



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

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Thursday, February 27.

Berlin

An unforgettable day! Arrived on time at Tempelhof - first landing there of a 707. U.S. military honors. President addressed troops - longer review than usual and then also reviewed tanks, etc., from car. As we got into town, people were lined solidly along the sidewalks - freezing cold, drizzling half rain, half snow. Stopped briefly at the Airlift Memorial to lay a wreath.

We rode in a wonderful seventeen passenger VIP bus, one seat on each side that swiveled like a club car. Had a television set in the front, and the whole day was carried live, so we could watch the actual and the picture.

Went to the Wall - hard to see much. East Germans in tower peering at us and taking pictures. President went up on platform and looked over. Symbolic, but that's about all. Strange to drive along the Wall. Saw Checkpoint Charlie, lots of big new buildings. Still a lot of bomb damage, especially on Russian side.

Motorcade was almost unbelievable. Miles and miles of people massed on the streets. Very friendly and very enthusiastic. All ages. Lots of workers and they too were very friendly - openly so. Many waved white handkerchiefs, many had American flags, some homemade. Some signs, almost all friendly.

The anti demonstrations never materialized. Perhaps because of the huge numbers of police. There was one group of Maoists (we were told) with anti-war signs, and somewhere someone threw a brick that hit Dan Rather. But this was really insignificant against the overall day.

Stopped at Charlottenberg Palace to sign the book, etc. Routine formalities. Then on to Siemens factory where six thousand workers in huge packing shed gave President a tremendous reception. They were really fired up, as were the crowds along the way. Took lots of movies of crowd's faces, hope they come out. President gave good speech at the factory and scored again.



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Departure from the French base - Teigel. They actually were flying American flags. Reviewed the multinational troops, and we were off for Rome.