



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

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

Monday, March 31.

The second Eisenhower funeral day. The official day of mourning. President came in about 8:45 and buzzed. I was upstairs with Ehrlichman, thinking the coast was clear, and we had no staff meeting. He had a lot of things to clear up, especially regarding domestic program and use of TV (there was a critical analysis in the news summary). So I called John down too, and we went over these for almost an hour, until time for de Gaulle.

The General arrived at ten for his appointment. Semi-formal arrival - no troops on the drive or trumpets, just a cordon at the Diplomatic Entrance. The President met the car at the driveway, they posed for pictures briefly, de Gaulle gave the signal to move, and they went in for the meeting. It lasted almost an hour - was scheduled for a half hour. Just barely got de Gaulle out the drive before Baudoin arrived.

Same arrival ceremony for the King, and in for his meeting. Both of these scheduled today because they can't stay until tomorrow.

Then meeting with Vietnam people, and on to the funeral. Picked up casket at Capitol - with full honors, drove to Cathedral - full honors, good service - back out, full honors - to Union Station, full honors - and on to train. President had no part except to move along, at the back of the motorcade. I again rode in staff car, I was right there at every step of the way.

Back to White House just in time for reception. We did a good job of organizing and it went very well. President received heads of all delegations - about an hour - then went upstairs for private meetings with key people who aren't coming in tomorrow. Mme. Ky was spectacular in purple outfit; Russian Marshall equally so in his uniform with rows and rows of ribbons. De Gaulle came, and was first through the line. He stayed until the President went upstairs, but left that instant. Stickler for the "right" thing. Battle of striped pants went on - State Department types wore theirs, President didn't.

President pretty tired, but in good mood. Taking all this in stride. Tomorrow will be tough.