

MISSILE TO BE READY ON TAIWAN SHORTLY

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TAIPEI, Taiwan, Oct. 5—The first elements of a battalion of deadly Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missiles arrived here today. The missiles are expected to be ready for action by the end of the week.

The missiles are arriving in the wake of what appears to be a new phase in the fighting in the Taiwan Strait area. This is a result of the Chinese Communists' use of MIG-17 jet fighters against Nationalist transport planes supplying blockaded Quemoy.

The Nike-Hercules is a dart-shaped ground-to-air missile with a range of about a hundred miles and supersonic speed. United States Air Force officers explained that it had the power to destroy single planes

or formations and that there was little defense aggressor planes could use against it.

The missile battalion will consist of 500 to 700 United States ground technicians who will be gradually replaced by Chinese as training progresses, according to Air Force officers. Operational control of the Nike-Hercules, as in the case of the Matador, an Air Force missile designed for ground-to-ground attacks, will remain in the hands of Americans.

The Nike-Hercules battalion will mount forty-eight missiles ready to counter aerial attack against Taiwan or the Penghu (Pescadores Islands. Similar missiles have been installed to defend major United States cities.

Meanwhile, more badly needed supplies reached Quemoy by airdrop from C-46's in the hours of darkness. It was reported that daylight drops would be attempted soon.