



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

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Thursday, February 15.

The President got me first thing this morning on the plans for Kissinger's return. Ziegler had apparently announced that Henry was gonna have a press conference, because Henry and his people told him to. So the President was disturbed because he feels that he has to make the first statement on the aid to North Vietnam question. He was also concerned about the fact that Henry didn't submit the communiqué to him before he put it out-- the joint communiqué to the North Vietnamese, and he was wondering about that. I hadn't seen it either, which I had also found surprising. He feels there's a real problem with the Kissinger news conference on return. He got Scowcroft in to talk about it, making the point that we have the toughest sale we ever had on the aid to North Vietnam, and that the President has to do it. Then Kissinger should follow-up with a background. He made the point, also, that he didn't get a copy of the communiqué and Scowcroft said it was his error. He wanted to be sure that Timmons takes a positive line on the aid to North Vietnam question also.

Later in the day, he told me to send a wire to Henry saying that the President would have a press conference on Thursday morning to do an overview on the situation; that Kissinger should plan on a briefing on Friday, not on television, because of his agreement to go on the Barbara Walters thing, but that he should work on a briefing book for the President on his way back so that he'll have the answers ready for him.

He got into the POW question again as he does generally. He wants to be sure we have some recognition of them, such as a Presidential Citation, a ribbon with a star for each year, or something like that. He wanted to discuss this at noon today when he went over to the Pentagon for lunch and raised it with Scowcroft to cover. He also raised the question of the Presidential letter to the families of MIA's, expressing concern with their problem. He's worried about the POW's coming back and telling of the torture that they had, and all that sort of thing, which will make the aid to North Vietnam especially difficult.



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He got back into the social plan question again as to getting Congressmen in; he had Timmons come in regarding his ideas of the House and Senate attending the "Evenings at the White House" and church services. Told Timmons to get going on a list immediately to get that set-up.

He got to talking this afternoon about some sort of general strategy. He feels that the next dove move now is going to be regarding aid to North Vietnam and trying to tie it to amnesty and to aiding the ghettos here. He feels that we'd gotta get off the line and use the Lincoln example regarding aid to North Vietnam, that Lincoln granted total amnesty to the South and assistance in reconstruction. That there will be no amnesty to deserters or draft dodgers in the North.

He raised the question of the Secret Service problem, which has been a flap in the papers the last few days—blaming me for the firing of Bob Taylor—and wondering how it had been put out.

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Audio Cassette 31, Side A.

Duration: 29 seconds

He thinks on the basis of a note he got from Julie that it was Rose—which I also feel. And he told me to talk to her about it which I did. She-- I didn't hit her directly on putting out the story but did go into the situation with her in the background. She didn't react very favorably and I think that's a good part of the problem.

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The President's apparently been talking to Ehrlichman about how to deal with this whole problem of my PR and effect and is obviously concerned about the effort that's being made internally to get at me, which he thinks has yet to be cured by my doing more of an internal personal relations job.

He went through some concern about the reaction he had to George Bush's report yesterday. He senses that he's discouraged regarding all the horrors that he keeps running into in the State Committees and National Committee, and then in sitting down with the Congressmen in the cloakroom. He feels that I should tell him he shouldn't submit himself to too much grousing and bitching of that kind; he should stay above the Congressmen, don't get down to their level. It's not fair or productive to him to submit to all the negatives; that instead he should invite them to his ground and meet with them in his place for lunch and that kind of thing.

We got into trip plans, and he came up with the idea of doing a South Carolina legislature Tuesday on the way back from Florida. He asked me to talk to Harry Dent about it, who thought it was a great idea. Also wanted me to talk to Moore, Bill Rogers, and a few others, about what they think on the Nobel Prize matter. He needs an answer to the question on it his press conference, in case anything comes up. His inclination is still not to accept it, but thinks we ought to check their views on it.

End of February 15.