



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Wednesday, April 26.

Spent the day at the EOB getting ready for the TV speech tonight on Vietnam, had me over several times, going over just odds and ends on the speech. He wanted to get the Harriman cable on the bombing halt conditions cleared by Henry so he could use it on the speech, and we went around about that. I told him about the cable. We went around about that some during the day but he ended up deciding not to use it after all. He wanted to be sure on the follow-up that we really worked on the news out of Vietnam on the developing public support for the speech, a heavy attack on the dove Democrats, get George Bush going. All that sort of thing. He wants to keep beating the television on Vietnam, calls following up on the commentary and all that sort of thing. He doesn't want to release an advance copy, because he wants the Congressmen to hear the speech rather than to read it. He's obviously somewhat concerned about the rhetoric he's using at the opening, and I guess more particularly at the closing. He did read that to me later on during the day. He then agreed to release the text because of the argument of the press guys that we needed it in order to get adequate coverage in the AM papers. He wants to be sure we have Bunker do press briefings in Saigon, he was very impressed with the cable Bunker had sent to Henry. It later turned out that it was from Abrams, not Bunker. Henry had misunderstood the source. Speech went very well, and our early reaction has been excellent.

We left right afterwards, for Key Biscayne. He wanted to be sure that Colson hit hard the point that the attacks by the Democrats in the Senate and the House and the Presidential candidates will jeopardize the negotiations and undercut the President, and that they, therefore, must accept the responsibility if the peace efforts fail. He wants to take them on for supporting the Communists, and really go right up to the "aid and comfort to the enemy" line. He's ordered Henry to hit Hanoi again this weekend. He told him-- Henry was on the plane, he told him-- asked him how many B-52s we had in the Vietnam area, Henry said 130, so the President wrote down on a card that he was ordering 130 B-52 raid. Henry afterwards said, "what can I do, I can't possibly send 130 up". He wants some attacks orchestrated regarding the latest Vietnam attack on I Corps, on the point that while we're going back to the conference table, the North



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Vietnamese start a new attack. When we arrived at Homestead, he found out that there are two squadrons based there that were leaving the next day for Vietnam. He thought he might go over and see them off tomorrow.

End of April 26.