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Nixon Comment on Missiles In Times Interview Clarified

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 11—
The White House said today that President Nixon referred to "megatonnage" when he told an interviewer this week that the Soviet Union was far superior to the United States in missile strength.

In an unofficial transcript, printed Wednesday in The New York Times, Mr. Nixon was quoted as having told C. L. Sulzberger, the foreign-affairs columnist of The Times, that "the Soviets now have three times the missile strength (ICBM) of ourselves."

The parenthetical reference to intercontinental ballistic missiles was mistakenly added by Mr. Sulzberger in editing the transcript from his notes. Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon was actually referring both to intercontinental and to submarine-based missiles and to "megatonnage, not numbers, of missiles."