



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

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

Saturday, July 26.

Guam to Manila. Started the day in Guam by taking notes over the phone of Ted Kennedy's TV speech, while Cole held his phone to the radio in DC. Then got a report and evaluation from Ehrlichman in New York. President still very interested. Discussed it with him on the plane, and he still has a lot of theories. Also long talk about White House staff, the need to shake things up and really get people down to work. Also need to get rid of some that don't carry their load. His mind very much on these things instead of the trip.

Also concerned about report that I was calling reporters regarding the Kennedy case. Feels White House board may be tapped, or operators listen in.

Standard arrival at Manila. Good airport crowd, and impressive decorations, etc. Motorcade was great - long run with solid lines of people all the way. Millions of kids, and solid single ranks of ROTC boys on both sides of street virtually entire route. Very friendly and enthusiastic crowds, all ages. Would respond instantly to a wave from our car with great cheers and smiles. Brief palace arrival - then Presidents had their talks. I was at guest house across the river - lovely place and fantastic service. A waiter there with a beer the instant you sat down. Whipped up hamburgers and cheese sandwiches, etc. Took the boat to palace for the State Dinner. About five hundred. Kind of a mess as they let photographers and reels all in to cover. Long toasts, I guess the Asian custom, each followed by the national anthem. Medals at each place.

Then to the entertainment. Walked through the garden where they had all kinds of native exhibits - crafts, foods, sports, etc. Show was good I guess, but about half the guests stood around talking, so it was hard to see or hear.

In late afternoon we, with President, took helicopter from palace to hotel to meet opposition candidate Osmena. President had me in after to get latest on Kennedy, but there wasn't anything because of time differential. Still thinking about it.



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Dinner was not very good. Main course was pigeon - which most of us didn't eat. Good mango ice cream for dessert, served in hollowed out mangoes.