Forum examines the morality of SDI

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struction (MAD), he added.

"Some present-day strategists,

such as Reagan and Henry Kissinger, try to "stretch classical categories...over the new reality," Hehir said. They believe nuclear war can be a rational action, and a limited nuclear war can be planned, he said.

Others, such as former defense secretary Robert McNamara, believe that because of their unpreventable power, nuclear weapons have no use other than deterrence, he continued.

Hehir characterized Reagan's perception of SDI as an attempt to "get out of the dilemma of the nuclear age" and nullify the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons by removing nuclear weapons "erratically inherent threats" to civilian populations.

"Unless, requiring a near-perfect antimissile defense, would transcend deterrence," he said, but few believe it can be achieved.

A more limited defense would not transcend, but enhance deterrence, he continued, because that would cut down the destructive power of a nuclear attack.

About 80 students and faculty attended the forum, which was sponsored by the Technology and Culture Seminar, the MIT Disarmament Study Group and Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

This forum was the last of a series of three on SDI, following sessions last term on the project's technical and economic aspects.

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