



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

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Thursday, October 1.

Yugoslavia. President off this morning for his meetings with Tito. We worked at the Palace. Then at noon off by plane to Zagreb - Tito's birthplace. Unfortunately, terrible weather with light to heavy rain. Screwed up somewhat a truly sensational arrival. Would have been comparable to Bucharest. Since Tito added himself at the last minute, we had no control over the motorcade so couldn't slow down or stop.

Was really a shame because streets were jammed and people very enthusiastic - even in pouring rain. Quite a sight, especially in St. Thomas square - cleared in the center but packed on all four sides. Would have been a great scene if he had stopped in the middle and they'd let the people come in. President was really disappointed when they didn't. Came back to staff section in plane on way back and talked about it (was trying to escape Tito for a few minutes, had been with him all day).

Then after strange little reception in Zagreb, had to drive to Tito's birthplace because weather too bad for choppers. A one hour drive each way. Tito rode with President, which wasn't so bad, but two Croat leaders hopped in too, and no interpreter. Must have been a total disaster, although he didn't seem to mind. Spent quite a while in the birthplace - still pouring rain on all of us outside. Then back to Belgrade for our State Dinner.

President asked me to have it speeded up, and so I stayed in kitchen and supervised the whole deal, and we served a four course dinner in exactly one hour. Not bad! Haven't talked to President but he should be pleased. Problem is, he apparently has to have talks with Tito again tonight. Never quits!