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W.W. Norton & Company and the Miller Center release The Presidential Recordings: Lyndon B. Johnson: The Kennedy Assassination and the Transfer of Power November 1963 — January 1964, Vols. 1–3

Charlottesville, VA — April 25, 2005—W.W. Norton and Company and the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs’ Presidential Recordings Program have released the first three volumes of comprehensive transcripts of the White House recordings made by President Lyndon Johnson.

The volumes offer an unprecedented opportunity to experience first hand how Johnson made key decisions and exercised leadership in one of the most turbulent eras in U.S. history. By skillfully bringing Johnson’s recordings to life, this unvarnished account offers a resource for those interested in the complexities of Johnson and the presidency. “The Johnson presidential recordings demonstrate, more than any other source, the relentless energy and passion LBJ brought to public service and political leadership,” according to historian David Shreve. “In the end, the reader of these transcripts will be impressed less by his outsized ego, his desire for control, and his occasional emotional turbulence than by his passion to use governmental power to make life better for disadvantaged Americans, and by the startling rapidity with which he could achieve and act upon political insights.”

The first three volumes in this groundbreaking series of transcripts provide an absorbing and unparalleled glimpse into one of the most critical periods in Johnson’s presidency. From the chaotic moments aboard Air Force One following Kennedy’s assassination to his laying the foundation for the Great Society in his first State of the Union address, these fully annotated, meticulously detailed transcripts reveal with stunning clarity how Johnson coped with the enormous and immediate challenges he faced upon taking office. Published along with a DVD that includes the actual audio of the tapes, The Presidential Recordings: Lyndon B. Johnson are an unprecedented work of scholarship that enables readers to experience the Johnson White House as never before.

Directed by historian [Timothy Naftali](#), the Miller Center’s Presidential Recording Program is a unique and ambitious effort to transcribe, edit, annotate, and publish the secret White House recordings of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. From 1960 to

1973, these presidents recorded hundreds of their most significant meetings and telephone calls.

These tapes chronicle these presidents' deliberations and decisions during such critical events as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Mississippi and Birmingham civil rights crises, the Vietnam War, and the opening to China; they also offer direct knowledge of how modern U.S. presidents exercised leadership in peace and in war. [Kent B. Germany](#) is coordinator of the LBJ Project.

Other Publications:

Philip Zelikow, Timothy Naftali, and Ernest May, eds. *The Presidential Recordings: John F. Kennedy: The Great Crises*, volumes 1-3, July 30-October 28, 1962. New York: W.W. Norton, 2001.

Philip Zelikow and Ernest May, eds. *The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis*, concise edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002.

Jonathan Rosenberg and Zachary Karabell, eds. *Kennedy, Johnson, and the Quest for Justice: The Civil Rights Tapes*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2003.

Kent B. Germany, Robert David Johnson, Guian McKee, and David Shreve, eds., *The Presidential Recordings: Lyndon B. Johnson, Volumes 4-6, "Toward the Great Society,"* February-May 28, 1964. New York: W.W. Norton, forthcoming September 2006.

Timothy Naftali and David Coleman, *On the Fourteenth Day: JFK's Secret Tapes of the Cuba Settlement*. New York: W.W. Norton, forthcoming 2007.

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