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ZENITH STAR -- Artist drawing shows the Zenith Star space-based laser experiment, a potential new Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) spacecraft being developed by the Martin Marietta Company in Denver, Colorado. The device is a 24.4-meters-long cylindrical spacecraft to be delivered to Earth orbit by an unmanned launch vehicle. Key elements would include the Alpha Laser generating device at the aft end, a series of special optics and mirrors at the center portion to improve the quality of the laser beams and the Large Advanced Mirror Program (LAMP) at the forward end. Objective will be for the LAMP to point the laser beam and focus it on a target 100-200 kilometers away to prove that the beam could hold that spot. The satellite is being designed for compliance with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) under the restrictive interpretation. (88-18-C)



U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
88-18-C