



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

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Sunday, May 7th. I went on up to Camp David from Williamsburg by chopper this morning, met with the President and Henry at 4:00 over at Birch. Henry was analyzing things, says he thinks the Soviets will definitely cancel the Summit...

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 21, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 5 [AC-21(B) Sel 4]
Duration: 10 seconds

...or else take some major adverse action and such as in Cuba or the Middle East...

...and that there's no question, but that they will launch a venomous attack on Nixon on the basis that he sabotaged the last chance for peace in the world. The President agreed that this was the line they would undoubtedly take.

We had considerable discussion about follow-up and planning on the speech. The President wanted me to expend a lot of time on the use of Kissinger and his time. He feels that Henry should have a press conference on Tuesday, and then Laird should have one on Wednesday. He raised the point of the need for a better PIO in Saigon. Maybe we should make a change there, and have the Pentagon take the initiative on it.

They're calling Rogers home tonight. They want him to stay here and meet with the Foreign Relations committees, and so on. The President decided there'd be no press briefing, no advanced text on the speech, and that we should not announce it until after the NSC meeting on Monday,



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so that we could make the case that the NSC had made the decision, or at least reviewed it. Then he agreed to do the leaders, he wanted to do just the big five, went back and forth on whether to do more, in a briefing at 8:00, and then go on the air at 9:00.

The President had me over again at 6:00 to Aspen. Said he thought we ought to do a poll, and have it ready to put out so that we could show support. Discussed the NSC meeting, and questioned whether Helms would stand up. He agreed with my idea of getting Hughes back immediately to get the POW wives organized. Wants to be sure that I really discipline the bureaucracy, and take all the steps necessary to do that. Wants Alex to alert the Cabinet that there's a major decision.

In the midst of all that discussion he told me that he wanted to have Walter Annenberg donate a swimming pool to Blair House, so the President would have a place there to go swimming.

He decided to have his Scott-Mansfield China follow-up breakfast on Tuesday morning. He said that I'd have to handle Kissinger. Make him stay here, clear his calendar, and go to work. He says he'll go to Florida next weekend and that Henry's got to go with him. He wants to be sure the line is that there's no wavering, no concessions, nothing about that we might lift the blockade or anything like that.

I spent all afternoon working on the basic PR plan, the objectives and implementation, came up with pretty good rundown, which I reviewed in some detail with him, and he seemed to feel that that was pretty well set up. He emphasized that it was my responsibility to make sure that all of that follow-up and PR was carried out without fail.



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End of May 7th.