

will later reported that when Kennedy climbed back into his helicopter to return to Palm Beach, he said of his former opponent, "It was just as well for all of us that he didn't quite make it."⁸

Jack soon traveled to Texas with O'Donnell and Congressman Torbert Macdonald for a visit with the Lyndon Johnsons at their ranch. To the extreme displeasure of his guests, Johnson got everyone up the next morning before dawn for a deer hunt. After some effort, Jack bagged a deer. Macdonald managed merely to injure his shoulder when his rifle kicked back at him. O'Donnell made his kill with one shot while Kennedy and Johnson were helping Macdonald. When Jack learned of his special assistant's success, he flew into a rage and refused to speak to him for two hours. Kennedys did not like to place second; even close friends violated this dictum at their peril.

As repelled as Kennedy was by Johnson (who greeted the president-elect's plane dressed in a cream-colored leather jacket, cowboy boots, and a ten-gallon hat), he nevertheless sent an aide to buy a fine gift on learning that the Johnsons were celebrating their twenty-sixth wedding anniversary. He presented it to Lady Bird at dinner and made a speech that, according to O'Donnell, surprised and touched the couple.⁹

On November 18 CIA Director Dulles traveled to Palm Beach to brief Kennedy. At the top of the agenda was the Eisenhower administration's planned invasion of Cuba. The same issue of the *New York Times* that reported Dulles's visit carried a State Department bulletin describing massive Soviet military aid to Castro. In an adjoining column, Jacobo Arbenz, the president of Guatemala, whose country secretly bristled with CIA agents and contained a training camp for Cuban refugees, called publicly for a police action against Cuba similar to that taken by the United Nations in Korea.¹⁰

Less than a week later, President José Jimenez of Cuba declared that the election of Kennedy was unlikely to alter Washington's hostility toward the Castro regime. He also said that his government continued to worry that the United States might feel compelled to demonstrate its "big power" status by sending in the Marines.¹¹

On November 23 Jack flew to Washington to spend Thanksgiving Day with his wife and daughter at their Georgetown home. Jackie was planning a delivery by cesarean section at Georgetown University Hospital in about three weeks.¹²

Soon after dinner Jack dismissed his wife's plea to stay in Washington until after the birth and headed back to Palm Beach aboard his private plane. There was much work to do, including the selection of cabinet members. Two hours later Jackie went into labor and was rushed