

October, 1962, at White House: Robert F. Kennedy's Memoirs

"I think those few minutes were the time of gravest concern for the President. Was the world on the brink of a holocaust? Was it our error? A mistake? Was there something further that should have been done? Or not done?"

"His hand went to his face and covered his mouth. He opened and closed his fist. His face seemed drawn, his eyes pained,

almost gray. We stared at each other across the table. For a few fleeting seconds, it was almost as though no one else was there and he was no longer the President."

The late Robert F. Kennedy writes about his brother. President John F. Kennedy, in a manuscript he dictated in the fall of 1967, based on his personal diaries and recollections of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

The crisis brought "that kind of pressure that does strange things to a human being, even to brilliant, self-confident, mature, experienced men. For some it brings out characteristics and strengths that perhaps they never knew they had, and for others the pressure is too overwhelming.

The first of three installments of "The 13 Days of Crisis" starts on Page B1 Today.

RFK
11/21/68