Analyzing Audio Recordings

Think about the following questions while you listen to the recording. Be sure to add your own good questions as they occur to you.

1. What do you already know or think you know about this recording? Where did this knowledge come from? Is it reliable?
2. What is the date of the recording? What do you know about the world at that time?
3. What kind of event does the recording document?
4. What can you learn about the event from this recording?
5. Who was the intended audience for this recording? What evidence from the recording suggests this audience?
6. Whose voices do you hear? What other sounds do you hear?
7. How would you describe the mood of the recording? What evidence do you have for this conclusion?
8. What is the purpose of the recording? What evidence gives you that idea?
9. What questions would you like to ask the speakers or broadcaster about this recording that would help you interpret it?
10. What does this recording tell you about the life and times of the people who heard it when it was made?

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