



Source 4

A British telegram on attitudes in the southern United States, 26 September 1957
(Catalogue ref: FO 371/126719)

Questions

1. According to this telegram, how was Eisenhower's response to events in Little Rock viewed outside the South?
2. How was Eisenhower's response to events in Little Rock viewed in the South?
3. What does this source tell us about the attitudes of people in the South towards desegregation?
4. This source comes from the British Embassy in Washington. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using it as evidence about events at Little Rock?



Source 4

RACIAL TROUBLES AT LITTLE ROCK.

The country has been shocked by the Little Rock crisis. Outside the South it is generally accepted that the President had no choice but to use troops; however, many feel that the need to do so would have been avoided if he had spoken out more firmly at an earlier stage. In the Deep South a few moderates have called for obedience to Court orders, however personally distasteful they may be. But their voices have scarcely been heard over a wave of protest at the President's action. Most white Southerners claim to see in his use of troops a return to the Reconstruction era.

2. The troops may perhaps bring about desegregation in Little Rock. But their intervention will leave in the South a bitterness which can only make more difficult the further progress of desegregation. Each September, the beginning of a new school year will bring fresh steps towards desegregation throughout the South and will be fraught with the danger of further disturbances. Since desegregation has been almost entirely confined to "border" States difficulties are likely to increase as the problem is posed in the Deep South.