



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

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Monday, July 28.

Djakarta to Bangkok. Presidents had talks in the morning. President called me in first (I was just starting to shave) to get briefing on things at home. Had a long report from Bryce on ABM and surtax. They want President to hit surtax in his speech on return. He says absolutely no, will issue a statement earlier in the week. Then the motorcade back to the airport - raining, so departure ceremonies were in the building.

President had me up during flight, mainly to discuss speech material. Feels we are not doing a good enough job, especially in good local material. Also still concerned about gifts. Feels they are really not adequate - especially in quantity. Problem is the Asians are committed to a one-upmanship policy - and always give you more than you give them.

Arrived in Bangkok and rain started as plane door opened. Really poured and we all were soaked to the skin as we stood in it for the arrival ceremony - including the King and the President. Rain stopped just as ceremony ended and we went into building. King and President received diplomatic corps and privy council, etc. All ladies deep curtsy, men deep bow, to King. He doesn't acknowledge in any way, looks over their heads. Queen very gracious, smiles and nods at each one.

Motorcade into town, lots of troops spaced along whole route. Enormous turn-out of school kids - all in uniforms - and a fair amount of people. Stopped at Pan Fah bridge for key to city ceremonies. Crowds kept way back out of square. Too bad. Two planned stops on motorcade route. King would allow no others.

Palace, where we are staying, is unbelievable! It's just what you'd imagine and then more so. Beautiful rooms, fantastic grounds and other buildings.

Dinner of King's was superb. Beautiful hall, the throne room, for head table of sixty. Rest of guests, about one hundred and fifty, in next room. Delicious dinner, soup served in hollowed out coconuts, crab in crab shells, duck and delicious ice cream dessert with great sweets. Four wines,



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first time, including a sherry at first. Thai Army band played during dinner. Lady singer entertained after with songs composed by King. Fabulous evening in marvelous setting. Unforgettable. Troops out in front and band to play national anthems on arrival and departure. Trees all lighted along route. President went for short drive on way back to his quarters. Very impressive.