



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

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Monday, September 21.

Busy day back at the White House. Lot of action last night regarding war in Jordan. Kissinger up most of night - called President at 3:00 and 5:00 - had meeting in Kissinger's office, with President until midnight. Agreed to let Israelis bomb Syrians. Later question was whether to have them also use ground troops – Rogers urged delaying decision until more information in. Had a meeting at 8:30 this morning (Kissinger wanted 7:30) of the top level – Laird, Packard, Rogers, Sisco, Kissinger, Haig with President. Decided to move with ground troops and Kissinger worked with Rabin. After meeting, Rogers went into Kissinger's office and Kissinger urged they work together in crises, not at each others' throats. Rogers had accused Kissinger in meeting of withholding some information from President, and Rogers repeated charge in Kissinger's office - all based on question of whether Israelis needed advance notice to provide time to mobilize forces. Rogers feels Kissinger trying to force President to rash decision. All this from Kissinger, who called me in to lay out the night's history for the record. Feels probably is we're now confronting the Russians – still reaping the July mistake of backing down. He's convinced Soviets now going for a slowdown. Wants me to sit in WSAG meetings as his witness - I later discussed with President and he doesn't want me to. Is willing to rely on Haig.

This whole struggle went on through the day - Kissinger and Haig dropping in to my office three or four times to report the latest. Kissinger really disturbed that Rogers will win out. I covered some of this with President in late afternoon. He had me go into Kissinger's office with him to get update, and Kissinger started in again on Sisco (he says now Joe plays President when with President, and Rogers when with Rogers). President okayed Kissinger's plans but cut him short on complaints. Then walked over to EOB with me - talked about the problem. Said he's about come to conclusion can't tolerate any longer, either Kissinger or Rogers has to go - no other solution. Problem is he gave no clue as to which. I believe letting Kissinger go would be a disaster even though he's a lot harder to deal with than Bill, and I can't imagine President letting Bill go. He knows Kissinger is right.



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He feels, though, that Kissinger does distort information to suit his purpose. Not worried about Kissinger pushing too hard because feels he's perfectly able to defer decisions until necessary and won't let Kissinger shove him. Clearly is worried about all this - had dinner at EOB, and looked like he planned to work into the night.

Kissinger feels we'll have to cancel the trip - thinks I'm trying to keep it on.