



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

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Monday, May 4.

And the repercussions roll on. Discussed with President the plans for the week. He says he's ready to move to domestic matters - but then keeps coming back to things related to The Decision. Decided to go ahead with trip but made some changes in the general plan - came up with good Thursday, Friday, Saturday swing. Later this got shifted both up and down - but all is in abeyance pending general outlook tomorrow. Also has basically agreed to press conference this week - probably not live TV. Moved NSC to next week. Wants plenty of free time.

Kissinger in for review of situation, especially report on the strikes against North Vietnam. Going well. Then added Ziegler for review of line for the day. Then some quizzing regarding follow-up activity, basically very calm and undemanding.

Then he went over to EOB for rest of the day. A long session with Ehrlichman to get caught up on domestic. A nap. Then had me over, reviewed trip plan. Then I told him of four students killed at Kent State. He's very disturbed. Afraid his decision set it off - and that is the ostensible cause of the demonstrations there. Issued condolence statement, then kept after me all the rest of the day for more facts. Hoping rioters had provoked the shooting - but no real evidence they did, except throwing rocks at National Guard.

Talked a lot about how we can get through to the students - turn this stuff off. Really sad to see this added to all his worries regarding the war. He's out on a tough limb, and knows it. This makes it a lot worse - as he has to take the heat for having caused it. There's an opportunity in this crisis as all others, but it's very hard to identify and know how to handle it. Main need right now is maintain calm, and hope this serves to dampen other demonstrations rather than firing them up. Hard to tell yet which will result. I moved to try to cover all our people, and congressmen and Cabinet officers to keep a firm position, but not inflammatory. Lots of rumors and strong probability of major march on DC on Saturday. Also student strike starting tomorrow.

President is troubled by all this - although it was predicted as a result of the Cambodian move.