



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

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Thursday, May 14.

A very busy schedule before departure for Key Biscayne at 5:00. Started at 9:30 with Laird, Moorer and Kissinger, about Cambodia. Called me in about status of fight in Senate on various amendments. Wants to be absolutely sure that, however it comes out, we have established a position that it doesn't hurt Administration. Laird very confusing on his position - and this is the problem on this one. We have four approaches: State, Defense, NSC and White House, plus about six others among our people in the Senate.

Then cranked through a busy morning - signing ceremony, Romney meeting, Medals of Honor, economic group meeting.

Started the afternoon early with Rogers and Alex Johnson about the FSO's. President made hard case for need to act on this, or he would no longer be able to trust and rely on Foreign Service. They defended on grounds only a small group was involved, these mostly juniors, and they had apologized. Left it with no action, but State guys pretty concerned. Trouble is, this is one more threat with no follow-up. Sometime we're going to have to break the china.

Then met rest of the afternoon with CENTO ministers and a private meeting with British Foreign Secretary up to departure.

On plane had Kissinger up for a while, then me - mostly in review of need to get our story out - covered a lot of specific items. In pretty good spirits, but still cranking on minute details, and not at all relaxed as he usually is on way to Florida.

This whole period of two weeks of tension and crisis, preceded by two weeks of very tough decision making has taken its toll. President won't admit it, but he is really tired - and is, as some have observed, letting himself slip back to the old ways. He's driving himself way too hard on unnecessary things - and because of this is not getting enough sleep, is uptight, etc. All this OK if he can unwind this weekend, and if nothing big comes up in the interim. But could be rough if a new crisis arises, because he's not ready to handle it.



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The establishment press has really leaped on us and the domestic tension. They obviously wait for their chance, and this has proved to be a beautiful one which they are exploiting to the fullest. A clear conspiracy as speeches, articles, etc., emerge from Clark Clifford, John Gardner and all in between. Media ecstatic - all crying doom as loud as they can. Just have to ride it out and prove President is right in long haul.