



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

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Thursday, May 25th. The President had me in at 10:30 this morning and was reviewing the thing last night. He said that he had been very tough on Vietnam and that this was the first time Kissinger had seen him operate like this. That they had some problems on SALT as well, but that most of the discussion was Vietnam. He said they had been whisked away, went out on a boat ride as soon as they got to the dacha, and then went back in and had talks, and we didn't have dinner until 11:00.

Later, Henry came in, and he told Henry to give me a report on the thing last night. Henry said the President had been very tough and had done a magnificent job, and that he was very, very cold after they blasted us on Vietnam, and he just sat there and let them run out their strength, and had done it superbly. We spent a lot of time sitting around at noon, because the meeting that was supposed to be at 11:00 kept being delayed. The President is chatting about general things...

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...said that Brezhnev is really a strong man with a lot of steel. And he's obviously very impressed by him.

Henry then came in at 12:45, after we'd been there for an hour and a half or so in the President's room, to say that the schedule's now been set for 2:00 meeting on economics, and a 5:00 signing without the President there, and that Henry has to meet at 5:15 on SALT again, they're still



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fighting that one out. Then the question is a 10:00 meeting tomorrow on the Mideast with the President and Kissinger alone and out of the Kremlin.

The President then settled down to wait for the 2:00 meeting, just killing time. It got put off to 3:00. He came back about 4:30, got into some details with me on the arrival speech. Feels, that because of the significance, it should be a Congressional report, because it requires Congressional action; and that the relations we're establishing now are not for a day or a month, but may affect the future of our nation and the other nation for many years ahead.

We went to the ballet this evening; it was a superb performance, and the President, I think, thoroughly enjoyed it. There was buffet supper between acts.

End of May 25th.