



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

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Tuesday, February 29th. The President started this morning with the leadership meeting, and had me in ahead of time just to talk on general approach to things. He wants to hold off on the news summary and criticism. Keep the President in somewhat different position. He needs to stay in a positive, radiant mood, and also he wants to get the staff away from feeling that they have to criticize, because they'll then think negatively. Instead, they should look at the positives. He's decided maybe he won't go to Camp David tonight, in fact definitely won't, but will stay at the White House for Tricia's birthday party, and maybe go up tomorrow.

He had some more bitches from Rose about the fact that she had to put her phone calls through Chapin, her car was not far enough up in the motorcade, and her room placement was bad on the China trip, which was certainly thoughtful of her to burden him with at this time.

After the leadership meeting, which ran about an hour overtime, he had the Cabinet meeting. Made the point that the more deeply you believe in something, the more softly you can talk about it. He was referring to both himself and to Chou as following the same tactic in meetings based on that above point. He said the most important thing out of the China trip was that there's a profound new relationship between the PRC and the US They've both agreed not to resort to the threat of force or the use of force in international relations and in relations with each other, and they've agreed that no nation should dominate Asia. This is the heart of the communiqué. There is now a new relationship at this time. We support the proposition of peaceful settlement of international disputes and disputes between ourselves. The question is whether we can learn to live with our differences, or whether we'll die for them.

Then he told the story about the children's park in Shanghai. He said that in their evaluation of us, the thing that impresses us is not our wealth, but our power, and more importantly our



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purpose. They see our material emphasis as a weakness. They look for strength of character, willingness to sacrifice, to fail, to believe. He emphasized the continuity of the China trip as it evolves from the Nixon Doctrine. After the Cabinet meeting, he had Henry and me in to evaluate the, both meetings, and was absolutely horrified by Rogers handling of both the Cabinet meeting and even more so the Leaders' meeting...

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...where he referred to being in China as like being in the Bronx Zoo and made a big point of how tough he had been in his meetings with the foreign minister where the President couldn't take that tough a line. Also, made a point that Taiwan and the free Chinese were much better people than the Communist Chinese. This is all stuff that is going to do a pretty bad reaction for us in China if it gets to them, of course. But hopefully, it won't.

This evening he called me at home to say he would go to Key Biscayne tomorrow, and that Henry would come down later on the staff plane. The President would go down at noon. So that's finally set.

End of February 29th. Correction, that's the end of...