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Army Says It's Out of Spy Business

The Pentagon yesterday reaffirmed that the U.S. Army was no longer conducting surveillance on private citizens such as was being carried out on a massive scale during the late 1960s.

"The Army is out of that business," Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said yesterday.

Friedheim was asked to comment on the Army's activities after the staff of the Senate's Constitutional Rights subcommittee released a new

analysis Monday of previous military spying efforts. The report concluded that the surveillance that did go on was a more intensive than had been realized during lengthy Senate hearings and investigations in 1970 and 1971.

The subcommittee report also raised the possibility that the military may have hidden or failed to destroy many of the millions of secret personal files kept on civilians, even though Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird had ordered

them destroyed after public disclosures of the spying were made in 1970.

Friedheim said, "to the best of our knowledge, the files that the Army was asked to destroy were destroyed, and if the subcommittee has any evidence to the contrary, we'd like to have it."

The spying disclosures received widespread public attention and created severe problems for the Army and the Pentagon's current management, even though most of

the military surveillance plans had their origin in the Johnson administration, especially during the 1967-68 period when there was considerable domestic unrest.

Friedheim told newsmen that the Army "got into this business by another administration ... and out of it in the Nixon administration."

During the hearings by the committee last year, it was also brought out that the surveillance had continued into