



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

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Tuesday, February 15th. The main discussion today was some review of trip plans. The President particularly getting into the question of arrival home after China, being that he definitely does not want to arrive in Washington at noon, but rather at 9:00 at night to make prime time television. So we had some discussion of how to accomplish that, either by staying an extra nine hours in Shanghai, or by stopping in Anchorage and going to bed for nine hours, so as to delay the arrival. We finally decided on the latter, after going back and forth in discussion with Ziegler, Chapin, and then, finally Kissinger, who said we just couldn't change the, the schedule in Shanghai. We also got into plans for the Soviet trip, and...

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Audio Cassette 19, Side A, Withdrawn Item Number 15 [AC-19(A) Sel 12]  
Duration: 12 seconds

...are definitely now going to stop in Iran on the way back and use that as the excuse for not going to NATO.

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The President went on up to Camp David this afternoon and will spend the night there and do some work up there tomorrow. He called me from there this after--, late this afternoon, concerned with some flap Kissinger raised with him about a letter to a Jewish group signed by the President about our attitude toward Soviet Jewry.

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That created quite a stir with the Russians apparently, because it's contrary to our basic foreign policy.

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It turns out after an investigation, however, that the letter was approved by Sonnenfeld in Kissinger's shop and sent out by our campaign people after that approval, so it's a little hard to hang it on anybody.

The President seems to be gradually moving into getting some grasp on the China trip details and planning, but still not very much, and this has got Henry somewhat concerned because he feels that he's really going to need to focus on it. I pointed out to him that he's got six solid days to work on it, and that he needn't be too concerned that the President's got to take some time on these things to get into gear, but once he does, he'll really plow into it.

In the meantime, he's trying to get his sleep caught up and get himself in a good physical condition for the whole trip, which is a darn good thing for him to do.

End of February 15th.