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Bridges Asks New Concept Of Defense From Soviet Bomb

Senator Styles Bridges (R-NH) yesterday called for adoption of a revised concept of American military security, based primarily on Russia's claimed possession of the hydrogen bomb.

Bridges, who heads the Senate Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Armed Services Committee, said that present military policies should be reexamined thoroughly to determine if they are outmoded by developments.

"The most ominous threat to this country's security now is a possible atomic attack on some of our principal cities," the New Hampshire Senator said. "In the light of Russia's possession of the hydrogen bomb and the strides the Soviets are making with atomic weapons, we've got to reexamine our whole military concept of defense.

"We are facing the possibility of a new type warfare where the building up of land armies may be obsolete. In my view, we should speed up our atomic program, increase our retaliatory striking force and put more emphasis on civilian defense."

Bridges said he hopes the new Joint Chiefs of Staff, headed by Adm. Arthur W. Radford, will put steam behind the construction of interceptors, fighters and guided missiles to guard American cities. The Joint Chiefs have promised a full review of all United States military policies.

Although Bridges said he had

no concrete information on changes in plans, Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.) said in a weekly letter to constituents that "the Defense Department has now decided to reconsider its recent cutbacks of our Air Force."

The Oklahoma Senator said he hopes Congress will "reverse its previous position and meet adequately the necessities of civilian defense."