



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

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Thursday, July 31.

Bangkok to New Delhi. No activity in the morning. President went for short walk in Palace grounds and visited the Emerald Buddha. Then out to airport after brief call on King at his palace - several of us also presented to say good-bye. Departure ceremonies and horrible pattern of loading tons of Bangkok purchases onto the plane. And off to India.

Some more discussion on plans, i.e., domestic plans. Still back and forth as Congress waffles.

Arrived at New Delhi in unbelievable heat. Hard to imagine. Only 99 degrees but felt at least 20 degrees hotter. Motorcade not up to expectations in numbers, but more enthusiastic than expected. Change from Thais and Indonesians, who just smile and wave but make no noise. Here they cheered and clapped. Even surprised President. Came in just after noon and it was amazing anyone was out because of the heat. Arrived at Rashtrapati Bhavan - the Palace - and our quarters. Had to share a room with Hughes, and it was right next to President - and had a constant flow of Indian protocol and military aides, etc. President had talk with Mrs. Ghandi, then we went to Ghandi's memorial for wreath laying and tree planting. Pretty good crowds along the way, and this time we had control of the photo trucks. On the way in, some Indian kept them so far ahead of President they could get no pictures.

Dinner by Acting President was very impressive - starting with great ceremonial entrance down the hall with the trumpets playing and the lancer escort. Over a hundred in beautiful paneled room, at one long table. Two separate menus - for vegetarians and non-vegetarians. Basically an Indian dinner but not too extreme. Really very good.

Indian dancers after dinner in reception hall - which is not air conditioned. Pretty hot, darn good dances. More expressive and more rhythm than Thais or Indonesians.

President called me in, just to chat awhile, after the dinner and show, about midnight. Still pleased regarding Vietnam, a little disappointed in India, felt we should have arrived later in day. Right!



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Confused report from Ehrlichman on Senate action on surtax. Appears we've more or less won, but not clear.

President had me in cabin during flight while he had long talk with Kissinger regarding Laos and Thailand. Thais want to attack if we'll support them by okaying B-52 raids – they'll run them – and beef up two battalions. President wants to go ahead – and told Kissinger to get it underway. Feels we need to work closely with the Thais is keeping this harassment on North Vietnam – and feels will have an important effect.