



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

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Sunday, December 19th. The President in New York this morning and then back down this afternoon for his Time interview. I had no contact with him all day.

Kissinger called this morning, really distressed, said that as a result of the Friday backgrounding on India-Pakistan that he and Scali had done. Rogers was upset about his having done it. And he's afraid Rogers will hit the President on the plane going to Bermuda tomorrow, and wanted me to ride herd on it, since Henry's going down tonight to meet with Heath in the morning. Then there were the Karnow story in the *Times* today and the Marvin Kalb stories on CBS regarding White House blundering, and so forth, which Henry says is a typical Rogers pattern. He always hides during a crisis, and then he attacks us after it's over. I kept pushing him on what should we do about it, and he says we should tell Rogers where to head in when he murders Kissinger, as he did on this kind of thing and after Cambodia. He said that Scali did most of the backgrounding anyway. Then Sisco was ordered to background by the President and was reamed by Rogers for doing it. Henry says the President called him this morning, upset by the Karnow story and said it reflects exactly the State Department point of view. So he's sure that State gave it to them. He says that the whole situation came close to collapse because of the deliberate sabotage of the State Department. Kissinger was the only one who had been predicting an Indian attack since July, and nobody would pay any attention to him. He says, even if we made mistakes on this, the bureaucracy should have backed us. On the backgrounding itself, it played well, Henry says, until State started their counter-fire to tear down the White House. He points out that they always say that, on China, anything that we're doing is in order to protect the President's Peking trip. They're trying to undercut China in every possible way. He says, for four weeks, every Presidential order was not carried out. That things work fine when Rogers is out of town, but it falls apart when he's here. He's not blaming State for the situation blowing up in India-Pakistan, because that probably was inevitable. But they refused even the 30 percent possibility of solving it and it was given to Rogers to play with, to keep him quiet, and he blew it.



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He says the last four weeks was a near total disaster. Everything in foreign policy would have collapsed if we hadn't saved this. And we had to save it by dealing directly from the White House and by carrying through a monumental bluff with the Soviets, which we'll still have to maintain on the Middle East and probably won't be able to.

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Henry points out that he has a continuing problem with the press, because he never dissociates himself from the President, where Rogers always does. He says, in the history books, India-Pakistan will be a great success, but it isn't at this point. He was obviously in one of his deeper fits of despair, and it was a little difficult to deal with him. But I think he just wanted to call and complain mainly and, as usual, was very distressed about Rogers having an opportunity to get to the President on the plane tomorrow.

End of December 19th.