



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

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Friday, October 2.

Madrid. A sensational day! The motorcade in exceeded all expectations - with crowd estimates of over one million, miles and miles of people packed solid; band music over speakers the entire route - flags and banners over the street and on all the poles and buildings - crowds cheering, clapping, waving. None came into streets and motorcade never stopped, per Franco's orders, but they were sure out en masse and excited. The horse guards were great - but did block the view of the crowd. TV reports from United States are excellent, so guess it worked out OK.

The Moncloa Palace is a truly beautiful residence and gardens. President rattled through an afternoon schedule - then to 9:30 white tie dinner at Royal Palace. Absolutely amazing crowds on the street waiting to see us drive to the Palace - again cheering, clapping, etc. - and huge crowd in front of Palace entrance. They were still there when we came out at 12:15 - and President went over and shook hands while they mobbed him.

Dinner was magnificent - as is the Palace. Room after room with unbelievable ceilings and furnishings - table for about 140, in hall with 15 huge crystal chandeliers. Really something. Entertainment after on four Stradivarius'.

When we returned to Moncloa - President had Kissinger, Walters and me sit down in parlor for a long chat - mainly regarding Franco and Tito, Eisenhower's visit here (our crowd topped his), the ignoring of Spain by JFK and LBJ, and by State. The view that Franco has declined badly in old age, as has Pope. President comments about Communist interpreters - saying the really tough, cold, hard ones are the women. That led to Alger Hiss and statement that his wife Priscilla was the really hard-line Communist in spite of her Quaker pretensions.

President genuinely pleased with the day. The biggest crowd he's had - and topped by a superbly done evening. Another one to remember.