



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

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Monday, October 11.

President spent the day at the EOB getting ready for the press conference tomorrow. He did come over for a couple of hours at midday to meet with the Italian Foreign Minister and to receive a reward-- an award from the Sons of Italy. He had me in, and we spent quite a little time on an overall schedule review and also got into the China question in preparation for the staff meeting we were having this afternoon on the subject. He is very strongly in favor of the ground station and having maximum television coverage available, in spite of Kenry's-- Henry's objections to all of that. President did hold very firm on minimum security, no Presidential cars taken in, etcetera. He raised the question of Mrs. Nixon going, thinking it might be a good idea because of the television coverage she'd get; but if she does, it would have to be understood that she would be the only woman going, not Mrs. Rogers or any other wives.

We then had our staff meeting this afternoon. Henry was furious because I had included Scali in the meeting; and so he at first didn't come and then did come and sat and sulked, objected to our discussion of the ground station ad nauseam and left. So I finished up the meeting with Scali, Ziegler, Chapin, and Hughes, then had Henry and Al Haig come back in, and we went over the whole thing, worked it out quite satisfactorily. He's agreed on a press corps of 150, including the ground station personnel, and basically bought our minimum level overall approach, which I think will work out pretty well if we can get it from the Chinese. Henry's concern on all this is that we not make a circus out of it and that we not appear to be staging the whole thing for the benefit of domestic television, which would react adversely, not only in China, but in the rest of the world. He's obviously got some merit to his point, and it's pretty hard to argue it, except that, from our viewpoint—and the President concurs in this—we need maximum coverage in order to get the benefit from it, especially in the short term. Henry is very much of the view that we should only be concerned with the long term, which of course, is not realistic.

We had our Monday night staff dinner. Ehrlichman and Shultz got into some concerns on the Defense budget with Henry. Then Henry left, and we got into quite a discussion of the use of the



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President's time and the need for him to do more people-type activities and from their viewpoint, most importantly, the need for him to spend some time with Ehrlichman and Shultz, which I guess I'm going to have to work out.

End of October 11.