



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

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Saturday, January 1.

President again got in the question of changing the announcement dates in New Hampshire. Had me check with the Attorney General on the facts and decided on the basis of that, that we could shift the thing around and should do so; moving it up to Saturday the 8th, so that he has the next week free to do his Vietnam announcement whenever he wants, get it out of the way ahead of time, but not during the Sato meeting. He asked me to meet with Bill Rogers to get his judgment on our political plans on television and timing and so forth, and Kissinger called from New York all disturbed, because he thought someone had been getting to the President on Vietnam. He said that the President seems to feel, in conversations Henry's had with him, that he's under terrible pressure on Vietnam, and he therefore wants to give an all-out speech prior to Congress returning. Kissinger thinks this is a mistake, because it'll just focus Congress on Vietnam rather than letting them wallow around for a while undirected. He thinks we shouldn't worry about the Congressional resolutions that are coming up and that we should do our Vietnam announcement at the latest date possible, for example, the 25th he would like the best. He says the announcement date as far as the troop withdrawal is immaterial to him. The important thing is the review of our offers and our new peace plan, and that should come late, so we could consider separating the two. The President has told Henry everyday about the trouble he's in in Vietnam, where Henry feels he's in good shape on Vietnam. Henry feels if he gives a big speech on Vietnam before congression-- Congress comes back, then he makes Vietnam the big issue before the Congress right at the outset. Henry's concerned that the President's looking for a way to bug out, and he thinks that would be a disaster now. His instinct is that the Viet-- North Vietnamese are ready to give, so we'd be totally wrong to show any nervousness. If we do the peace plan early in January, it'll spur the opponents to tear it to pieces. We need to do it as late as possible, but before they have another rallying point. He didn't want me to talk to the President about this, but obviously just wanted to talk it over with me to review his concern.

End of January 1.