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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** ALLEN, RICHARD V.: PAPERS

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**File Folder** [MARCH 30, 1981-TAPE 1 TRANSCRIPT ANNOTATED]

**FOIA**

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
102742	TRANSCRIPT	ANNOTATED COPY OF TAPE 1 TRANSCRIPT	31	3/30/1981	B1

*PAR 2/5/81 Allen Systematic*

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

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Shooting at 2:30 PM

1524 in the AFTERNOON "1524 in the afternoon"   
 RVA: Baker <sup>SAYS</sup> said they are controlling the press over there.

*Friday, Speak if you want*

Nofziger is over there. He wants us to put it out, but not anymore than that. Who would do it? You? Is Al talking to the Vice President?   
 *George Jackson was back prod. Here saying "Hello, Hello!"*

GERGEN: I'll write it out.   
 ? They're going to bring statement back in.   
 RVA: Oh shit, it looks like they got Jim right smack in his head. Is it? Oh my God! Oh Jesus, God in heaven.

? *Friday* Operated on   
 RVA: Is there any faster way to get him back.

*77* MURPHY *Friday* Air Force 2.

? *Rajan* I'm questioning

MURPHY Unfortunately they have to refuel.

? Where, GW

RVA: Remind me to tell you of <sup>an incredible</sup> the sensation I had upon departing L/Enfant Plaza Hotel. <sup>PREMONITION</sup> I had a premonition, but it wasn't on him.

RVA: Well, yes sir, Did you get to George?

HAIG: No, by the way he called us, Signal people thought we were calling him.

? Come on up here

HAIG: He knows what he has to know.

RVA: Is Frank Ursomarso going to put the statement out?

? *Decrease* No, David is redrafting it. He's going to draft it and then bring it here, get clearance, and then put it out.

? Get one person out here, not five people.

HAIG: Listen that's awfully important.

RVA: Nobody talks

HAIG: Lets everybody stay together on, nobody do anything. Gergen cannot be playing public relations without everybody knowing it and we will decide here what the hell we're doing. That's the best way. Always!

RVA: The point is we need a spokesman to put this out and Larry, I think is at the hospital too.

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 BY OJ NARA DATE 3/15/11

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? Larry is at the hospital. One person designated, nobody else does it.

? *Regan* Unless you want to undo what Meese and Baker said.

? *FIELDING* David is going to type it. He is doing that right now.

? Ah, OK

RVA: Make sure it comes back in here, Frank.

Frank: *Mr. Jones* Yeh, we will bring it back in.

HAIG: Yes

? *R. V. Allen* Is Cap on his way?

? Yes, other Cabinet members are on their way.

HAIG: I think, frankly, we have three ranges of problems we've got to think about - talk about. First is how we portray this character. You know when the Kennedy thing happened they intentionally submerged any Leftist

RVA: *yes Yeah... um-huh*

HAIG: Aspect of this thing, I don't think that is in our interest if we have it and I think we ought to be straight honest.

RVA: As soon as we can get the poop on the guy

*Regan* ~~MURPHY~~ That's what they're trying to find out now.

RVA: Is the service moving on the psychiatrist record?

? *W. F. Smith* He will be arraigned here by the U.S. attorney in one hour.

? Yes

HAIG Now, he may be just plain nuts

? *Murphy* Do we have any information - Do we have any information from the Secret Service as to whether there is any evidence of his being other than alone?

? *Regan* Not yet.

? Is there a conspiracy?

HAIG: Should we bring Webster over?

*W. F. Smith* Webster is flying back from Williamsburg. I talked to him about ten minutes ago.

HAIG: *Well,* If we get CIA here, then we can check it out on that end.

RVA: What about Casey? We haven't thought about bringing him.

? He's coming

RVA: Is he, is he?

? Yes

*WE? SMITH*

Well, actually Webster's only an hour away. As a matter of fact probably about <sup>25</sup> minutes.

HAIG: Well I think the most important thing now, they'll move everything <sup>in next hour</sup> out to the hospital. Dave it's awfully important that we're all together here now and not everybody jumping on phones and talking on things that have not been proven -- we're all together here now.

RVA: That's right

HAIG: Until we decide that's the way to do it and then we'll implement.

RVA: Just move those maps out of the way

*George?* ? *Bergen* We should put something out here, which confirm what they said up there.

RVA: Why don't you read it Al ...

HAIG: This is to confirm the statements made at George Washington Hospital that the President was shot once in the left side, <sup>uhh...</sup> not on, in, as he left the hotel. His condition is stable. We are informed by James Baker that the decision is now being made (inaudible)

RVA: As to the course of medical treatment as to whether or not

RVA: Are you going to say the word operate

HAIG: Yes

HAIG: Whether or not to operate now to remove the bullet.

RVA: Hum, yea

HAIG: The Vice President has been notified and he is now en route to Washington from Texas. He expects to arrive in Washington this afternoon. Mrs. Reagan is currently with the President at the hospital.

RVA: Don't say from Texas -- and just say is on route to the

? say en route back  
? *W* Yes, He <sup>14:13</sup> is on <sup>14:13</sup> public schedule  
? Yea, <sup>well</sup> OK  
HAIG: and is, and is expected to arrive in Washington  
this afternoon.  
? Who is standing out there?  
? Who  
?~~W~~ *SMITH* Would you say the Vice President has been notified.  
? That sounds as though he is a little out of it.  
RVA: He's returning, just that he is returning.  
? Well what  
? *Consi* Well he has to know the status  
? The question is will he know what's going on?  
?~~Consi~~ Has been informed?  
? The Vice President returned  
? *Why* Why don't you put it more open. The White House  
and the Vice President are in communications  
? That's better  
? And the Vice President is returning.  
RVA: To the White House.  
*Smith* ? You want to say his condition is stable and he is  
conscious  
RVA: That's a good question.  
? *Regan -* We have get the direct line now to the hospital.  
? If he is conscious (inaudible)  
? Excuse me, =  
HAGI Yes  
? *Regan* Secretary Haig I have the Vice President on the  
line.  
HAIG: Alright, here he is.  
HAIG: Ed, I think you ought to say that the  
? Can I read this to you?  
HAIG: Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, the At-  
torney General, Assistant to the President are in  
the Situation Room at this time.  
*Regan* ? I wouldn't say the Situation Room  
?  
? Say

? I agree  
? Who is here  
? *Fielding* I agree  
? It sounds  
? *7:18* Situation Room  
? *Conroy* I agree, the question -- I want to \_\_\_ I would like  
to send something reassuring *on this*  
? candor?  
? *Smith* Then I don't think you ought to say he is conscious  
? *Cap?* If you say he is conscious then you create the impression  
that he might not be.

RVA What about . .  
RVA We need immediate ICA guidance on this too.  
RVA Frank, we better  
RVA Dave, Dave  
RVA We better have ICA guidance so we can have a flash  
on Voice of America that picks up what ever statement  
is made.

? *UNSONARSO?* I think they are getting it already

RVA: Are they?

? *W* Alright

? *F* Don't -- double check it

*UNSONARSO* When I go upstairs, Fred . . . .

RVA: We need something to all posts as well

*Stan Colton* Is Deaver alright?

RVA: He got, yea, Deaver's alright. He got him in the  
first shot.

? Yes

? *G* Baker said that when he went in the hospital he  
didn't know he had been hit.

? *RVA* Yes,

? *F* Lets finish this, Dave.

? *B* I don't think it is a bad thing to say that the  
Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury and the  
Attorney General are in the building -- in the White  
House

*W* RVA: Hi Cap, have a seat

RVA: right next to  
 ? and the Secretary of Defense  
 RVA: Are you up to speed on the - everything Cap  
 CW: No not really *I'm just coming over*  
 ? various members of the cabinet  
 CW a bit coming over, excuse me  
 RVA: The president has been hit, as you know.  
 CW: Yes  
 RVA: And he's stable and he walked in the hospital.  
 Jim Baker said that he didn't know that he had been  
 shot. That he has lost a lot of blood. They've  
 replaced that blood. Ah, the decision is being  
 made whether or not to operate. Ah, the Vice President  
 is contacted and he is on his way back from Texas  
 right now. It will be some hours before he is back  
 and a statement was made at the hospital; we're  
 about now to make a statement here.  
 ? *Fielding* Why don't you read this for Secretary Weinberger  
 and others  
 ? Yea  
 HAIG: Yes, this is the statement that will go out. This  
 is to confirm the statements made at George Washington  
 Hospital. The President was shot once in the left  
 side as he left the hotel. His condition is stable  
 and a decision is now being made whether or not  
 to operate to remove the bullet.  
 RVA: Where is he  
 RVA: Where the hell is 91  
 RVA: Hello Ed, yes Hi.  
 ? Hold on  
 RVA: Thats right  
 RVA: *He* He is here, Cap has arrived.  
 RVA: Alright  
 RVA: Haig is here too, you know.  
*Street? Call DUTY OFFICE* RVA: Situation Room  
 RVA: Ok, thank you  
 ? Secretary Weinberger you have a message

*NEW notes  
 ) COMM.  
 CENTER TO  
 PEAK WITH  
 MERSE*



*15h in the Murphy room. (to Meese)*

RVA: OK

RVA: Stable and conscious, *11:50*

RVA: Alright

? He's on the line with Mr. Allen

? *RVA* - Cap is on, you got Cap on? -

? Grab 264

? *RVA* - Is this the same line?

? Come on, <sup>2291,</sup> give Secretary Weinberger --

? That's Ed on here *11:51*

? *SIT Room OFFICER* Yes, just a minute please

? *SIT Room OFFICER* OK, he is on another line

*Park in SIT Room?*

? ~~777~~ We have an open line

? *CW* Yes, I think *Meese says he's*

? *RVA* Right *11:52*

Meese: What we want to do is indicate that he is not in any major danger.

*NO* MURPHY I would like to get the head of the Secret Service for the VP.

CW And you think this is the appropriate time to start some word to foreign governments?

Meese Well I wouldn't think so; you might talk to Al about that but I don't think ----

Yes, don't want to have any thought of any kind of a vacuum. We want to make sure everyone understands that the situation is under control.

? He came to the hospital to see how Brady is?

CW No I don't think that is exactly right. Where is the Vice President?

RVA: He is en route

Meese: The Vice President is en route from Texas; he should be in the area.

MURPHY He'll be in about 6:30 Cap

CW 6:30, apparently he's due in. Dan, 6:30?

MURPHY: 6:30

CW: OK

*11:56*

~~MESE~~ *and I think what you want to do is maintain the*

CW: Yea

RVA: Yes

Meese: The other situation is there are other injuries which if there are any questions about, Jim Brady received a head wound and he is being operated on.

RVA: Is this a draft?

? Yes

RVA: Ed, here is a draft statement to foreign governments.

Meese: Alright

RVA: You will have heard that on March 30th there was an attempt on the life of President Reagan. Although he was injured in the attack, his condition is stable. You should inform the government that in spite of this terrible event the government in Washington continues to carry out its obligations to its people and its allies.

Meese: Yea, OK

RVA: That statement alright for a temporary?

CW: I wonder if the last sentence is a bit more alarmist than it should be?

Meese: I think it might be.

RVA: Is functioning?

Meese: And I would put in

RVA: Is continuing to function

Meese: I would just leave it out.

CW: Or I'd just say something you know

Meese: Or something that, *make it simple*  
Along the lines that the President was stable and conscious following the injury.

RVA: Alright

Meese: Something along that line

CW: I think the latter one about continuing to function and honoring obligations sounds much more serious

Meese: Yea

RVA: Yea it does, you're right it does. We shouldn't say ~~instead~~ <sup>in spirit</sup> of this terrible event. You should inform the government that, ah, we'll figure out something to say that its normal.

CW: Yea

Meese: Yea

RVA: That the situation is normal

CW: Very good ; *we'll submit to you. Supp to*

Meese: Alright

RVA: OK

Meese: We'll count on you guys staying over there.

CW: We'll stay right here.

Meese: We'll keep the line open at both locations

RVA: Alright, fine. Bye

? *ZZZ* Did you just talk to the hospital

RVA: Where's Al Haig?

? He's right here, sir.

RVA: Oh, OK

RVA: Bill Casey, are you up to speed on all?

WC: I was when I left the agency.

RVA: What

WC: Anything new in about *ten* minutes.

RVA: Al, they're beginning the operation now, are you aware of that. *I'm not sure* They're beginning to operate now but its not for publication. Here we go, here's Lyn.

(LYN BRIEFING ON TELEVISION) *Get what you see*

COLSON: Someone out there wants to know if you want the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

RVA: I don't think we need him here.

COLSON: Weinberger is on his way here.

RVA: I don't think we need him here. Cap is the -- Cap is here.

HAIG: Cap is the -- and the Football is near the Vice President - so that's fine.

RVA: We should get one over here. We have a duplicate one here.

HAIG: Get the Football over here.  
RVA: There is one at the Military Aide's Office. The Football is in the -----  
CW: I don't think we need the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs over here, do you?  
RVA: Lets leave him at the NMCC. And this is a draft statement but I want to put something else in it.  
? Are any of them cabinet members?  
RVA: No they should all be told to stand by. Here's a copy of that draft statement.  
RVA: You don't want the chairman of the Joint Chiefs over here.  
HAIG: <sup>cat</sup> Not over here no I want him  
RVA: NMCC  
CW: And they should go on alert or be ready to go on alert. SAC went on alert with Kennedy's assassination.  
RVA: Here's Gergen

GERGEN TV STATEMENT

HAIG: 172<sup>00</sup> No question! No question! All night that's too -- too hard. Woody!. He's not in any state for that

RVA: Don't take anymore questions  
(INAUDIBLE) No more questions

RVA: <sup>RFP</sup> Get off the platform

HAIG: I didn't think he was going to be there.

HAIG: I thought the press guy was going to be there.

ALLEN: He is the press guy <sup>we haven't got a press guy</sup>

RVA: Thr Three press guys (inaudible)

RVA: Background!!

(GERGEN ON TV)

RVA: Al, we want something about the President's condition being stable.

HAIG: Thats right and stable and he is conscious. I don't think we need that. The Vice President ---

RVA: What we are saying the Vice President is en  
we don't need to say anything more. The Vice President

We don't need to say anything more. The Vice President is en route

? From Texas

? No, we're not saying Texas

RVA: The Vice President on route

HAIG: Due to <sup>" "</sup>return to Washington this afternoon. He is returning to Washington

? How about that?

MURPHY 6:30

? *Smith* Anybody interested in who did it?

? A fellow by the name of ....

RVA: We do have him. John Warner *W. Warner*

? John Warner Hinkley

HAIG: Who is he?

? *Smith* 22. Comes from Evergreen, Colo.

HAIG: Get that out right away

? *Smith* He has no criminal record that is, that we have been able to find.

? Psycharist ---

RVA: Get that out to ICA too (Repeats) Get that out to ICA.

*pg. 20* ? *Reagan* Some further information that might be helpful. *Known?* We do have an agent in the FBI George Chimel, *ah,* with the suspect at this time. The guy's refusing to give a statement.

? Ah, I've ought to find out -- *is* is any known background. We should start...

? *RVA?* No, they have already done that. He has no...

? *Reagan* I know it. There is no criminal record. He is not in our Secret Service files. But *what organization is* what organization does he belong to.

? *Smith* that's right, they're working on that.

? Going back into the....

? they're working on that right now. There is nothing of immediate record, but they are trying to check out whether or not he does belong to any organizations.

*7:17* Is there something on the assailant?

20.01 Reagan - He looks better than he is of the 15 alone

HAIG: *JJJ* Yeah.

? *Regan* Kook or nut but how did he get there with a 38 caliber?

RVA: Get a real phone in here and plug it in and get a secure phone here.

DO: OKAY

RVA: And leave them on this table. Thank you

DO: Here's some new information we have. One item *okay*

HAIG: *Me* You've got the conn.

RVA: *Hickley* Hickley or Hinkley?

HAIG: They've already announced surgery, see.

REGAN: Hinkley, it's not Hippley. Its Hinkley. I think this is based on what we have.

? *JJJ* Brady wasn't stirring?

RVA: Brady really looked like he caught it right in the front. Right smack in.

? *JJJ* Well, He really looked incontement from here. He went down immediately.

RVA: Unbelievable

RVA: God, what a tragedy.

? *JJJ* Hinkley?

? Hinkley

RVA: It is said to be Hinkley.

*John* John Warwick Hinkley

RVA: Well, .... Sec Def....

? *USA* Meese just said they're sending Speakes back here. And they'd like us to echo what they say there. So within moments of what they say, we're going to put out the same statement and henceforth we'll coordinate what we say back here.

? *wa* Okay

? *JJJ* Dick can we just get a line in? Can we just get a line in ... so they make it public so we can hear. Sort of a hook up.

RVA: Yeah. Sit Room can do.

? I bet you could.

? *JJJ* That would be the easiest way. Then we wouldn't have to worry about it.

HAIG: Bill, do your guys have the name of this fellow that they're doing a background into.

? *772* Do you have a phone?

RVA: Yeah!

? *772* What my own office?

RVA: Right in that drawer there. What's happening. Hold it a second. There is Jerry

? *Reagan* See the agent out there also

? He really gets hit

RVA: ~~Does~~ anyone know the caliber of the weapon

? 38

RVA: Jesus Christ!

? *772* Okay if it's close range. Better if its close range.

HAIG: Dave, Al. We're be on a straight line <sup>from</sup> with the hospital. So anything that is said, before it's said, we'll discuss at this table. And any telephone calls that anybody is getting with instructions from the hospital come to this table first. Right here. And we discuss it and know what's going on.

? *Reagan* This will be the Command Center

HAIG: That's right

*22:20*  
*24:50* RVA: Why don't you stand by and make yourself comfortable?

? *CW* I have the chairman of the

CW: Joint Chiefs coming on, Jones, in just a second. We're going to tell him to get alerts to the Strategic Air Command and such other units that seem to him to be desirable at this point.

? Not to come up here.

HAIG: What kind of an alert, Cap?

CW: It's a standby alert...just a standby alert.

HAIG: You're not raising readiness.

CW: NO, NO, NO.

CW: The main thing is that he should stay <sup>He is</sup> at the Command Center. Not here.

? *Reagan* Is that information not to be released up til.

? It'll leak.

CW: Until we know more about it. The alert, they'll probably put themselves on alert but I just want

HAIG: 29:17 Do we have a football here? Do we?

? Yes sir. Right there.

Regan: Al. Don't elevate it. Be careful.

HAIG: Aboslutely! Absolutely! That's why I toned down the message that was going out.

Regan: Yeah, I don't think anything that talks about the continuing of government or anything that sounds like we know a lot more than we do.

LCP: 30 Regan: This is apt to turn out to be a loser

HAIG: CW I think it was

? simply Cap, what do they mean by alert?

CW: Well an alert is

? messy We've been down this path once before with Henry.

CW: That's right. The alert simply is that there are conditions that may require very quick actions.

? Murphy Are you sure that doesn't mean Defcon 3? or 4?

CW: NO, NO.

CW: I'll fill in....It's a matter of being for some later call. Probably Defcon 2, I guess.

HAIG: Yeah, I think the important thing fellows is that there are things always generate a lot of dope stories. Everyone and everybody is running around telling everybody everything that they can get out of their gut.

? That's right.

HAIG: And I think that it is God Damm important that none of that happens. The President as long as he is conscious and can function.....

CW: Well that's right.

? The Vice President is on an Air Force plane.

RVA: Well, just let me point out to you that the President is not now conscious.

HAIG: No, ofcourse not.

? 270 Regan Question, Al - should you talk to the Speaker of the House?

5:38 HAIG: Yes



?

*NRSD??*

The Speaker of the House and Bob Michel have both been contacted and are ready when called to come to the hospital to walk in and walk out and say that the President is in great shape, if that's what we want them to say. Or anything else that's appropriate.

HAIG:

Yeah but I think we better call from here.

? *NRSD?*

They are not going to move until we tell them.

HAIG:

Yeah, well I think we ought to call Howard Baker.

?

He's ready too.

HAIG:

First, just tell him where we stand. Let him take care of the Republican side and then the minority leader from his side.

? *NRSD*

The Vice President is in an Air Force plane and is in full communication.

HAIG:

The important thing is that we all, everyone knows that there is no problem here. And that we're all where we should be. And government is going on as usual.

HAIG:

I want to talk to Baker and Byrd.

CW:

Hello, yeah, Your post should be the National Military Command Center.

HAIG:

A rather technical thing is that the President can pass the baton temporarily under the law and we're preparing that right now ... towards the eventuality... that's what I was going to ask next. What are legal...

?

It's being prepared right now.

HAIG:

That's the pass the baton to the Vice President...

?

On a temporary basis. It passes to him in writing from the President until ~~he~~ *the President* rescinds it.

HAIG:

Has somebody gone into the Eisenhower precedent on this? and also is it working okay. And I think that we need that from a public relations point of view.

HAIG:

Well, we may not want to put it out.

No Dave. The things you want to make note of are first precisely what happened, notification of the Vice President, Assembly of the key crisis cabinet, preservation of continuity of command on and that

*28:36*

*284 [?] JJK*

*27:52 93 [?] JJK??*

*No I don't think we do*

CW: I think what we want to do is increase the degree of alertness so that in the event there should be anything conspired that could be done with a minimum of modicum of time.

*He's mi Badgrub  
of know*

? Who's he (Cape) talking to.

RVA: The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

*18:02  
300*

Gergen: Al, a quick question. We need some sense, more better sense of where the President is. Is he under sedation now?

HAIG: He's not on the operating table.

Gergen: He is on the operating table.

HAIG: So the helm is right here. And that means right in this chair for now, constitutionally, til the Vice President gets here.

*307*

Gergen: I understand that. I understand that.

HAIG: At this point generally quiet but we want to be ready and in that has to be ---- we want to get on it now.

? *Murphy* Fred, just what do you turn over?

Fielding: If the President feels compelled to do it, he, in writing, transfers his authority on a temporary basis by law to the Vice President. Remains in effect, although obviously he's alive, it remains in effect until he directly rescinds it.

*27:54?*

*CW* That is correct, sir. And it is being prepared right now.

RVA: We have no secure to AF-2

Murphy: What do you mean? I just checked it and they said they did, no secure voice but they do have message.

RVA: Secure comm.

Murphy: I just talked to the colonel on board. But youre right no voice.

RVA: How far?

Murphy: They're just about getting airborne now.

RVA: Dan, one thing. You can talk with Pete. Is he here or...

Murphy: He's here.

Murphy: I'll just tell him to say nothing.  
RVA: Yeah.  
Murphy: Unless anything comes out of here.  
RVA: Unless it comes out of here. That's right.  
RVA: We better set up traffic control for the Sit Room  
29,58 ? Gergen Do we have any more information on Jim.  
? Regan No. They're trying to determine that now.  
Gergen: Frank, can somebody be made to find out the condition  
of Brady?  
Frank: Also Pardon?  
333 Gergen: Can somebody be made to find out the condition of  
Jim?  
Frank: URSW Yeah.  
RVA: ....back here and this includes a secretary in here  
all the time.  
10,53  
338 RVA: Brady is is; Brady looks bad. Looks like he caught  
it right smack in the front of the head. He's been  
taken into a Catscan unit. A Washington policeman,  
Cap, and a Secret Service Agent, yeah.  
? EW We don't know what...ah... Ed Meese said it was  
apparently medical evidence indicated a low calibre  
RVA: 38  
Regan: I just gave to the Attorney General to check on.  
The word from the Secret Service is it is a 22 calibre  
with long rifle bullets.  
RVA: Oh, oh. That would explain how he is able to walk  
into the ah.....  
? FFF Unless it's a hollow point  
RVA: FFF What? <sup>hollow point</sup> yeah  
? FFF But even at close range, a hollow point would not  
have....  
? EW I thought it was just a graze. I really didn't  
think that it actually penetrated.  
? It had to be removed.  
RVA: Well if it was a 22. Then Brady has a fighting  
chance. A 38 in the front of the head, ah.  
? Regan That's kind of lethal.

TRACR 7:50 ED B AERH

Real 10:00 38  
TURN  
TAPE

BACK 2, CD Begins here

RVA: God almighty, why was he taken into a Catscan unit.

Rosal  
Cord

Yeah. What? Anne? What did you say

10

Anne: There's a call for a Major Kline. I'm to see if he was in here.

Kline: Yes

? This is the place (viewing TV) Watch Deaver bend over. Right now. See Deaver?

RVA: Ouch

? Looks like he was hurt. Shockwaves were ... by him.

RVA: Look at the Secret Service Agent get it. My God!

RVA: Irene, thanks.

? Is that Secret Service with the gun?

ALL: Yes.

Gold: Is this a regular phone

RVA: That's a secure, Woody. You can probably use it. No you can't, go out and use one of those.

1:15 RVA: All this has happened in an hour, and what? The shot was at 2:30. 2:30 was it? Exactly?

? That's the time we were given.

? Is this the assailant, they are all....

RVA: Yes. They are huddled around the assailant.

? They've got the guy against the wall.

Regan: A policeman was actually hit too, Cap. A policeman and a Secret Service agent as well as Jim and the President.

CW: We've got the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Joint Chiefs in the Military Command Center. The alert has been raised from a normal condition to a standby condition under which they can move to a much higher degree very quickly. There is no, there will be no publicity about it. And the degree of alertness at the moment is going to commanders only so that there would not be a lot of leaks right away from the men. All of that on the basis that

Ann: in background  
...  
huh

at the point it looks an isolated incident but there isn't enough information and we just want to remain alert. So that's where the armed forces ~~stand~~ *stand. Edw...*

CW: What? Are we now notifying the other governments?

RVA: Yes, the message is going out to other governments.

CW: We did change that last. Didn't we?? That last line?

? Yes

RVA: In whose hands is it actually fall now .... Not order of succession but the Command Structure.

? The Vice President

RVA: It's the Vice President but he's not here.

? *7* The sequence of succession goes to the Secretary of State.

RVA: In succession

Regan: How are the politicians.

HAIG: Oh they're fine. They always good, they're pros. I don't know...

RVA: How about Brady's child. Is there somebody to watch Brady's child? On.... We live across, you around the block...

HAIG: Did we get a report on Jim?

RVA: I guess somebody's taking care of it. She must *have some* be ~~with a~~ neighbor or something. They've got two kids, little kids, or one little kid, one little kid. Ah, never mind, that's all right.

HAIG: I heard, Dick, you know I heard at the Department before I left that he was fine, a superficial wound to the head.

RVA: Pray to God.

Regan: We now hear it might have been a 22, Al.

RVA: Alright, yeah.. I can't hear you.

*Regan: 7* You get the Secret Service on the phone right away because there was no reason that the President would have gone to the hospital. The service wouldn't have let him go to the hospital.

RVA: Yeah.  
 ? (Query for Block)  
 RVA: Secretary Block, he's not here.  
 Regan: Its saying why we didn't get the message... that  
 the President... the story that they're putting  
 out is that they had the message there but they  
 couldn't give it to you for security reasons.

*Wm So*

-----  
 ABC TV News Discussion of Succession/Reagan walked into hospital/

He is conscious *probable poss he will come out to*  
*Reagan Chupak*

RVA: The operation has begun  
 ? *Fitch*: Who is doing the operation?  
 RVA: We don't know but the operation has begun. Okay  
 but that is not.  
 ? Not for publication  
 RVA: That's right. I don't know resident surgeons.  
 Regan: Have they got a good man  
 RVA: George Washington University is tops. But apparently  
 the bullet is lodged in the lung from what I can  
 gather.

Frank: Larry Speakes is coming back.  
 Regan: *??* Are we getting reports from the hospital?  
 HAIG: Yeah.

? *Call* - You have got a line right through now to the military aide.

RVA: Here's a message from Thatcher.

-----  
 ABC TV - VP returning to WASHINGTON

*Regards Spain VP*

? *Hamp* They're not airborne yet  
 ? You sure

-----  
 TV Says VP on ground in Austin, Texas

-----  
 RVA: Letter from Mrs. Thatcher

*5:00 PM*  
*Block?*  
*1602*

*[Handwritten mark]*

6:27

-----  
TV Reports Brady's Condition Critical  
-----

Murphy: Theyve got more information than anybody else.

RVA: Oh God! Oh God! Oh God! (sigh) on  
-----

ABC Reports Age of Brady's child  
-----

RVA: 2 years old. He has a daughter JBC

RVA: Yes, Marty.

ANDERSON: We've got to make a real special effort to make  
sure that whats said is factually true. Already  
we are getting conflicting stories; it's a 38 calibre,  
it's a 22 calibre. That's just the kind of thing  
that causes all kinds of trouble.

RVA: Oh well, we're not announcing anything.

ANDERSON: No, no. I know that. But I'm saying we ought to  
make a real very powerful effort to do that.

RVA: Right, establish the facts.

ANDERSON: We are already getting misinformation. And then  
the public gets suspicious and then they don't believe  
anything.

(Inaudible)

RVA: Let's pick it up here.

ANDERSON: (Inaudible)... it's a 38 calibre, now its a 22 calibre.

Regan: <sup>under</sup> ~~RVA~~ <sup>the first reports</sup> Dick, written declaration..

RVA: Augh --- <sup>Not...</sup>

? <sup>Smith</sup> Are you interested in some of the specifics?

RVA: Yes, yeah.

? <sup>SMITH</sup> Its not vital stuff but it is.....

RVA: Dave turn it down.

? <sup>Smith</sup> It was a 22 calibre rifle model rifle RG-14, which  
handles long rifle

~~RVA: <sup>FFA</sup>~~ Rifle?

? <sup>Smith</sup> Long rifle bullet.

ALL: P.P.C. Long rifle bullet  
? *Smith* But it was a pistol  
? *...* It was a revolver  
? *Smith* And we're checking that with the usual sources.  
? *...* What kind of a revolver or a pistol was it?  
? *Smith* It was a RG-14. What ever that means. It is a revolver that handles long rifle bullets. Now he refuses to sign any waiver (WHAT) He refuses to sign any waiver or to make any statement. And he's trying to get a hold of a lawyer in Texas. He stays, he's been staying in a Washington hotel. We've got a search warrant. So we can do that. In his pocket we found a card, psycharist card, and on

105  
it was stated 'call me at any time!'  
Washington D.C. Psycharist  
? *...* It was just a card of a psycharist. I don't....  
? *Smith* There were two cards. One was in Texas, one was somewhere else  
? *...* No it was Colorado and Texas, ~~Captain~~.  
? *Smith* ~~Matter of fact~~ One thing that is very important is where he is housed. The effort is made now to have the judge go to the jail rather than take him to the judge. Because this is where the risk always is.

? *...* Where is he now?  
? *...* Make sure he's protected.  
? *Smith* He's in the custody of the Washington D.C. police.

HAIG: *...* Are we satisfied with our communications to the hospital to make sure we can preempt and get into that line. Do we have a signal specialist.

RVA: We have an open line. It's supposed to be maintained open.

HAIG: Alright lets just be sure that all our communication are hung.

RVA: There's supposed to be at least one line open.

HAIG: *...* Lets have 2 lines open.

Regan: *...* Are they arraigning him federally?  
? *Smith* He is going to be arraigned by the U.S. attorney and the thought is to put him into Quantico, that seems to be the most secure place.

9:00  
Track 2  
CD 1

10:3  
Track 2  
CD 1



HAIG: I was going to suggest you put him in federal custody.

RVA: Dick, close that door, will you?

? *Smith* Oh, yes he'll be transferred. Its clearly, clearly a Federal case.

? Federal case, yeah.

? There's a special statute that deals with attempted assassination of the President.

? *Hayes* Right

? *Smith* So its clearly federal jurisdiction. The idea was that Quantico would be the most secure place.

HAIG: Now I talked to Jim Baker, ~~follows~~, and I told Jim that because of ~~the~~ potential confusion here. If he had any messages for anybody, to please call right here to the Sit Room and pass them through me. And if its a press problem, Dave you would handle it, if its a legal problem, ~~the~~ legislative problem we can handle it. Its not to be, it is awfully important that they're all singing from the same sheet of music and that's why we're here. *Uhh* --

RVA: Trading ~~has~~ *was* halted.

---

ABC Announcing President in Surgery/Bio data on Hinkley *Resquad, Hinch, Eugene, Co, also say he has in Brewer's house in State of Colorado*

---

RVA: Defcon 5. No we decided not to

? The next one is going to be if we upgrade it.

RVA: No. Defcon 5.

? Oh. You decided not to do that. Good

RVA: Now they've got it. Its open.

---

ABC confirming President in Surgery)  
(ABC Eyewitness Account of shooting)  
(Cross conversation in Conference Room - inaudible)

RVA: He's, He's, the President is strong. He's going to come through this alright.

? *Oh, sure.*

*12:30 PM 2  
CD 1*

*14:30*

RVA: The thing about, the tragedy of Brady is unbelievable.  
?

RVA: Well I mean they say he's in very, very critical condition.

-----  
ABC on Brady's condition) *Delaney*  
*McCarthy + Secord*

? *F 10* This was a 22?

RVA: Long rifle

? *Under* A 22 long rifle

RVA: extra punch.

HAIG: From a revolver?

RVA: Yeah. With a long rifle shell

? *Contin Staff* → *had our part* Jim Bakers on the phone, sir. There is nothing new to report, unless you want to talk to him.

? *Down* Can't you get it on this phone.

RVA: Dick, we're having problems. Put another line in. I think that red one over there. See that red one.

? *Down* - Yeah

RVA: No, thats secure. You don't want that.

? *MCA* There really ought to be an official announcement on exactly what happened put out on (inaudible) *he was hit*

Gergen: Are you up to speed?

Helene: *RVA moves Recorder* Certainly....

RVA: *0117:27 TR 2, CO 1* Ed, this is Dick *Can hear me any real*

Meese: *for you* Dick I think it would be a good idea to get Gergen to keep the White House staff generally apprised. Same thing on putting out. Just so that we keep everybody in the know on what is going on. We're not putting out anything that isn't on the air right now.

RVA: Alright

Meese: First that I think you can tell that the President was conscious and those type of things.

RVA: The President is again conscious?

Meese: No he was, you know, after.

RVA: He's still under? He's still under?

Meese: Yeah appears to be.

*218*  
*RVA*  
*down*  
*COMM*  
*FOR*  
*HOSPITAL*

RVA: Okay

Meese: Nothing will come out until we get the first word after the operation.

RVA: We're all set here.

Meese: Will you kind of keep a log of what happens in case there more unusual occurs.

RVA: I'm doing it.

Meese: Very good. Alright, that'll be the nerve center, right there.

RVA: Right. Maybe we should call the White House staff together however.

Meese: I think its a good idea to have say Gergen or yourself, or someone

RVA: Yeah. We'll doit.

Meese: ~~Just~~ <sup>Just</sup> to keep people apprised of what's happening. We can't ~~permit any rumors to get started~~ <sup>and preventing</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~get~~ <sup>live</sup>

RVA: I-affirm. ~~All right, please~~ <sup>All right, please</sup>

Meese: And let them know we'll keep them apprised.

Meese: Alright thank you

RVA: Okay, we are going to stay. Keep this line open. Is that the idea?

Meese: Yeah, right.

DO: We have this one here, Sir.

RVA: Okay, Okay.

Meese: Thanks alot. <sup>these things up from Cecil to Roth a!</sup>

RVA: Alrighty (to council staff)

RVA: <sup>to comm. staff</sup> We should, are you all apprised? I mean everything is normal, all normal. You know as much as we do from the news reports. The President is being operated on. He walked in on his own.

? He's in surgery at this time.

RVA: He is. He was stable, He walked in. Didn't, apparently, said he didn't know he was hit. He had lost some blood. They replaced that blood. Then they took him into surgery.

237

240  
 1:45  
 1:50

FRANK SUDDENLY COMES INTO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER GRABS MY ARM WHINE I AM SPEAKING TO COMM. STAFF SAYS WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME

19:33  
 22 01

HAIG: Why don't you come with me.

RVA: Okay I'll be back later.

RVA left St. Rm w/ Recorder @ 17:27 Call w/ Meese w/ No more than 1:45/2:20 R/W; 15:20 sees. Speaks to staff when Haig reaches in

RVA: Listen, I want that kept clear down there. Will you do that Bob. Just keep it clear.

HAIG: (Inaudible) ... he's turning this into a God Damm disaster.

RVA: Who has?

HAIG: He walked into the press room to hear me talk to Speakes.

RVA: Did he walk into <sup>up</sup> here?

HAIG: Yeah. He's up there now.

RVA: Oh, Jesus Christ, Almighty, Almighty. Why is he doing that? *(Spoken at 10:08 TR 4/10)*

*20:27*

? ... 20:27 They want to know who's running the government.

RVA: Oh well, just. *A minute*

HAIG: We'll assemble them.

? *Miss Ann* They're coming back again -- the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State

HAIG: *10:43* Ladies and Gentlemen: I just want to touch on a few matters associated with today's tragedy. First as you know we are in close touch with the Vice President and he is returning to Washington. We have in the Situation Room all of the officials of the cabinet, who should be here and ready at this time. We have informed our friends aboard of the situation of his condition as we know it. Stable. Now undergoing surgery. And there are absolutely no alert measures that are necessary at this time, or contemplated. Now, if you have some questions, I'll be happy to take.

*None available*

? : Crisis management. Is that what you put into effect when you arrived?

HAIG: Crisis management, no. *(Yes!)*

? Who's making the decisions for the government right now? Whose making the decisions right now?

HAIG: Constitutionally, gentlemen, you have the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State, in that order. And should the President decide he wants to transfer the helm to the Vice President, he will do so

HAIG: As of now I am in control, here in the White House, pending the return of the Vice President and in close touch with him. If something came up, I would check with him, of course.

? What are the extent of the President's injuries?

HAIG: Well as best we know, he is had one round enter his body in the left side, into the left lung and there is surgery underway to remove the round now. When the President entered surgery, he was conscious. And all his signs were stable and the situation is very clear.

? Did you talk to him before surgery?

HAIG: No I did not. Nor was it necessary. I was in close touch with both Mr. Meese and Mr. Baker throughout and have been.

?: Personally, when did you arrive at the White House?

HAIG: Very few moments after the incident. Very few moments after the incident.

? Did you know what is the condition of Mr. Brady?

HAIG: We understand that, ah. I just saw on television what you saw and it sounds serious.

? What is the reaction of the Soviets to this?

HAIG: I don't anticipate <sup>an</sup> reaction. I think you've gotten all that you need.

? We'll you remain in charge here until the Vice President returns?

HAIG: We're staying right where we are until the situation clarifies itself.

? When is the Vice President expected?

HAIG: Later this afternoon.

? Do you know what time the operation began on the President?

HAIG: Was I here? Yes, I was here.

? No, no. What time was the operation.

HAIG: I don't know. It was shortly after the announcement that you heard on the radio....

*Q Andrews?*

? What time will the Vice President be back, sir?

HAIG: Early evening. *I'm not going to make it a habit of saying that I will be back.*

? Will you come back and talk to us soon.

HAIG: Thank you. If necessary, of course.

? Was this a conspiracy or an act by one person?

HAIG: *No* We have no indication of anything like that now and we are not going to say a word on that subject until the situation clarifies itself.

? Do you anticipate from what you know of the President's condition that the Vice President will have to take the role of acting President?

HAIG: That's a fundamentally premature question. Thank you very much.

*Ends: 24:23*

*JK 2, cor 1*

RVA: *NOT known?*

PRESS CONFERENCE ENDS  
*not heard for 2 merchville guys*  
Well done  
(Inaudible)

RVA: (TV chatter about Vice President returns) He's still 2 hours out, right.

Yeah. That's what I....

*3 cells in? Murphy  
2nd room  
26:00 +1?  
27:05*

RVA: Where are we going to bring him?

*Murphy* Right here.

Al, preliminary investigation by the FBI, no plot, no reason why the suspect shouldn't be in the area. They've conducted a background investigation of him in *Lubbock* *Lubbock* Texas. He stayed at the Park Central Hotel here, which is one block from the Executive Office Bldg.

RVA: Where did he check in? Do you know?

? *Right* No, that's not....

RVA: Well.

? Well Daniel,

? *Murphy* Come on now, you guys got me nervous.

RVA: You better give him one too.

? *C.W.* Can we have SAC please?

*27:45 CW*  
*12/20/68*  
CW: Have the crews who are normally on alert 24 hours a day move from the base to their planes. The nearest submarine is [REDACTED] minutes; 47 seconds off, which is about 2 minutes closer than normal.

*3.3 (b)(1)*

RVA: Nearest Soviet sub?

CW: Yeah. Not enough to worry about. They're in and out there all the time but it is a close approach.

RVA: [REDACTED] minutes, 47 seconds nearest Soviet sub.

CW: And the bomber crews of the Strategic Air Command, they are always on the alert, certain numbers, those that are on alert now are moving alert in their quarters and on the post to their planes. Simply stated that's all -----

HAIG: That's based on the Soviet (unaudible) *and* not on anything here.

CW: Well, based on the idea that until we know a little bit more about it, it is better to be in the plane that saves 3½-4 minutes than it is to stay in their quarters.

*402*

RVA: Is the NEACAP up

CW: huh?

RVA: Is the NEACAP up and running?

CW: No

HAIG: I think that what's really important is that we not suggest that because of this incident-----

CW: Nobody is suggesting anything. This is what I thought we ought to know, is happening. But there is no public statements of any kind being issued at all. Specifically, what Kline told them not to issue any statement out of the NMCC. But it is essential I think to save 3 or 4 minutes if we can save 3 or 4 minutes.

CW: But it is not a permanent condition as soon as anything more is known, they can standdown again.

RVA: I just wonder if the NEACAP is at Andrews.

CW: It is. It's warmed up -- we can go.

*KAX IMP/HAIG*

*IS UP THERE*

*1:10 Now 4:15*

*I said there*

*X*

CW: I didn't know you were going up there, Al. I think if.....

HAIG: I had to because we had the question already started and we were going to be in a big flap.

CW: *Well* I think we could have done <sup>*POSSIBLY A LITTLE*</sup> better if we concentrated <sup>*ON A SPECIFIC STATEMENT*</sup> on a specific statement to be handed out. When you're up there with questions, it is not anything you can control and -----

HAIG: Well, we had just discussed that at the table here and we said we were not going to increase alert.

CW: It may not be increasing the alert from a technical point of view but once you get the <sup>*ADDED INFORMATION*</sup> added information which I got about the one sub being closer than is normal but <sup>*TO ME*</sup> not closer than they've been before, Then it seemed prudent to save 3 or 4 minutes.

HAIG: Yeah, but I think we could have discussed it.

CW: Yeah, well you were not here. I didn't know that you were going to make any statement and I don't think it was a good idea to make a statement when you are with a question period. I think the best thing -----

HAIG: Well you have the right to say that when we discuss it. We did talk about it and everyone agreed that there wouldn't be an increased alert.

CW: I didn't know you were going up. I didn't have the information about the sub at that time. The stuff is coming in every 3 or 4 minutes.

HAIG: You're not telling me that you're on increased alert.

CW: Well, we have changed the condition to the extent I ~~had~~ indicated.

HAIG: Is that a Defcon increase?

CW: No, I don't think it is formally classified as such.

RVA: It's a change of degree, is it not? Its a change

CW: It's an increased degree of alertness, *yes*



RVA: Within Defcon 5, I presume.

CW: Yes.

? *450* *unwieldy* I think it is worthwhile classifying. *See below* I think that you have probably increased defcon for strategic forces to probably 4.

? They are already on 4, so don't say 5.

HAIG: Can't we say that?

? We ought to find out exactly.

CW: I don't think there's any advantage or any point in saying it.

HAIG: No the problem is that it will get out. And then it looks like-----

CW: If it gets out, it gets out but I mean if you issue the statement then in this kind of a climate you add enormously to the tensions.

HAIG: You're telling me. That's why I didn't want to do it. *we*

CW: Well I think it is important to do it.

*480*  
*the record*  
*EP 1/EVDS*  
*31/30*

*STOP*  
*page 1*