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# Star Wars cut brings uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the end of World War II, a team of American military officers traveled to Europe to study Germany's use of ballistic missiles against the Allies. Its recommendation: develop U.S. defenses against these new weapons.

Nearly half a century later, after tens of billions of dollars spent on research, the United States has no national anti-missile defense. And while the spending goes on, the question remains whether such a defense ever will be built.

By declaring "the end of the Star Wars era" Thursday, Defense Secretary Les Aspin made official what many had already surmised: if an anti-missile system is built, it will not be the space-based shield that Ronald Reagan envisioned when he started the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, in 1983.

Aspin asserted that the Clinton administration will press ahead with a less exotic version of missile defense. It would use radars, sensors and ground-based interceptor rockets to protect U.S. territory against missile attacks.

"These changes represent a shift away from a crash program for deployment of space-based weapons designed to meet a threat that has receded to the vanishing point — the all-out surprise attack from the former Soviet Union," Aspin said. But even as he lauded the virtues of this approach,

Aspin made no firm commitment to building national defenses. And some believers in the need for such defenses say Aspin in reality is pushing it even further into the future.

"In some sense, this is a charade," said Henry Cooper, one of only three men who directed the SDI organization during its 10-year life.

Cooper, who resigned shortly before President Bill Clinton took office, said Friday he was not bothered by Aspin's decision to declare an end to SDI and to rename the Pentagon office that ran it.

"This is a bunch of baloney, coming in and suggesting they're making big changes now," Cooper said, noting that the shift away from space-based defenses had begun while he was SDI chief during the Bush administration.

The troubling aspect of the Clinton administration's approach, in Cooper's view, is that it provides no push for development of a ground-based defense. He noted that the administration is asking Congress for \$1.2 billion for this project for 1994 — about \$480 million less than is being spent this year and about 60 percent less than recommended last year.

"They are basically cutting the programs very severely that they claim to be supporting," Cooper said.

# President says friends key to life

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton told new college graduates Sunday to "assume more personal responsibility" in the nation's future without losing sight of their personal priorities. "Always save time for your friends," he advised.

Speaking by telephone to a commencement audience at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., Clinton accepted an honorary doctorate. His goddaughter, Sarah Staley of Little Rock, Ark., was among the graduates.

"I want to urge all who are here listening to me today to look out at the great adventures of your life and to seize them, but also to always save time for your friends," he said.

Clinton said one of the first things he did as president-elect

**'Amid life's challenges and disappointments, your friends are an anchor in a storm, and I urge you to keep them.'**

— President Clinton

was visit the home of Sarah's mother, Carolyn Staley. The mother, one of Clinton's oldest friends, played host to a gathering of his pals.

"Amid life's challenges and disappointments, your friends are an anchor in a storm, and I

urge you to keep them," the president said in the brief remarks.

Noting that President Harry Truman was from nearby Independence, Mo., Clinton said, "Like President Truman, I try never to forget that my job is to provide for your future, to build an economy that can compete and win in the post-Cold War era, to provide educational opportunities equal to the challenges of the 21st century."

Clinton said he wanted to "challenge each of you who are graduating today to assume more personal responsibility in your own lives and for the future of our country."

"It is only by working with each other and helping each other that we can meet the problems and seize the opportunity of this time," he said.

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