

thrust in their rocketry, and that is important, and I can only say that I have had every group that I know anything about, to ask them, is there anything more we can do in the development of our rocket program any better than is being done? And, except for certain minor items or, you might say, almost involving Administration, there has been little said.

Q. Tom Kelly, Washington Daily News. Mr. President, could you tell me what is our best knowledge of the weight of the Russian satellite, and if it does weigh anything close to 180 pounds, is this an indication that it is scientifically more valuable than ours will be when we get it up?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, certainly again I am quoting the scientists, there is no indication that this will be scientifically more valuable. If it is 180 pounds, I think it would astonish or if it is that, it has astonished our scientists; I would say that.

Q. Clark, I.N.S. Can you tell us more about the satellite you say we plan to launch in December? Will this be the initial sphere that would weigh only a few pounds, and would not contain any recording instruments?

THE PRESIDENT: That was the plan. The plan is, the first one that goes up is just merely to let it orbit, checking your speeds, your directions, your equipment and everything else, and the next one -- you see, the equipment that goes into these things is a very expensive -- it is very -- it is the most delicate machinery, and in that equipment itself is involved some of the latest scientific discoveries that we have.

Now, the satellite -- the mere fact that this thing orbits involves no new discovery to science. They knew it could be done; at least they say so, and they have for a long time, so that is no new discovery, so in itself it imposes no additional threat to the United States. (conferring with Mr. Hagerty) Mr. Hagerty reminds me there may be several of these test vehicles put out before the instrumentation itself goes up.

Q. Gonzales, United Press. Sir, do you believe that the United States should now attempt to negotiate an earth satellite agreement outside of the over-all first step program which has been previously proposed?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Dulles issued a statement on that last evening which seems to have been misinterpreted. Have you --- (Mr. Hagerty hands the President a statement) --- he said that, with reference to this reported suggestion by Mr. Khrushchev, that there should be a U. S. -- Soviet study of the control of objects entering outer space.

