

rufus and barbara phillips

From: Kennedy Library [Kennedy.Library@nara.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 9:00 AM
To: barufe@attglobal.net
Cc: File File
Subject: Re: Research Inquiry concerning Tape 109/A44, section entitled:"Krulak and Mendenhall Reports"

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Although other descriptions of the meeting are opened, they are not the tape itself. Essentially they are different documents. The tape has not been reviewed and cannot be made available. If you have any questions, you can contact our Declassification unit. The head of the unit is Maura Porter. You can write to the Declassification staff at the Library:

John F. Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125

Yours truly,

Reference Archivist
John F. Kennedy Library

>>> "rufus and barbara phillips" <barufe@attglobal.net> 05/12/03 06:03PM >>>

My name is Rufus Phillips. I was an active participant in and spoke extensively to President Kennedy about Vietnam during a meeting at the White House on September 10, 1963 which I believe is covered by the tape recording in question. This meeting, in addition to being described beginning on page 161 of Volume IV "Vietnam August-September 1963" of Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963, has been reported in various versions which are in the public domain.

I am in the process of writing a book about my involvement in Vietnam which was quite extensive from 1954 through 1968 and would like to check my own recollections against what was actually recorded of what I had to say at that meeting. The tape in your listing as 109/A44 appears to be only partially open at this time. However, the official NSC minutes of this meeting have long since been declassified as, of course, is the description in the Foreign Relations volume cited above. I would, therefore, like to request an opportunity to listen to this tape. I am quite willing to come up to Cambridge at my own expense from the Washington D.C. area where I live in order to be able to hear it.

It would also mean a great deal to me personally as this meeting was seminal for me and turned out to be of some importance in its influence on subsequent events in Vietnam that year.

Thank you for whatever you might be able to do to assist me in this quest.

Sincerely,

Rufus Phillips