



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

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Wednesday, September 30.

NATO and Belgrade. President holed up all morning at AFSOUTH with first NATO military commanders, then United States Ambassadors to Mediterranean nations. More form than substance.

Then to Yugoslavia. The airport arrival was 100 percent correct and protocol - no crowd, no cheering, etc. Motorcade was pretty much the same. Large crowds on streets, but cars never slowed down or stopped, people were kept way back at curbs. They did wave American and Yugoslavian flags, but that kept them from clapping and they didn't cheer much. Some tried to throw flowers but police stopped them. All in all it was not what we'd hoped for. After usual courtesies at the Palace, President left by his own motorcade to Tomb of Unknown Soldier - which turned out to be a half an hour out into the country, again few people, just fields. But those we did see were much more enthusiastic.

President had me ride with him, kept top open, jumped up whenever we hit a crowd. Decided to try a detour into the city on the way back. I had Chapin start setting it up. Told Hughes (all by radio in car) to cut wreath ceremony as short as possible - it was scheduled for 25 minutes, we did it in 10. Then went back into city to shopping district - hit it about 6:00 and it worked perfectly. President stopped the car a couple of times - was completely engulfed by crowd, got up on hood, held a baby. As we moved slowly, crowd was very enthusiastic. Cheering and clapping, etc. - came out to car. President rode standing up. Shook hands with policemen on corner, etc. Very good and he was really pleased. Especially since press hadn't yet had a chance to file - so this overrode the arrival motorcade story. Once again he was right - Ziegler had argued against doing it, as did Kissinger. Kissinger felt it was bad regarding relations with Tito.

Tito's dinner started a half hour late - then they were even later arriving at reception, and it ran overtime so President was over an hour late returning to Palace - after midnight. And tomorrow is a really loaded day. Tito now going with us to Zagreb - which throws all plans awry. But Yugoslavs never follow the plans anyway. Motorcade from dinner to reception was unbelievable



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mess - cars aimed every direction, total chaos, but everyone finally got there anyway. Our car roared down the cleared streets, passing most of the other cars and the police escorts, to get into what he considered to be our right position.