



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Monday, June 21st. Still in Key Biscayne. The President went over to the Teamsters this morning, on short notice, although we had tentatively worked out a plan for doing it over the last few days. He went into their Executive Board and Constitutional Committee meeting and met privately with Fitzsimmons for a few minutes beforehand. The whole thing was very cordial. He talked primarily on foreign policy, gave them a good buildup, emphasized the point that he was the first President since FDR to visit the Teamsters and got a big hand for that, as he did when he said that he knew that he could always count on them for solid backing on matters of foreign policy and anything that affected the security of the nation. It was a good session and well worth taking the time.

Henry called me this morning as we were about to leave and frantically kept saying that it's imperative that I talk with him, but the President covered with me in the car going over to the Teamsters the point that Henry wanted to raise, which was a plan for setting Henry's trip up to Asia vis-à-vis Bill Rogers. They decided that they wanted me to call Rogers and tell him that we feel that no public meeting with President Thieu would be very good at this time with the President or with anyone at a high level, but because the President has made a commitment to do something with Thieu, we have to follow up on that. The President raised this with Bunker, and he agreed that we could have Kissinger go out with no publicity to meet with Thieu and also review pacification progress, etcetera - no press, no backgrounders, no public appearances. He also would then swing through Thailand, Pakistan, India, and etcetera, on a fact finding tour. Then the President said to ask Bill to plan to be in San Clemente for the first two weeks in July, because the President would be out there. Pat would be in Europe. The President would be working primarily on domestic, but wanted to have some preliminary talks on the campaign to keep the news going from San Clemente, and so he'd like to have Rogers there. I made the call and Rogers bought the idea of Henry going to Vietnam and handling the Thieu meeting all right, but had grave reservations on his going to Pakistan and India. This, of course, was the key part of the trip as far as Henry's concerned, because it's, there that he accomplishes his other secret



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mission. Bill felt that with the sensitive situation in Pakistan and India, we're trying to have the UN do the whole thing, and there's a question of why Henry would go there, and it clearly would give him visibility. Also, the governments you talk to would brief the press, tell what was covered in the meeting; and if we don't say anything, it would make it even more mysterious. He had kept thinking up all the reasons for his reservations, saying that it would look as if Henry has a major mission rather than just going out on a first hand appraisal deal in Vietnam and Thailand. He feels the India-Pakistan thing is so sensitive that it would look like we were setting up a private channel to Yahya in some way, and that the President should really consider what the point of this is and whether he wants to go ahead with it. This was exactly the reaction that Henry was expecting to get from Rogers, and he was quite amused when it came through that way. I reported to the President and he felt we should let Henry and Rogers work it out from here on.

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 9, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 5 [AC-9(B) Sel 3]
Duration: 15 seconds

We also discussed the findings of our phone checks on the *New York Times* papers. And, the reports really don't give us any clear cut picture...

...so the President was weighing a number of options. When we got back from the Teamster trip, he called Ehrlichman to get an update, made the point to him that our whole concern from now must be the PR aspects. The morality, and so forth, is moot now because the papers are already out, and we've got to get off the wicket of appearing to cover-up for LBJ. He made the point that he wanted to get Huston back in to work with Colson, helping on the Democratic attack. Also, he



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does not want them to indict the *Times*, just the thief. Follow-up on the thief thing. He discussed several times the question of a Presidential statement, feels we should hold off with a question of whether he should do any at all. He said that Ehrlichman leans to a speech at a later time. He's not sure whether he really wants to do any at any time. He does want to be sure we declassify the Diem stuff that catches Kennedy, especially if it's not in the basic papers that would be printed when they're released. The guys in Washington have a plan now to release the documents to Congress on a classified basis and then start a program of declassification. He called again, the President called again later in the day to raise the question that if he is going to go on at all, we've got to work out scheduling time for it, but it is still his inclination to not do anything, at least for now.

End of June 21st.