



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

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Friday, September 12.

The big Vietnam meeting. The key NSC types plus Vietnam commanders and Ambassador. Top secret, to lay plan for next troop withdrawal. Also big flap over 36 hour halt of B-52 raids in South Vietnam. Meeting lasted all morning in the Cabinet Room, then President had military and Bunker over to EOB for additional session.

Then back to Oval Office for some general stuff and routine signing. Off to Camp David at 4:30, with Julie and David plus HEHK.

We had our first Camp David session tonight. It worked out only fairly well. Problem was too many phone calls - plus a great difficulty in getting to the point. A lot of meandering. Most of the pre-dinner and a good part of after was devoted to the Green Beret case. A real PR problem for the President and Administration. Army plans to go ahead with court-martial which will bring out a lot of secret activity - but worse it will give great fodder to the anti-war types, which is just what we don't need as school opens.

Tried to call Admiral McCain to get his view - and Laird found out, and called Kissinger, very upset that we hadn't gone to him instead.

General discussion about staffing and overall President scheduling but no conclusions. All decisions left to tomorrow. At least President left us alone. Kissinger didn't get dinner till late.