



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

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Wednesday, September 23.

After long NSC meeting – about Cuba and Mideast President had Kissinger and me in for general chat. Both of them very pleased with the way things have worked out – and feel that we have handled Middle East extremely well. At that time is looked as if Syrians had pulled back and Hussein might have a ceasefire. Later it was confirmed that Syria was out. Rabin said this was due to 1) tough US position; 2) Israeli threat; 3) Russian pressure on Syria and Iraq as a result of US position; 4) superb fighting of Jordan troops.

Another crisis handled darn well - with President very strong and cool on top, and Kissinger's system, WSAG, etc., functioning very well in spite of Rogers' interference - and Rogers' role also a constructive one in forcing caution.

At this time President also talked about Cuba and said he bet the only solution for us is to blockade the port. Kissinger and Haig both feel this will surface soon and we'll have to act. Don't have a plan yet. At NSC Rogers urged no staff work on it – try to keep totally submerged until after election (according to Haig and Kissinger). President directed instead that WSAG prepare plans – and all staff work go ahead.

Later a huge new flap developed when Rogers called me and said Kissinger told him to send a flash cable that he believed was contrary to President desires and he wouldn't send it without talking with President. The President was taking nap at EOB - I told Haig, and he and Kissinger hit the roof. Problem was Rogers was going against direct President order to Kissinger regarding wording of cable regarding whether Hussein wanted Israeli air strike. While we talked, Rogers arrived and sneaked into EOB and was with President. So we shot over the paperwork and waited. Kissinger built up a monumental head of steam - said he'd see this through and then had to leave - couldn't take more of this - about then President had him come over and Rabin called with the above report – so all was academic. One more down.



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President had Rose put together a little reunion of the '52 crowd to celebrate anniversary of fund speech. Then at 8:45 Chapin called to say President had left White House for Columbia Country Club, where Meany attending a dinner for Beck. No one with him and no notice. Interesting to see what happens.