

Pentagon Studies Vacating of Cities In a Nuclear Crisis

WASHINGTON, April 15 (UPI) — Representative Les Aspin, Democrat of Wisconsin, disclosed today that the Pentagon had reopened studies on evacuating United States cities in a nuclear crisis for the first time in more than a decade. He charged that the action could increase the danger of a nuclear war.

Mr. Aspin made public a series of maps drawn by the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency with 400 specific areas the Pentagon considered "prime target" for a Soviet nuclear attack, and said that the agency

was beginning studies on how to evacuate them.

Agency spokesmen confirmed that the 400-target list—including 248 cities of over 50,000 population and 150 other areas of "military significance"—had been prepared at the direction of Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger.

In addition, they said that Mr. Schlesinger has ordered a survey to find so-called "all effects nuclear shelters"—basements, tunnels, caves and other sites that could protect civilians from a nuclear attack.

The studies mark the first major Pentagon examination of nuclear civil defense since President Kennedy proposed a nationwide evacuation and fallout shelter system after the 1961 Berlin crisis. They are based on Mr. Schlesinger's belief the United States might have two to three days' warning of a nuclear attack.