

The CHAIRMAN. The statement you just made brings forth this question:

You say many of these developments have both peaceful and military uses or significance. That is the reason why we have this liaison group between the military and the NASA, is that right?

General LEMNITZER. That is correct. I regard it highly important that the closest possible liaison be maintained between the Department of Defense and NASA.

The CHAIRMAN. I do, too. I am happy that is developing.

Do you have any critical statements to make in reference to the manner in which that is working?

General LEMNITZER. No, I do not. So far as I am able to determine, it is working well.

The CHAIRMAN. In the setup that we have developed now, do you feel we are moving in to overtake Russia here in its development of the large booster?

General LEMNITZER. I am not familiar with all the projects that NASA has underway, Mr. Chairman. I do happen to know of the Saturn project. I think that when that is developed and becomes operational, we will have moved a long way in that direction.

The CHAIRMAN. I will ask you in more general terms, because, after all, you are in the top level:

Do you feel that we are developing space activities in a military way so as to stay ahead of the Russians?

General LEMNITZER. I think our programs are good and we are pressing them as hard as we possibly can. So far as I know, we are doing everything possible to push the military projects relating to space.

The CHAIRMAN. I want you to feel toward this committee that if at any time you have any suggestions that will help in the efficiency of the space program or in the speeding up of the program even more than it is at this time, that you won't have any hesitancy to let our committee know. We are vitally interested.

General LEMNITZER. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ANFUSO. General, are you familiar with solid propellants as distinguished from liquid propellants?

General LEMNITZER. Yes, I am.

Mr. ANFUSO. Do you regard solid propellants as having a future in this defense project?

General LEMNITZER. Yes, I regard solid propellants as a great forward step in the development of our military missiles. In the first place, they are much more easily handled in the field. They are much more responsive. They are much more stable. For these reasons I think they add greatly to the military capabilities of our missiles.

Mr. ANFUSO. If we are convinced that within a period of only a few years, say by 1964, that we can get a 3 million-pound thrust out of a solid propellant, you would be in favor of that, wouldn't you?

General LEMNITZER. I certainly would be in favor of it. I don't know whether it is feasible or not. It is out of my field.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Fulton has a question.

Mr. FULTON. You have covered it.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ryan.

Mr. RYAN. Do you believe the Air Force has designs upon NASA?