



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

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Tuesday, May 9.

Main effort here was speech follow-up. I had all the troops in last night and then again this morning. Told them that we were setting up a little internal planning unit, that we're going to drive hard to maximize public response, and we laid out assignments using Malek, Magruder on the political side, Chapin for his ideas, Colson for his apparatus, Haig for the NSC and the military/Defense ties, MacGregor and Timmons for Congress.

The President made the point this morning that we missed the point on the fact sheet, that the invasion-- that we'd exhausted all the efforts on the diplomatic front. He wants us to flush out the fact of the peace negotiation efforts to stronger words and so on, that they've left us no other choice, and that this isn't directed against any other nation. He says if the Democratic caucus condemns him there should be a vicious attack. We should compare their action to the Republican support of JFK and the Cuba crisis where Nixon went on statewide television and supported Kennedy. He thought maybe we ought to get Connally to hit on the basis that as a Democrat, he's ashamed of them. He also says if the Russians cancel, we should say we expected it, we can't endanger American lives and sacrifice America's interests for the sake of a Summit with the Soviets. Wants us to go all out on the Southern Democrats, so that this doesn't become a party line deal. Makes the point that we should emphasize the personal qualities of the President putting this together. Thinks we should get something out on the great public support for the President so that it might affect the Russians in that they have a problem on canceling the Summit. We might be able to get-- to avoid their doing it.

Later in the day told me to get ahold of Henry and tell him that there's a poll going out tomorrow showing that 65 percent support. I told Henry 70. Wants us to attack the Democrats hard. Henry had his press conference this morning and did, in my view, a pretty bad job. He spent the first twenty minutes reviewing all the negotiations and going on ad nauseam about the background and everything. Then finally, did get into the questions and did a pretty good job there, of getting most of our line across. Still no reaction from the Soviets, and we're kind of sweating that one



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out. The PR organization is cranking well, and the President has his dinner with the Duke Law School tonight.

End of May 9.