



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

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Wednesday, February 23.

When I woke up this morning, it was snowing, and it snowed all day. Leaving a white ground cover, which makes the usually totally brown Peking much more attractive. President again had no schedule in the morning and worked here at the house. I spent some time with him, going over general reports from home. I talked to Ehrlichman, Connally, and Colson, and gave him rundowns on their reports and developments. Nothing of any particular importance--.

For the afternoon session today, the President invited Chou to come to the Guest House, so the session was held here, from 2:00 to 6:00. Once again, I went shopping for that entire period, in, at times, a driving snowstorm. This time we went to some of the antique shop type places, instead of the friendship store, and it was very interesting, especially since it was in other parts of town, where we had a chance to see more of the people. By now the people seemed to be more aware of us, also, since the paper has carried major stories as has Peking radio, on the fact of our visit, and that they did yesterday, which has opened things up some, which may or may not make any difference in terms of any turnout for the President in the future. In any event everything is apparently very tightly controlled.

Tonight at the guest house, we had a delicious American dinner, which was very thoughtful of our hosts. But they had a fish course, delicious fried fish, and then a steak, little fillet sort of tournedos, with green beans, carrots, and fried potatoes, and ice cream and a pastry for dessert.

After dinner we went to the gymnasium for the athletic exhibition, which also was very good. Again, we gathered for tea outside first, then we marched in while the 20,000 people in attendance clapped, and we returned the applause. Again, we were seated at an area where the counter in front of us with the teapots on it and also wet towels, which were changed three or four times during the performance. The President seemed to enjoy the whole thing thoroughly, as did Chou. Fascinating in the pre-performance sessions, the way Chou is so relaxed and a great master of small talk, as he greets each guest and has various comments on a very personal basis for each one, or for most of them. Any that he hasn't shaken hands with before we get into the



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room, he leaps up and comes across the room to greet, as he did with me last night, or this evening, and it's really very impressive. The impression from the gym show was one of total control, the hall was packed, every seat was filled. They were filled by sections, with the big section for an Army group in green uniforms, another section for an Army group in blue uniforms, other sections for people in civilian clothes, a section for athletes in red sweat suits, another for athletes in blue sweat suits, etcetera. Also, they had a lighting system that enabled them to turn on sections of overhead lights for the television cameras, and as each section was lighted from time to time, the people in it would all automatically start cheering for the camera. The regimentation is enormous. The athletes themselves march in with a big strut and swinging arms, stand at attention and face the Premier before they start their particular event. The level of control is almost total.

After returning from the gym, late this evening, we learned that Chou had decided to give a Peking duck dinner for the official party at the Great Hall of the People tomorrow night, to which the President also was invited, which creates a problem, since President was counting on tomorrow night as his one night off with no event and no dinner, but, he'll undoubtedly have to accept. There's no real way to get around it.

One building issue is the problem of Rogers. He called me today to say that he was concerned about the news reports as they were building at home, which pointed out that he wasn't involved in any of the important meetings and was being kept out of things. He was obviously uptight about being left out of the meeting with Mao on Monday and made the point that if there's any other meeting with Mao, he wants to be sure that he is included. He also was carping about the fact that Henry had two NSC people in the Chou meetings with the President, while there were no State Department people there, and he didn't see why Marshall Green or somebody like that couldn't be the note taker, instead of Henry's people.

Later today, Henry charged in, furious, because he'd learned that Rogers had raised directly with the Foreign Minister, the question of their participating in writing the communiqué, and the



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Foreign Minister had said no, that Prime Minister Chou had assigned it to Dr. Kissinger, and Mr. Chiao. So it put Rogers in a rather embarrassing position. This is a problem that's going to continue, I think, on a similar basis. Scali got me before we went to the gym, and complained that his talents weren't being adequately used, and that we ought to be consulting with him on press problems, and that sort of thing. So we have a problem there, too.

End of February 23.