



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

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Tuesday, January 26th. State Visit day with Juan Carlos and Sophia of Spain. After the first of this week's four Congressional breakfasts. Apparently, the breakfast went very well. The President was pleased with both the format and the content of the briefings. The rest of the morning was devoted to Juan Carlos, and then there is a State Dinner with him tonight.

The President did have some open time, on and off, during the afternoon, and spent that discussing speech follow-up. He wants to be sure that we're really working on an escalating process of getting the numbers of Governors, Senators, and Congressmen, and so forth that support the President. And getting out endorsement stories constantly, to be sure we keep some momentum building. He also thinks we've got to get more people going on organizing support groups and that kind of thing, so that we're not just doing the right things, but also packaging the story.

He got into a whole round of scheduling indecisions. He came up with the idea that he probably should be doing something with the OAS Foreign Ministers and wanted to have a dinner for them or a reception or drop by one of their functions or something. And after we explored each one of these, and some other possibilities one-by-one, we finally gave up on the basis that there wasn't really anything we could do with them, so there wasn't much point in trying. Then he got into a big indecision on Florida, due to the fact that the weather's basically going to be lousy down there this weekend and we finally, after discussing a number of alternatives, ended up getting him to agree to go to Caneel Bay for the weekend and try that. It should work out very well but there are some...



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...reservations since we're going to have to kick the Japanese Consul General out of the main guest house in order to get the President in.

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The final resolution of that came about when Kissinger said he would talk to Rockefeller and get it all set up for us.

Then we got into a new plan he's got for having small dinner parties, one each week, for two Cabinet officers plus two other couples, up in the family dining room. This, I think, arose from a need to keep Mrs. Nixon occupied, rather than any great desire to have the dinners. But we had Rose in and out several times during the afternoon, trying to work out a guest list for the first one. We finally ended up with one sort of focused on Pete Peterson, including Dave Kennedy and Bill Rogers, George Shultz, and Charlie Mortimer of General Foods.

The President then had another one of those sessions with Moorer and Kissinger today, as a result of which, he wants a meeting with Laird, Rogers, and Moorer tomorrow.

Henry got me into the office just as I was going home, to go over the general plan that they're really up to. They're planning a major assault in Laos which, if successful, and Henry fully believes it will be, would in effect end the war, because it would totally demolish the enemy's capability. The problem is that it will be very major attack, with our troops massed heavily on



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the Laotian border. And the question is whether the heat generated in Congress and across the country will be worth it. Henry's point is that our action in Cambodia, etcetera, cleared things up so we've got no problem in '71, but—or in '70—but could have them in '71. No, correction, we had no problems in '71, but could have them in '72. This new action in Laos now, would set us up so that we wouldn't have to worry about problems in '72, and that, of course, is the most important. Henry does feel that there's one alternative, which is that we can, we've discovered that the enemy has our plan and is starting to mass their troops to counteract. By going ahead with our planning and letting them go ahead with their counter planning, we can draw them into a monumental trap and then move in and bomb them, maybe with the same effect as going ahead with the plan. This, of course, would be a much more salable alternative domestically. The problem with either of these plans is that all of a sudden the Russians have come around, and Henry's had a very productive meeting with Dobrynin that's resulted in their agreeing to move ahead on setting a summit for midyear, plus a basic SALT settlement and a couple of other items that we've been after them on. The massive Laotian attack would probably abort the whole Soviet effort, and the question is whether the Summit, etcetera, is worth more to us or whether winding down the war is. This is the tough question that Henry's got to face now, and he asked me to think about it tonight and talk to him about it some more tomorrow.

End of January 26th.