

**A WORD FROM
DEIRDRE HENDERSON**



“It was a privilege to work as research assistant to Senator John F. Kennedy in his run for the Presidency. He gave me his 1945 diary so I could better understand his views. Through recent research, it has been concluded this is the only true diary JFK ever kept. It is now time to relinquish this iconic and valuable piece of history.

I trust that, through this catalog, the diary will come to the attention of a wider audience and find a home worthy of its merit.”



Deirdre Henderson with
Senator John F. Kennedy

Deirdre Henderson first met with Senator John F. Kennedy on June 15, 1954 when she was in college. Later, while working at the Harvard Defense Studies Program, she began sending the Senator memorandums on National Security issues and particularly on the need to build up conventional forces. In 1958, Deirdre asked her brother-in-law, Paul Pennoyer, who was a good friend of Senator Kennedy, to request an interview with him for a job in his upcoming presidential run.

After passing a tough interview, the Senator hired her as his research assistant to work in his Boston Senate office and spend time on position papers by gathering ideas from his Academic Advisory Committee—mainly MIT and Harvard professors. Deirdre is most proud of the fact that

the Senator told her to expand the list as needed. At the President-Elect's request, she remained as his research assistant during the transition period. Deirdre worked at the White House before President Kennedy asked her to go to the State Department.

Following extensive research of the pre-World War II period, Deirdre decided it was time to share the diary Senator Kennedy had given to her in 1959. She was introduced to Hugh Sidey, well known 'Time' magazine columnist, by Ambassador James Lilly. Mr. Sidey wrote back after reading the diary: "This is vintage JFK." Sidey, who knew the Senator well, agreed to write the introduction and named the book 'Prelude to Leadership.'