



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

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Thursday, May 6.

[unclear] odds and ends as he called me in and out [unintelligible] this may be one more thing like the cancer deal and all the others where we're too guarded and don't exploit what we're doing. He makes that point that being cautious gives you the worst of both worlds. You have got to step up to something in order to get any benefit and you have to be prepared to take the risk of the negative reaction. He makes the point that we don't do things just to do a good job there's no reason not also to get a little credit for it.

He had Haig in to discuss the general need for action regarding Vietnam. He told him we have to do the Thieu trip June 8, because Henry had told him last night he isn't going to be able to work out the no draftee deal by and the President feels we must have some Vietnam movement at that time, on the second anniversary of the start of the troop withdrawal. He feels that we have to move decisively and crisply for domestic reasons. He made the point that Henry has no understanding of the situation in the Senate and the House. We have to have more than just Henry's offer in Paris and then a turndown. The preliminary plans for the June 8 trip should be made, and then if there is any Paris development, we can always put it off.

We also feel that China affects this in no way. So the [unintelligible] shoot our bullets in time [unintelligible] move decisively and firmly on the Paris deal [unintelligible] go ahead and set a withdrawal date and Al feels that would be a disaster [unclear] the President's thinking at all that he is concerned about the Senate and House, and to some degree, the public reaction in this country but that he's is as hard-line as he's ever been about running out the war on the proper basis as we see it. And I'm very certain in my own mind that's the case. I don't think that there's any thought at all in the President's mind about being pushed into setting a date. Because he's still very optimistic not only about Vietnam although he doesn't think Henry is going to make any headway on an effort for negotiation, but I think he does feel the Chinese might put on some pressure, and that in any event we're in good shape and can go ahead with our withdrawal program. He's also very optimistic about the SALT possibility plus the Summit, plus the China



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breakthrough. So I don't think there's any danger of his softening at this point, at least, not until all these other things fall through.

End of May 6.

There is missing material due to errors/defects on the original media.

This segment, on May 6, contains the following subjects:

- China moves—effect on negotiations
- Paris negotiations—delays
- Meetings with President
- Sugar decisions
- POW's—Kissinger—wives, meetings
- House "End the War" resolution—opposition
- Democrats—extremists—Viet Cong flag flying
- Chief Wilson, Mayor Washington, troop leaders' meeting
- Demonstrations—danger of caution