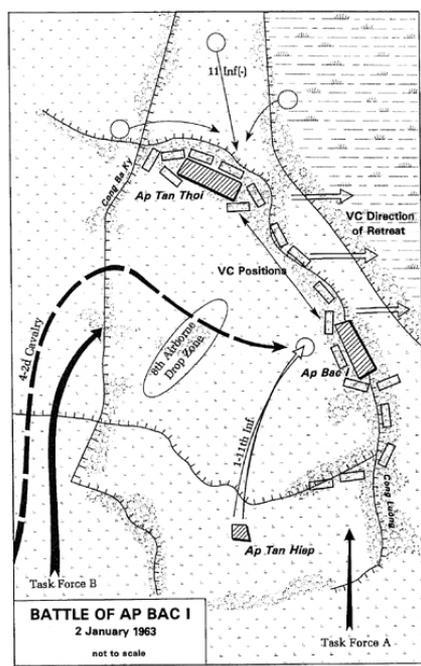


JFK@100

# The Kennedy Presidency 1963

JFK at 100 presented by Kennedys and King | May 2017



January 2: Near the Mekong River, the Battle of Ap Bac begins. Even though South Vietnam has more men, air support and American advisors, they will lose. This convinces many that South Vietnam cannot win without American combat troops. On January 26, as he was ready to return to America from Cuba, James Donovan was approached by Castro physician Rene Vallejo. He told Donovan that Cuba was interested in talking about re-establishing relations with Washington.



On May 6, the eighth Sec/Def meeting in Hawaii is helmed by McNamara. Plans for withdrawal he ordered the year before are submitted. He states these schedules are too slow and must be speeded up. On May 10, after direct intervention by the White House, there is an agreement in Birmingham which includes integration, hiring practices and the creation of a committee on both matters.



June 10: Kennedy delivers his American University commencement address, commonly called the Peace Speech, in which he calls upon a new era of détente with Russia. The speech is better received in the USSR than in America. On June 11, Gov. George Wallace has brought in 825 state troopers to block entry of two African American students to the University of Alabama. Kennedy nationalizes the Alabama National Guard who remove Wallace from blocking the front door.



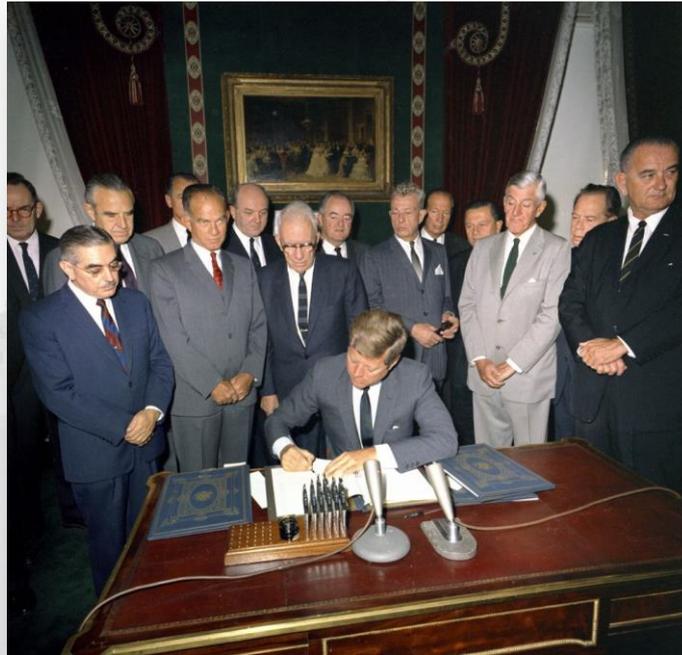
June 11: Prodded by RFK, Kennedy goes on national TV to make the most direct presidential civil rights address since Lincoln. After watching it, a jubilant King says, "That white boy hit it out of the park!" On June 19, and in light of what happened in Alabama and Birmingham, Kennedy sends his Civil Rights Act of 1963 to Congress, the first of its kind since 1875.



June 11: After alerting the press, Buddhist monk Thích Quảng Đức sets himself aflame in Saigon. The cause is religious persecution by the regime of President Ngô Đình Diệm. His sister-in-law, Madame Nhu, calls it a "barbecue" and volunteers to supply the gasoline for the next self-immolation.



July 1: Kennedy visits Italy and backs *l'apertura*, the attempt to move the socialist party into the ruling Christian Democrats. This angers publisher Henry Luce, and CIA counter-intelligence chief James Angleton. On July 17, Kennedy tells the press he will be supporting Martin Luther King's March on Washington. He is the first white politician to back the march in public. He assigns Bobby Kennedy to supervise it.



August 5: Russia and the U.S. sign the Limited Atomic Test Ban Treaty in Moscow. Kennedy performs a full-court press to get it passed by an 80-19 vote in the Senate on September 23.



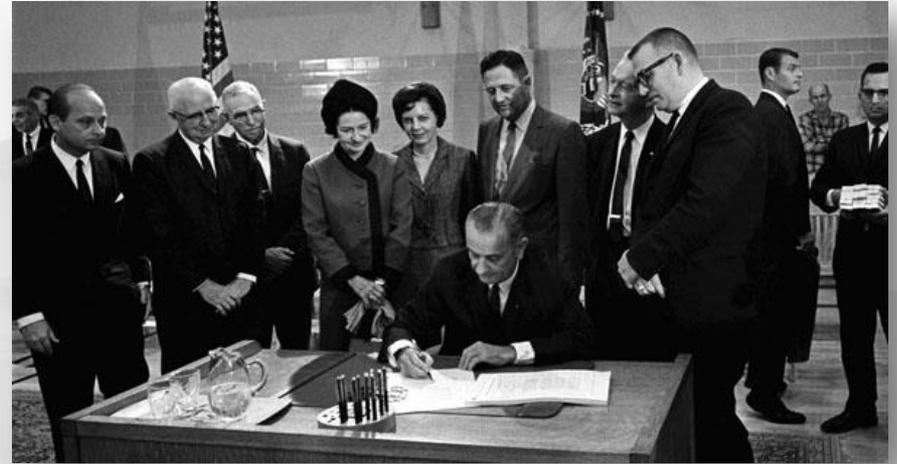
August 28: King delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech to culminate the March on Washington. Many commentators consider this the post-war high point of American liberalism. On September 20, Kennedy visits the United Nations again to urge them not to abandon Congo. This convinces the UN to extend the peacekeeping mission for one year.



September 23: As part of his attempt at détente, Kennedy asks for a cooperative venture to the moon with the USSR. On September 25, Kennedy's tax cut bill passes the House under Ways and Means Committee Chairman Wilbur Mills. By 1965, it will cut unemployment by 17%, and boost GNP by over 20%. But the capital improvements part is foregone.



October 1: In Hawaii, on their return from Saigon, Kennedy substitutes his own trip report—written in Washington—for McNamara and General Taylor's. He wants to be sure it forms the basis for his withdrawal plan. On October 4, Kennedy announces suspension of diplomatic relations with Dominican Republic until the military restores elected president Juan Bosch to power.



On October 11, Kennedy approves NSAM 263. This begins his withdrawal plan with the removal of a thousand men from Vietnam by the end of 1963. On October 21, the Senate passes Kennedy's Aid to Higher Education Act, the first education bill since 1945. Johnson will sign it on December 16.



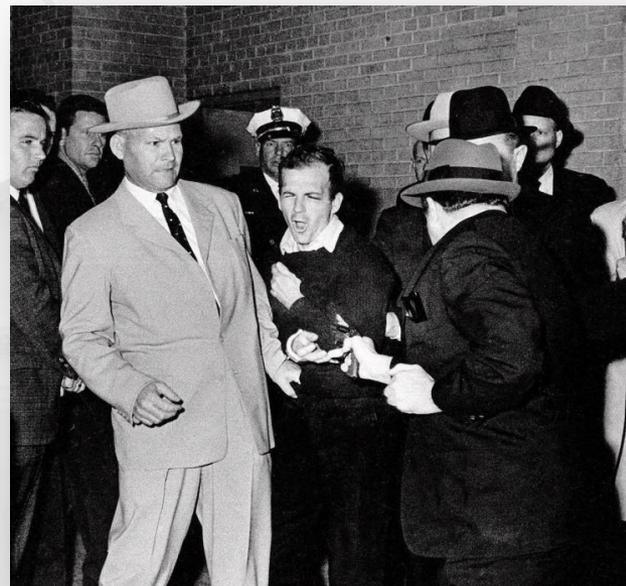
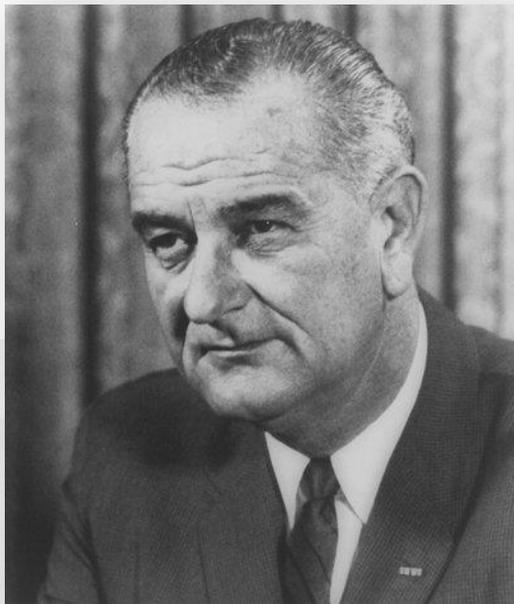
October 24: Kennedy meets with journalist Jean Daniel before his trip to Cuba. JFK gives him a long message to deliver to Castro about the terms for an upcoming resumption of relations. On October 31, and due to a tip by an informant named "Lee," the Secret Service foils an attempt to kill Kennedy in Chicago. Kennedy's November 2 appearance there is cancelled.



November 2: Vietnamese president Ngô Đình Diệm and his brother Nhu are killed by a military coup in Saigon. Kennedy strongly suspects Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is involved in their deaths. He plans to recall Lodge to Washington to fire him, but dies in Dallas before he can do so.



November 18: Kennedy finalizes his trip to Jakarta for 1964 to bolster Sukarno and stop a confrontation with Malaysia. Four days later, on November 22, Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, along with policeman J. D. Tippit.



November 24: At Johnson's first Vietnam meeting, a much more militant tone is adapted by the new president. On November 24, Jack Ruby kills Oswald on national television. There will be no trial.



On November 25, journalist Joseph Alsop calls Johnson and convinces him to create a blue ribbon commission to investigate the murders in Dallas. This becomes the genesis for the Warren Commission Report, which is presented to Johnson on September 24, 1964.

## Afterword

We hope you have enjoyed our slideshow on the life and career of President Kennedy. Anyone can see that it contains much more information and detail than those done, for example, by *Time* magazine and the MSN online network. That comes from the fact that, at [Kennedys and King](#), we actually do research, and it comes from the most scholarly and documented resources. The same thing we do with the facts of Kennedy's assassination, we have done with this biographical slideshow.

For these two subjects are inextricably entwined. Incredibly, the first book to demonstrate this linkage was James Douglass' *JFK and the Unspeakable*. The fact that the Douglass book was not published until 2008 tells the reader just how badly the MSM has been on the two subjects. That book exposed the most serious questions about Kennedy's death, and how the Warren Commission papered them over. It then composed a tangible motive for a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. It further showed how the Kennedy family soon realized such was the case.

As a result, Robert Kennedy and JFK's widow told the Russians that Kennedy's goal of a mutual détente would have to be placed on hold until RFK left the White House and ran for the presidency himself.

## Afterword (continued)

That did not come off as planned—perhaps because, as David Talbot showed in his book *Brothers*, Bobby Kennedy kept what he had discovered about his brother's death to himself.

After 54 years, we think it is time to at least try to tell the truth about the two subjects: Kennedy's life and his assassination. The most tell-tale sign about the latter is that nearly all of the foreign policy initiatives that we have described here were reversed within about 18 months of JFK's murder. This would include his programs in Congo, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic, in addition to his attempts at rapprochement with Moscow and Havana. Could so many reversals all be part of a remarkably widespread and pointed coincidence?

We leave that up to the reader to decide. And hopefully act upon: Information is power.

James DiEugenio

May 2017