



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

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Friday, December 17.

The President had me come over to the house this morning to review current things. He didn't really have anything on his mind except the possibility of his meeting with the group of ten, especially if they work out some kind of a deal. The more he thought about it, the more he thought this would be a good idea, that he should be there for the finale of their meetings, since it is an historic meeting, so on, if the deal is made. So he decided maybe he ought to go back to Washington tonight and be there tomorrow for the conclusion of the session and have a reception for them also, then he'd be on hand to consult with Connally if there's any close decision on negotiating the trade items, and so on. He felt we should milk it for all it's worth, and he had the gut reaction that he ought to be there. He told me to call Connally, and that he would abide by Connally's judgment on it. After I got back to the hotel, he called again to say that his feeling was that he should be back in Washington, that in Rome the head of state always received the group, and therefore, the President should, too; and therefore, he leaned on the side of being there, if Connally thought it would be helpful.

I talked to Connally, and he thought it was an excellent idea if they get a deal, but he should not come tonight, he should wait until tomorrow and see what developed. He says that in general there's no substantive change as far as the group is concerned, but there is a chance to wrap the thing up. The problem is they just won't say anything. They're obviously trading to get the last ounce and will give him no assurance of what they're going to settle for. He's trying to find a face-saving way for them to say that they got the surcharge lifted, but still keep the grip on them regarding trade. As a result of this, the President agreed to stay here tonight and go onto-- back to Washington tomorrow morning at 10:00. A little later today, Haig called saying that Henry wanted the President to meet with the Pakistan Ambassador to the UN before he goes back to Pakistan. So we're setting that up for tomorrow when the President gets back.

End of December 17.