WASHINGTON, Jan 18--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) announced today the Commerce Department has agreed to survey South Carolina to determine if the State can be certified for locating new defense industries there under the Government's industrial dispersion program.

The South Carolina Democrat said the department will make a study of all counties in South Carolina with a view toward certifying the entire State as conforming to the standards of the National Industrial Dispersion Program. He expressed the hope that South Carolina may get some new defense and other industries should the State qualify under the dispersion program.

The dispersion program was initiated by a Defense Department order in November, 1955. It is designed to avoid the tendency toward over-concentration of critical defense facilities in target areas.

The results of the study will be made as soon as it is completed.

THE END