

bad interpretation in the world if any such thing at that time had taken place.

The only follow up that I know of was, somebody asked the State Department -- it may have been an Ambassador, I don't know -- somebody asked the State Department -- well, was this a serious thing? Was this an invitation? And he said exactly what I have just told you, it was merely a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question. So far as I know, there has never been any additional activity in connection with it.

Q. Lewis, New York Times. Sir, a question on Little Rock. Do you share Representative Hays' view that the situation there may be stabilizing sufficiently so that law enforcement could soon be left to local authorities?

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly I am very hopeful. I didn't know he had expressed that as an opinion or conviction. I thought he said that it looked like this could happen, and as quickly as the local people, as I told you last week, say that they have got the thing right in their hands, why we are no longer -- we no longer have a function there.

Q. MacLeish, Westinghouse Broadcasting Company. Sir, getting back to the missile and satellite question, in answer to Mr. Smith's question, you were commenting on the Russian claims of developing an ICBM, and you said if done this is a great achievement. Is there doubt in your mind, sir, or in the minds --

THE PRESIDENT: I said -- now, wait a minute -- I said "if done," when I said if it's shot accurately to deliver its load at a predetermined spot, that was a very great achievement.

Q. (MacLeish) My question would be, sir, what is our estimation of the Russian claim judged by your "if done" additionally?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going to give you an estimate of the Russian claim. I will just say this: We weren't invited to witness it, and I think that they have fired objects a very considerable distance, but I don't know anything about their accuracy, and until you know something about their accuracy, you know nothing at all about their usefulness in warfare.

Q. (MacLeish) Mr. Wilson said yesterday he doubted they had an ICBM. Is that your view?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he was probably talking in these terms, and I did not see his statement so I am not commenting on his statement, I am just saying this: He may have been

