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'Disinformation' link draws ire of Pentagon space defense officer

By Walter Andrews
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A key Pentagon official yesterday said he was "appalled" that remarks he made in a speech this week were linked to a magazine report that the Pentagon is conducting a disinformation program on the Space Defense Initiative and other military programs.

The magazine article referred to appeared in *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. It said the Pentagon, in conjunction with the CIA, is putting out false information on a number of weapons programs to confuse the Soviets.

Four U.S. senators, all Democrats, asked the Senate Intelligence Committee Wednesday to look into charges that the SDI office may have given the Soviets a secret classified briefing last June and also may have used Congress and the media in a

disinformation campaign to give the Soviets false or misleading information.

"Trying to link an attempt by us [the SDI office] to explain what we do with the Soviets — and why certain information is not readily available — to some deliberate disinformation campaign is appalling," said Lt. Col. Simon Worden, a special assistant and SDI representative at the Geneva arms talks.

In a telephone interview, the colonel said his position was "misrepresented" by the linkage implied in the senators' request and in a press report yesterday.

Lt. Col. Worden said that the reporter who wrote the story did not contact him. The reporter, of *The Washington Post*, quoted from a transcript of the colonel's Monday to a convention of the American Jewish Congress and obtained comments

from an SDI spokesman. "The way it was juxtaposed, it implies that I somehow said the [June] briefing was classified," Col. Worden said.

The briefing referred to was one given to the Soviets by SDI program director Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson last June during arms control negotiations.

The four Democratic senators asking the Intelligence Committee for an investigation of the colonel's remarks and this week's magazine article are William Proxmire of Wisconsin, J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, Dale Bumpers of Arkansas and Lawton Chiles of Florida.

The colonel said his Monday remarks may have caused possible confusion because he also had said there were some circumstances in which the Soviets would be given valid classified information kept from the American people.