

## TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

The President and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara

8/4/64

11:06 a.m.

---

[President Johnson is meeting with Congressman George Mahon at time of call.]

Telephone Beep

[LBJ in office conversation with Mahon:]

[unintelligible] came along today and pass my farm bill and I made them stand up to some of them that were very doubtful on the foreign aid [unintelligible]. But I think that we can say if we're spending 600 or 700 million right here in Latin America on underdeveloped schools or underdeveloped [unintelligible] we can spend a little on our own people, our own boys that are there to work and then not give them something for nothing, make them work for every dime of it and we take the tax eater that's now on his daddy's relief roll and make a tax payer out of him by making him work to earn [?] part of that check.

LBJ: Hello?

Secretary: Secretary McNamara, Line 0

LBJ: Yes, Bob.

McN: Mr. President, we just had word by telephone from Admiral [U. S. Grant] Sharp that the destroyer is under torpedo attack.

LBJ: Oh, no.

McN: I think I might get [Secretary of State] Dean Rusk and [National Security Advisor] Mac [McGeorge] Bundy and have them come over here and we'll go over these retaliatory actions and then we ought to...

LBJ: I sure think you ought to agree with that, yeah.

McN: and I've got a category [?] here. I'll call the two of them...

LBJ: Now, where are these torpedoes coming from?

McN: Well, we don't know; presumably from these unidentified craft that I mentioned to you a moment ago. We thought that the unidentified craft might include one PT boat which has torpedo capability and two Swatow boats which we don't credit with torpedo capability although they may have it.

LBJ: What are these planes of ours doing around while they're being attacked?

McN: Well, presumably the planes are attacking the ships. We don't have any word from Sharp on that. The planes would be in the area at the present time; all eight of them.

LBJ: Okay. You get them over there and then you come over here as soon as you can.

McN: I'll do that that, yeah.