



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

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Wedn-- Thursday, January 27.

Back to some more speech follow-up today as the President starts dealing with the various reactions. He specifically wanted to see whether Clifford had asked for a cease-fire, and if so, have Rogers hit him on it, because Clifford's attacking us on the wrong basis, saying that the cease-fire is the hang-up, whereas it's in North Vietnam's nine points, so we have an agreement on it. Also, the Kennedy attack he feels is particularly effective in saying that there should only be one point instead of eight points. He wants to be sure Rogers doesn't back off to that position. In general, he wants to stick to our offer and shift no ground.

He was furious with *The Washington Post* editorial, wants Henry to write a letter to *The Post* rebutting it. Also, said he's taking *The Post* off the China trip, and that Ron is not to come simpering and arguing about it. They deliberately screwed us, and we're going to have to get back at them, and that Ziegler's not to tell any press people they're going until the President reviews the China list again.

He wants Scali to get Rogers to crack Clifford on the cease-fire and answer the Kennedy line on the POW's with withdrawal, making the point that the Democratic critics are the party of surrender. We should praise the good Democrats like Nancy, Oden, Jackson, don't do it as a partisan thing, but say they want a Communist South Vietnam. We should drop the subtleties and fight, and keep after it day after day. One line, "peace is too important for politics", and another, "our critics are putting partisanship above peace, and partisanship above POW's". He wants Buchanan to write some of these, get some mileage out of them.

He called George Meany per our suggestion this afternoon, and apparently had a good chat with him. Meany said he agrees with Stennis, that the President's gone as far as he can on the Vietnam thing, also derided McCloskey as he calls him, for attacking the secrecy, because as Meany knows, secrecy is the only way you can end up with a good bargain.

President left at about 4:00 for Camp David to spend the night, be back tomorrow.



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End of January 27.