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Disinformation is when someone or people give false and fake facts to others to hide the truth but in a way that there is a meaning and purpose as to why they have to do it. People who broadcast facts and information to the media fear that audiences and viewers may oppose the information and cause a stir. In today's society compared to the cold war disinformation there are similarities, history is being repeated but digitally. There are people in the advertising industry who advertise false content to gain views and attraction from social media users. During the cold war, Czechoslovak forged documents to take out public figures in West Germany. Bittman played an important role in helping the Soviet Union disinformation against Western Germany. (Walton, C. 2021, September 21).

The soviet union wanted to divide Western democratic societies by giving disinformation. Bittman, a professional manipulator, was also involved in contributing to Soviet disinformation. In Operation Neptune, there are three objectives to produce disinformation against Western Germany. One objective was to expand the law of war crimes. Another objective was to make a political campaign anti-german so that the Germans in the West go against the Western democracies. The last objective was to interrupt west german operations. The Czechoslovak created a film crew in disguise to plant the forged document in a briefcase into the lakes. Bittman and StB waited for the forged document to be revealed sensationally. The three objective goals did indeed be met and succeeded. The limitation of war crime expanded and West German operation was effected. The Operation Neptune tactic was inspired by Austria's story because Nazi documents were forged and were also placed in the lake to give the media disinformation to spread globally to get attention from the people. Britten became a defection to the United States, he feared that the Soviets would punish him. Walton, C. (2021, September 21). With today's society and technology advancing, spreading disinformation to the media is inexpensive and easy to access but also people can be easily influenced compared to the Cold War. For example, Russian hackers could use the same tactics as Operation Neptune but digitally. Bittman offered his knowledge to Western societies to consume the news but in a critical way so that they are not easily influenced.

Disinformation happened and still continues to happen in the present. Britten played a significant role when helping the Soviet Union use Operation Neptune to spread disinformation against Western Germany. The Soviet Union wanted Western Democracy to have chaos within their societies, the extension of the war crime, and interrupt West German operations. The Soviet Union and Bittman's manipulation skills did the Operation Neptune tactic hands-on and successfully got what they wanted. Bittman later defected to the United States, for fear of the Soviet Union punishment. Disinformation in the present is easily spread and influenced in the digital era.

## Citation

Walton, C. (2021, September 21). *Cold War Disinformation: New Revelations About Operation Neptune from Czech archives*. Wilson Center. Retrieved May 5, 2023, from <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/cold-war-disinformation-new-revelations-about-operation-neptune-czech-archives>