



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

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Tuesday, June 1st. Press conference day. The President spent the whole day over at the EOB getting ready for the 8:30 telecast tonight. He called over a number of times on some of his normal specific questions like: How many jobs would be affected by the Lockheed contract?; what the situation is on gun control?; and that kind of thing. He did come over for a few minutes at noon for an open hour session and had me in for a while to discuss some staff odds and ends, particularly on moving some people around. He wants to see Finch this week and wants to get the decision on Rumsfeld and get that settled, one way or the other. He also told me to be sure the staff understands nobody is to give any political backgrounders from now on; they're to flatly refuse to discuss the subject. Kissinger came charging in during the day, all distressed because he had discovered a...

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...cable in which Burgas, our man in Cairo, refers to Sadat's offer to remove the Soviet operational forces from Egypt.

Henry says he would support such a move, but he doesn't see how we could get it, and he would like to know the quid pro quo. What really is bothering him is he thinks Rogers is engaged in secret negotiations, that the President knows about it and isn't telling Henry. So he asked me to ask the President what he sent to Rogers last week via military aide, which the President mentioned to Rogers on the phone while both Henry and I were in there; and also, the direct question: Is Rogers conducting a secret negotiation...



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with Sadat...

...that Kissinger doesn't know about? Henry says if he is, then he, Henry, will have to quit, that he can't tolerate something of that sort.

The President's reaction to the press conference was that it was a sorry performance by the press, particularly their emoting about May Day. They did ask him four questions on the demonstrators, and it's obvious where their sympathies lie. It gave him a chance, however, to hit his law and order positions hard, and I think worked very much to his advantage and the press' disadvantage, although that's not what they intended.

End of June 1st.