train them well down there in Dallas, do they.")

Haig: Hello. Muriel, put our young tiger on, will you.
Who. Where is Jerry? Jerry.

BREMER

Voice: Hinckley.

(TV broadcast continues on Hinckley family.)

Haig: Okay, secure phone. Yeah, all right.

Voice: President's due out in five minutes. (Allen) Line is still open to the hospital there...?

Haig: Any reports on Nancy?

Voice: Yeah. She's doing fine, apparently.

Haig: Yeah. I think the next report we ought to start drafting right now which would be (interruption)

Voice: Governor Thompson's got a plane and he wants to authorize to bring Brady's family here right away from Illinois.
Can we authorize it?

(Simultaneously)

Allen: Sure, sure. At Andrews? Planning to take it to Andrews or wherever its convenient. Whatever is fastest.

Haig: Absolutely. (continuing...)...I think we ought to start assuming he's going to...

*if assuming
will be*

fw
Voices: White House transportation...waiting...wherever they come in...get the tail number

*for Brady
Kitt*

Haig: No, that's not necessarily bad. As long as it's not in a vital organ...that's the problem.

Babble of voices.

Allen: He'd be an hour and thirty minutes at Andrews. Ninety minutes at Andrews and still ninety to hour and a half to two hours away. When he comes in, we'll put him in

Haig: What I'm talking about is checking... (not coherent) and they won't be thinking about...^{them} their right up against the trauma of the situation ..(noise--sliding on table makes it impossible to decipher)

Lisa
Voice: Make it here, and call it into them and see if they agree.

Message being passed to Secretary Haig--Bremer's on Secure two for you--

U

Haig: Yeah. Jerry? You ought to be preparing another message for when the President gets out of surgery...which would be...well, I'll call it an international hand holder and

||
||

rew A
Voice: Echo exactly what he'll say when he comes out...echo exactly what they say at the hospital...do we have a runner set up---we probably ought to have a runner set up.

Voice: Nothing?

Haig: You know what I mean? Just so you have, so we can get it out very quickly as soon as we get confirmation.... surgery

Voice: I thought I had lost my White House pass...

Haig: Yeah. Now what he said was the other...no, I wouldn't send it through....

[Handwritten scribble]
Coughing...several times.

Haig: What he said, he thought the other was more worrisome. Hell, your version is far worse. Chuckling. Yeah. But how about that (more chuckling) Oh, we don't need that.

353 *legan*
Announcement: Jim Brady is dead.

Haig: Yeah. Brady's dead.

Haig: Is he there? Good. The President is supposedly going to complete surgery in the next five or ten minutes.

Babble of voices.

Haig: Post surgical recovery.

Voice: Could we get someone on the line right away.

36 Allen: We just learned Jim Brady has died.

Begin Voice: You better get a statement ready on that.

V Voice: We will. Let's just see what they're going to do.

Haig: I gotta go. =

Allen: And we better just have a moment of prayer in silence for Jim Brady...died.

Quiet. 7 Secs

Haig: Now, is that going to be put out over there?

Still worried about source B's fate - mends

Voice: I'm trying to reach them right now, They've got somebody on the line right now...

Haig: We certainly have an obligation here to say something !!!

Allen: I think that...Jesus...

Voices: ...get the Brady family to land at Andrews? Make that

available to...

Al
Voices: Or National, National's much closer if it's a smaller plane and not one of the supers...

WA
Voice: It would be, it's a State plane...

Haig: We ought to have a sedan and the Secret Service and everything to pick them up...

Voice: I was just talking to Jim...

RWA Voice: God in heaven... *Jim* poor fellow...

Allen: That's a hell of a loss...

Voice: ...not to my knowledge...he's got a call in to....

Multiple voices all speaking at once -- message about Brady being discussed and where announcement should be made --- seems to be Haig and Allen discussing...

Haig: ...come from the hospital, I think.

Allen: It should come from the hospital...that's enough...there's no need for another announcement up here at the present *!!!*
time.

(TV broadcast is turned up -- voices all quiet down--mention of

item today--the hijacked plane in Thailand, etc.)

Haig: They stormed it.

Allen: The Indonesians?

(Many wounded, running in panic--Frank Reynolds reporting)

403
Allen: Okay. Is Larry the one to make the announcement about...
he's not going to be in any condition to--(another
responding) David's talking to the people over at the hospita
right now. I'd wait until it comes over here. Let them be
the control...we don't want to announce that Jim's dead
from here.

Haig: That associates to bad things... I don't...let them...

Allen: That's right...over at the hospital, keep it away from
here

FKK
Voices: This has got to stay cool...calm...

Background sounds of ice in cup, TV broadcast...

Haig: Now is there anybody anyone can think of that we have
not notified, that we should have notified and talked to

Woman's voice: Jim has a daughter in Colorado. I'm sure she's been notified, but I don't know...she is.

Voice: Have we notified Strom Thurmond?

Voice: He's the present pro tem...as a matter of fact, he's third in succession...

Allen: Jim Brady's daughter should be brought here from the

Woman: ...school in Colorado...someplace...

Voice: He's third in line...

Haig: The Speaker is...

Voice: The Speaker is next and then Strom Thurmond...

Haig: After...

Voice: I mean the President...

Allen: Why don't you check and make sure Brady's daughter is being brought here by military..by U.S. aircraft...

Janet see that it's done and locate her and worry about the coordination and get Jim's daughter here. Jim's former wife ..huh?

Voice: The information on Brady is not confirmed.

Voice: The Secretary...Jim Baker to talk to you on secure...

Voice: It may be accurate...it's simply not confirmed....

Voice: Its possible...

(TV broadcast...its just been handed to me here that the President is okay and Jim Brady is not doing well...that comes from Sam Donaldson, who is at the hospital...can we go back to Sam, at the hospital. Sam, (comes on the TV)...Here at George Washington University Hospital we are told that President Reagan is still in surgery -- taken in ...

Voice: Do you want to see these as they come in or just major ...

Allen: Major ones... (respondent: Okay)

Background noises like shuffling of papers

Voice: Bill...

Many background noises as TV continues to blare...Donaldson concludes his reporting from the hospital...ice rattling, cups noisely put down on table...papers shuffling.

Five o'clock time-frame...

Haig: Incidentally, the report on Brady is not true.

POW
4/6/3
Voices: Not true. Excellent.

Haig: And he's still in surgery...it's very serious but it's not true that he's dead.

Allen: Thank God.

Haig: Now they're going to make an announcement over there-- which we're having typed up and which we will read here --no questions--none.

*True
Again
Source
of
Statements*

Haig: The President is still in surgery...and will be for a while. The doctors' preliminary report to Mrs. Reagan have just assured her that the President's condition is good. Period.

Smith
Voice: The report earlier that the lung had collapsed --

Smith
Voice: One lung -- ^{the} left lung

Haig: But sometimes they do that -- intentionally.

Smith
Voice: Yeah. Without too serious consequences.

Haig: When the Vice President comes...

Incoherent discussion around table.

Haig: When they do it over there.

Voices: Thank God--

Voice: ^{begin} We're sure that Nofziger has gone on...no questions

Voice: ^{begin} Just make sure your open on the lines...

Haig: Let me, after he's done...

Voice: ^{begin} But no questions, Larry.

Cap: ^{begin} Anything new?

500 Cap: We are on re normal VEP COM... ^{Def com} ^{Def com} ^{few} around the world except for SAC which is FOUR which is normal for them, they have raised slightly the FOUR without changing the condition by having the bomber crews restricted to their alert quarters as opposed to being restricted to the base only. This condition will prevail until I advise them that there is no longer any need for it. The submarine position remains essentially unchanged. [REDACTED] minutes, forty-eight seconds and all the commanders in chief have been talked to from the military command center, and they are all personally alerted, they are all personally increasing the degree of intelligence gathering that they would do normally they are not making any other change and there's no technical change in the alert conditions.

Time 1707
10:10
10:10
with

3.3 (b)'

The KNEE CAP is, as usual, on full alert and could get off in eight minutes, if the crews were moved into the planes, could get off in five minutes -- I told them no need to get the crews into the planes cause there's none of the command authority there. When the Vice President lands at Andrews, if there's any change, we could go directly to the plane. If not, why just come in normally, but there's no change in the position. The difference between having them on board and not getting them in the air is three minutes.

RVA
Voice: From the Vice President. We will touch down at 1835 local at Andrews--plan to helicopter to the Observatory and motorcade to the White House...approximate arrival there 1900.

Voice: Why not land on the lawn.

Allen: Well, they changed that. He wanted to (interruption) it's probably a security measure...

Allen (Continuing to read) Feel strongly about proper mode of arrival unless situation dictates more immediate route to White House. Both Andrews and Observatory will be closed to press. Please advise soonest of any change. More to come... *||*

[53]

Voice: Helen (?) Jim said that Brady is not dead.

Babble of voices -- papers noisely being turned/shuffled

Haig: I think so...and I think that should be...and I'm
sure they're doing --- we ought to...

Allen: Look, will you keep that door closed and...

Voice: Larry, when you get ^{the} ~~the~~ I have a question to ask
you...

(Someone heard to say ... keep down the level of noise out here,
keep the door closed)

(Woman's voice coming in over the TV)

(Broadcast continues mostly about the VP's plane turning around in
Austin to return to Washington, crisis management (a subject we're
all familiar with because of the flap that developed about that...
VP will be overseeing the Situation Room, but there's been a question
when Secretary Haig appeared here in the press room, who will be in
charge? and who will determine who's in charge?...etc. I am told
that Frank Fielding who is the counsel to the President...)

TV turned up --

7:16
Voice: *Don't* ...look at me--chuckling in the background

*↳
How told?
Beep!!
EV and
ack.*

Voice: (Worse than I am.

(Frank Reynolds on TV-- recapping the news broadcast this afternoon, citing difficulty -- conflicting reports, etc.)

End of side #1, Tape #__.

(609)
Please copy at this point

Voice: There are no officials.

Voice: Who's Greenwood?

Voice: Greenwood is the ABC press reporting working out of our press room up here.

RVA
Voice: At this point we have got traffic in and out of here. I am going to go in and I'm going to clear out that Situation Room and people are going to be checked up here and individuals who are here now fine. But nobody else is coming in here unless he's got specific permission from someone ⁱⁿ on Cabinet authority or command of the situation room. I'm going to take care of that right now.

Ha
Voice: Let's get Jim Baker right away.

Gen
Voice: And let's get Greenwood on the line too and check on his story.

KK
Voice: Where is Baker now?

Voice: We know where all of them are and we are just telling them to hold place.

Voice: All you have to do is tell them to make sure they are in telephone communication. OK.

(TV review of Nofziger briefing)

Voice: Jesus (after remark "Honey, I forgot to duck")

Laughter after hearing President's remarks to surgeons,
"I hope your all Republicans).

Voice: See, it's coming from our press room.

Voice: How is that possible? Who went to the press room --

Voice: Here he is right here.

Voices: Wheres Prosperi (upon hearing reports that he confirmed
Jim Brady's death).

Voice: At the hospital.

Voice: Thank God.

Voice: If it came from Prosperi it came from the hospital and
he would never, Prosperi would never in a million years confirm
something like that on his own.

Voice: Alright now, they put out the statement on the President
so we're going to put it out upstairs.

Voice: Now as long as its the same thing.

Voice: We got to get it straight on Brady before we do.

Voice: Well we just did didn't we. Well it's been confirmed by Prosperi.

Voice: Prosperi didn't put anything out here.

voice; Ed and Jim they want us to repeat -- stay close, Larry what are you going to say.

Voice: The President is still in surgery and it will be a while but the docutors have issued a preliminary report to Mrs. Reagan and have assured her that his condition remains

Voice: Now where did you get that?

Voice: Dave got that over the phone from --

Harry:
Voice: That statement came from the hospital and they asked us to repeat it as soon as they put it out over there. They just put it out over there, right?

Voice: That's the statement they gave us to put out.

Voice: That's no problem.

Voice: Why should there be a problem.

Voice: You got the marching order, just give that one don't worry about the substance. Walk in, give the statement, walk off and say as we have more information it will become available.

(mumbling in the background about Prosperi)

Voice: He is apparently in this building.

Voice: Prosperi did?

Voice: Prosperi is the one that put it out according to this, now let's find out. Now I'm sure he got word from back there when the rumor passed around.

Voice: Well I just talked to Prosperi. He's right outside the door there and the issue is whether their trying to get a confirmation on Brady.

Voice: Well then we got to correct that.

Voice: We don't know what's correct. They don't have a press person.

Voice: How did David come to that information.

Voice: There has been talk back and forth asking to see if we had a report --

Voice: Now the Services had the report now for almost 20 minutes.

Voice: Well they're all based on that one statement. That statement is --

Voice: There is no reconfirmation yet.

Voice: Yup, there they are.

(TV in background)

Voice: We did not put any reports out.

H-116
Haig
Voice: Anyone speaks around here without -- (drops coffee cup)

Allen: Well Al I don't know how they have done it but my impression was that Proseri was over at the hospital and not here and had no knowledge of his being here. He was outside the door someplace. Well I'll find out what that is.

Voice: They're out getting him now Dick.

Voice: Lyn says this is all he is giving. Lyn says it is untrue about Brady.

Voice: Alright, you just correct it. Just say, the report
Brady is erroneous.

Allen: Prosperi is one of the most reliable guys.

Voice: Hold Speakes Al. We got him.

Voice: He's not an official. (In response to remark made on TV)

Voice: What's David's rank, Assistant Press Secretary?

Voice. Yes.

Voice: Then he is an official then.

Voice: He lost a large quantity --

Voice: The President?

Voice: Peridental test that's what they said.

Voice: Para, Para, Paratonium, that's the test they did not peridental.

Voice: Did you get any other confirmation Al. Al. Al. Al.
Did you talk to the hospital, Baker or Meese.

Voice: Yeah, I just --

... had announced that Jim had died.

Voice: Now let me tell you the facts. Jim Brady is still in surgery, he's in critical condition, he is not dead, we are having it corrected in the press room right now and that's one of the great dangers in walking out of here and saying a damn thing to anybody.

Voice: Well, we don't know how that got out. You see, even the Secret Service channel could be, could have been responsible and overheard. Who knows on an open wire. Everybody tuned to the frequency can hear a report about -- Here it is Howard Baker announced that Jim Brady is dead. Ron McMahon announced it. Within minutes white house aid David Prospero also told reporters --

Voice: Now what happened that the guy, you know these things happen. The press guy asked our fellow after hearing that report and he shook his head, he didn't know what the hell to say and they guy ran with it. So there is no personal culpability here and just --

Voice: I just want to point out that at 1719 this was on the wire and it was from Senate Republican leader spokesman. So it didn't come out of here. It was confused.

Voice: All we have to worry about is no more and everybody, nobody speak to anyone unless there cleared, if that's what they are going to do.

(TV announcement by Larry Speakes)

Voice: Good.

Voice: He is still in surgery and he will be in there for a long while.

Voice: Is this actually surgery or preparation and exploratory

Voice: It's exploring critical.

Voice: Punch 2 and wait for the operator.

Voice: You're talking on secure.

Voice: Hello, Hello, dead.

Voice: Pick up that phone over there. Is that an adjunct security, secure line or --

Voice: He's going to be in surgery quite a while longer.

Voice: The President is?

Voice: Yes.

Voice: Schweiker is not here.

Voice: Do you have the schedule for tomorrow.

WA
Voice: Well, there has probably been no adjusted schedule but Cabinet session is in order as one of the first items of business tomorrow. Well, look rather than get a crowd down here why don't we just decide what recommendations to make to the Vice President when he arrives. Let the final schedule be subject to his sign-off. Recommendations would include a briefing in the morning, national security briefing in the morning, your trip is now at risk obviously and followed by a Cabinet session.

Voice: And I think we ought to think of recommending a joint leadership.

Voice: Bring in the leadership.

Voice: With the Cabinet.

Voice: I have 8:30 am leadership meeting with just Republican leaders.

Voice: I ain't going to have both.

Voice: Let's put that up as one of the suggestions. We are going to ask some questions.

Voice: What time is he do here? The Prime Minister.

Voice: Van Agt?

Voice: Yeah, we should probably continue with that Van Agt meeting with the Vice President seeing him in his office. So we have briefing, just a staff briefing, Baker, Meese, Deaver staff briefing in the morning then a National Security Briefing

Voice: He'll probably be out at the hospital.

Voice: OK we'll leave that as an option whether he wants to take that or not. The National Security Briefing. The Cabinet plus leadership meeting.

Voice: Are we going to have them all in at one time or separately?

Voice: Well, you got, what is the, how many does the leadership^{1/2} consist of Max.

of leadership

Voice: You got the big five to start and you go as deep as you want to.

for Voice: Then we better do that as in series. Then let's do the Cabinet first and then the leadership. What's the Van Agt schedule? What time is Van Agt due? Does anybody know?

We'll find out what time that Van Agt meeting -- Working lunch I know already. Well we could probably keep that schedule all right, couldn't we.

Voice: Yes unless the Vice President didn't want to have a lunch and have it shorter.

Voice: Among cancellations you have the Vice President's trip, that's easy that's not this week. Your trip is clearly at risk and we want to evaluate that one overnight. On the other hand it might make a hell of a lot of sense for somebody's going to ask you that question very soon as we regain our senses here tonight or tomorrow.

Voice: I think it's premature to say yet. Because there are two things in that risk, one is the Polish situation and of course this. I would hold off.

Voice: You will not comment one way or the other then.

Voice: That's right.

Voice: Then your press guys will know how to take care of that. Afternoon we should leave basically free. What else is on the Vice President's schedule tomorrow Dan.

Dan:
Voice: I really don't have it. Jennifer's got it on the plane with her.

Voice: Oh well,

Voice: he had a speech tomorrow night.

Voice: What is it?

Voice: A Simon dinner.

Voice: I see.

Voice: Dinner in honor of Bill Simon.

Voice: * That's CSIS. A speech and remarks.

Voice: But there was to be an addnouncement on that productivity thing.

Voice: I imagine Baker and Meese are already well at work on that. Would the President typically be moved to Walter Reed under these circumstances or would he be left for a few days probably left at GW.

Voice: I'm sure he would be in GW for at least a few days, two days. They won't move him.

Voice: Any other hookers for the week that are big that the Vice President ought to focus on.

Voice: I'd have to have another look at that schedule.

Voice: Here's a Bill that technically needs to be signed by tomorrow. Other than that in checking the system we turned up nothing.

Voice: Can I change this to CBS, they say CBS is giving better coverage.

Voice: Let's do it.

Voice: 9

Voice: Do you want to turn it up.

PWA Voice: I think we should cancel that. I think we should put that in abeyance. This is the Van Agt arrival tomorrow which was fanfare and everything else. We definitely should not do that, and we could have a diplomatic entrance arrival but it will be very subdued and bring him inside. Everything will take place inside. The talking points, Janet, the talking points for Van Agt's arrival or meeting should be gotten up to the Vice President's Staff and ready for the meeting and for the departure ceremony. Dick has them. Janet, Dick Darmon has them. We will just transfer them. 11:45 is Van Agt's arrival time. So we would cancel the fanfare and the arrival and just do everything inside the diplomatic. Well of course Meese and Baker always make those determinations but we should be in a position to suggest to them and to the VP and then a staff briefing and national security briefing, Cabinet then leadership

then Van Agt. That is enough for the morning. There will be enough else doing in the morning.

Voice: Are the workmen scheduled.

Voice: 8:30

Voice: We're saying hold two successive ones rather than the Cabinet. We have different kinds of authorities you are looking at. Different things your going to say to the Cabinet. But the Cabinet should be met before the leadership. Staff, Cabinet leadership, Van Agt.

Voice: What are you going to do?

Voice: Let me just say something here thats awfully important on this issue that you've been working with. Nobody should say anything about transfer of authority. Nobody say anything about it. Don't even get into a discussion with respect to it. We have got an awful lot more to know and its not in our interest to have that done prematurely or they even get a question about it raised.

*FEE
OR
RVA ?*

Voice: What if you get a question about the procedures.

Voice: Say they are well known period.

Voice: This came up before and I can tell you the worst thing you can have is a lot of press speculation on that subject. It's not the thing we want and it happens to be not what the powers that be want.

Voice: On the schedule tomorrow I think we have to get _____ on that. It seems to me that it would be proper courtesy to get Deaver to approve any changes.

Voice: Yes. Deaver, Meese and Baker together decide. Those are recommendations, that's not a determination.

Voice: What will happen is we'll have the VP here first and he shapes his schedule the way he wants it and then Jim and Ed will be in here this evening and if they have a problem at least _____ and do it.

Voice: These are recommendations only. That's all they are.

Voice: Just so they all know what the problems are. That's the important thing.

Voice: I'm sure he's thought of that too.

Voice: How about the next thing. _____

Voice: Was Mike hurt at all. I noticed no --

Voice: Shock wave like a bullet.

Voice: Is he in shock.

Voice: no he's fine, we talked to him on the phone.

Voice: I was over there at the hospital and I don't know any more than what you know here -- Mike was fine and Mrs. Reagan was looking very good and standing up well and Sen Laxault was with her. I think that whatever they had to do they were getting along fine.

Voice: If there are any of you non-White House people who would like to get, well everybody's got access to SIGNALS, we set up separate lines because all of the switchboards are -- separate numbers around the White House.

Voice: The President's brother. Any action to take in there on bringing him in.

Voice: I believe Helene has called all the members of the President's family.

Voice: Maureen was here on the weekend, is she still here?

(Listening to TV)

Voice: Why is that just put on over here. We could you know --

(Low discussion of arrangements for families.)

Voice: That's all there is to it.

Voice: For you administrators, Brady's daughter and former wife are already enroute to Baltimore international airport. The press office has a white house car on standby, Ron Reagan on route via Butler scheduled to arrive at National at 6:25 pm. The Situation Room will notify the Secret Service and have transportation there, so when that line opens they may want to know that. Yes, in case you get on that line Helene.

Voice: Al, anything?

Voice: On that hijack?

Voice: How many people got it.

Voice: Of the hijackers, all but one got it, and no US injuries, one child was killed of unknown nationality.

Voice: Which hijacking?

Voice: In Bangkok.

Voice: God damn newsman. What the hell is happening over there.

(listening to TV and making inaudible comments.)

Allen: Is anyone helping the kids get here.

Voice: Terrific. We can have an open line right here and begin to put it on that line in the drawer. Call them up and tell them to put Hodzell on there and when he calls in and leave that line open all the time. He's going to the hospital. He'll be our open line guy.

Allen: Yes, oh thank you Peter. I must have got him just at that moment. Where was Jim behind the President at that point? Jim would have been already down.

Voice: The way it was on TV he was done by the time

Voice: Who has been handling the logistics for the family?

Voice: Get Rogers to coordinate with the military transportation people and find out exactly what's happening about getting the family here.

Voice: It is not smart to be trying to handle the transportation from the hospital.