



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

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Monday, August 17.

President had his secret meeting with Rabin – mainly pro forma to listen to Israel's statement of problems. Then a really loaded schedule, trying to get everything cleared up before we leave Thursday.

Asked me about Kissinger's reaction to weekend, and I told him about the flap, which Kissinger had continued today. Still convinced we were playing games with him. He's really very bitter and uptight - and when I totally refuted his claim, he backed off and said, well anyway it should make you realize how paranoid we have become because of the State Department's maneuvering. He claims Haig agrees with him.

All this really worries President because it creates doubts about Kissinger's reliability on other recommendations, and gets in the way of his doing his work. President realizes Kissinger basically jealous of any idea not his own - and he just can't swallow the apparent early success of the Middle East plan because it is Rogers'. In fact, he's probably actually trying to make it fail for just this reason. Of all people, he has to keep his mind clean and clear - and instead he's obsessed with these weird persecution delusions.

I'll have to talk to Kissinger some more - because this will prey on President's mind until something settled - but I don't think it's curable. President said several times that Kissinger may have reached the end of his usefulness. I disagree, and think instead that we have to recognize this weakness as the price we pay for his enormous assets - and it's well worth it. Probably can convince President to let me take heat on this and try to keep Kissinger from hitting him with it, which is his greatest concern - other than the impairment of Kissinger's work.

President had two hour session with Morton, Tower, Wilson, Finch, Rumsfeld, plus Volpe, Romney and Richardson regarding politics, as preliminary to Cabinet meeting Wednesday. Went through all the basics about Cabinet campaigning. Rog Morton got into review of races, same old stuff, very bad. Bob Wilson even worse. Shakes your faith in the system.



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Top staff had a session with Steve Hess regarding the White House Youth Conference - really put it to him to shape it up - Ehrlichman especially tough about people he's selected.