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Subject: Air Force One tapes

To: Douglas Horne/ARRBcc: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB, Tom Samoluk/ARRB (bcc: Non-Record/ARRB)From: Irene Marr/ARRB Date: 10/09/97 12:24:24 PMSubject: Air Force One tapesClaudia Anderson of the LBJ Library gave me an update on the 11/22/63 Air Force One tapes inquiry. She indicated that they didn't have much information on the provenance of these tapes, but they are fairly confident that they came from the White House Communications Agency. She stated that they weren't 100% certain where the White House obtained or recorded the Air Force One communications but had always presumed they originated with the WHCA. In any case, the Library received the tapes from the White House as part of the original shipment of President Johnson's papers and other material in 1968 or 69. According to the Library's documentation, the accession card for the these tapes was noted WHCA ? and dated 1975. However, this does not reflect when the tapes were actually received as apparently a lot of the material was backlogged and did not get catalogued right away.The ? after WHCA, however, does indicate some uncertainty regarding the originator. Tina Houston is going to check with another member (possibly former employee?) of the staff who had been in the Audio-Visual Department in 1975 to see if he can further clarify this. According to Anderson, the LBJ Library copy of the 11/22/63 recordings consists of 3 reels with a length of 110 minutes and contains President Johnson's phone calls or conversations, pilot communications, weather reports, communications with the Cabinet's airplane en route to Japan, static, as well as some blank space. The transcript was edited for only the substantive portions, mainly portions in which President Johnson was speaking and communications with the Cabinet's airplane. She was not sure who made the transcript but that it is held within the Special File on the Assassination. Since Anderson stated that the transcript was edited, but the tapes contained additional traffic indicates that the LBJ Library has the unedited version of the tapes. She stated that NARA has a copy of the same recording, but it appears that what you listened to suggests otherwise. Can you verify that it was the tapes at NARA that were edited and not just the transcripts? Sorry to answer your question with another question.

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