

May 18, 2003

Ms. Maura Porter
John F. Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Porter:

The Reference Archivist suggested I contact you concerning my request for access to Tape 109/A44. There are several items on this tape only one of which has been reviewed and is apparently available. The only part of the tape I am interested in and would like to have access to is entitled "Vietnam (Krulak and Mendenhall reports)". It covers a meeting at the White House on 10 September 1963 in which I was an active participant.

That meeting has been described in many books and in some detail beginning on page 161 of Volume IV, "Vietnam August-September 1963", of "Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963" all of which has been in the public domain for some time.

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, for the sake of accuracy, to check my recollections of the report I gave to President Kennedy at that meeting and what he and others had to say in return. There appears to be no reason why this particular part of the tape should remain classified, if indeed this is the hindrance to its release. There was no discussion of sensitive intelligence operations at that meeting and much more sensitive tapes concerning subsequent meetings leading up to the coup against Diem on 1 November 1963, have already been released.

I would be most appreciative if you could look into this matter and clear this portion of the tape for release. It has been my intent to come at my own expense to the Library to listen to it once it has been opened rather than wait for a transcript.

Sincerely yours,

Rufus C. Phillips III