



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

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Saturday, August 2.

Lahore to Bucharest and a real day to remember! Left Lahore first thing - long flight. President really on edge, anticipating Romanian reception. Had me up several times, including one long talk with Kissinger about Yahya, who made a strong impression as a real leader - very intelligent, and with great insight into Russia-China relations. He explained that the reason Russia's real fear is China is because much of USSR population is Asian and would prefer to ally with China if given a chance. President feels Yahya can be valuable channel to China especially but also USSR.

Bucharest welcome exceeded all expectations. Was really unbelievable. People massed along entire route except where prohibited. Very enthusiastic, clapped as whole motorcade went by, threw flowers into President's car, shouted "Hurrah" and "Nixon" - really spectacular. President elated and really cranked up. Stood up in car with President Ceausescu almost all the way. Stopped and got out several times - drove the Romanian security man up the wall.

Guest house is beautiful modern building with all kinds of facilities - pool, theater, staff dining room, banquet room, etc. President went by car to State Building for talks, and returned in driving rain. Huge crowds along the streets both ways still clapping and cheering. Then out for the dinner, same thing, and then to reception at 10:30, still crowds. Really great.

On return home at 11:30, President called me down, then Kissinger, had on pajamas, went out in his huge garden and walked and talked and smoked a cigar for over an hour. Reviewing the day and its significance. Feels history was made, the turnout and emotional reaction were enormous and showed the real feeling of the people under Communist rule. Said the dinner group was reserved, etc., because they are the officials and they are scared, sitting on a tinder box. Don't have the guts of their President. President feels Ceausescu is extremely shrewd and bright - and was very much impressed by him. The talks were apparently most useful. President still concerned about our PR weakness and afraid we're not adequately getting the story out. Especially concerned that the significance of story is fully understood and reported.



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He sat on a concrete bench by the lakeside in his garden and expounded on all this - and it was quite a session. He sees the great historical first of United States President here, topped by the fantastic reception of the people, as highly significant.

Great music at dinner. Three folk bands, singers, mostly Romanian music.