



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Saturday, March 1.

Paris

Saturday - we left the Quai by motorcade (after breakfast in state dining room) for Versailles. All the roads en route completely closed off in both directions, and uniformed guards at attention every fifty yards, the entire way. Also many plainclothes men along the route and scattered back through the woods, especially in Bois du Bologne.

Arrived at Le Grand Trianon, met at steps by de Gaulle. He and President went right in to start their talks. Ehrlichman and I then went to Versailles Palace and had a special tour arranged by M. Vander Kamp, the curator. Had our guide, and an interpreter. Covered all of the public tour, and went into many back rooms and private chambers not shown to the public. Would like to go back in spring when the gardens are in bloom. At two, we went back to Trianon to get pictures of President and de Gaulle. Then lunch at the Trianon hotel and back to Paris for John to find maps on the Rive Gauche.

President didn't get back to the Quai until after 6:00 - so put in a nine hour working day, before the U.S. State Dinner at the Residence. Then left at 7:45 for the dinner. Kissinger says that talks went extremely well and that our mission is accomplished.

The big issue now is the Berlin blockade. They lowered the gate, and so we are now sending extra convoys down the autobahn at an increasing rate to call their bluff. We are prepared to fight our way through if necessary. Four convoys got through today and we're sending eight tomorrow, and then a hundred plus vehicles on Monday. The point is to build up our average daily volume, so if there is a civilian blockade, we'll have a higher level of allowable military traffic which we feel they will not try to cut off.



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

As for the future possibility, ref. p. 9, it has had to be called off because State will not accept responsibility, and risk otherwise is too great. Kissinger very disappointed.

Dinner at the Residence worked out pretty well, but there were too many people (about eighty) for the House to handle comfortably. Toasts were again very warm and considered very significant. De Gaulle said this visit had increased his admiration of President, if that were possible. Yehudi Menuhin played. Very good. Interesting to watch Eunice Shriver last night and tonight - she obviously hates seeing Nixon as President, and is astonishingly old and worn-looking. She talked to herself and winced all through the toasts, both nights, and must have been thinking back to JFK. His visit here was all ceremony and no substance. But it was a great show and made an indelible impression.

Tomorrow we leave for Rome then home.

Sunday morning President met with Vietnam group about Paris Peace Talks. We slept in, had leisurely breakfast, packed, and did a little sightseeing. Ehrlichman and I went to the bird market, Montmartre, and the Louvre. Then out to the airport, where de Gaulle again went all out in his farewell speech. President announced de Gaulle would visit United States in January or February. This was the big news. More ceremonies and we're off.