

# U.S. Troops, Weapons Pouring Into Formosa

By Forrest Edwards

TAIPEI, Sept. 15 (Monday) (AP)—American men, missiles, fighter jets, transport planes and material are being poured into Formosa in a major military buildup to defend this island against possible Communist attack.

They also could be used in the defense of the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

There has been no official announcement of the big buildup, but the following information comes from competent military personnel:

- A large engineering firm is in Taipei with a crash program to build launching sites for American Nike-Hercules ground-to-air missiles.

- The Nikes are either here or on the way. Matador ground-to-ground guided missiles have been stationed in Formosa for almost two years. Navy jets operating in Formosa waters have been armed with air-to-air Sidewinder missiles for some time.

- Units of a composite air strike force are already here. Other units are on the way. This is described as one of the most mobile, fastest, hardest-hitting air task forces ever assembled.

- F104 jets, which now hold world altitude and speed records for operational military planes, are already based on at least one Formosa base. Others are reported coming.

- C130 cargo transport planes are also on Formosan bases. These can carry 80 fully combat-equipped troops. They could be used for fast transportation or air drops of troops. They also could be used for evacuation of military dependents.

- Complete, fully equipped joint operational control units to direct air combat have been moved into Formosa from other Pacific areas.

- Troop barrack areas, presumably to house incoming American troops, are being laid out. Construction either has started or will start soon.

- The first elements of an estimated 5000-man American buildup are here. More are on

the way. These men include those assigned to new missile units, additional air fighter units, military advisory specialists, and some ground troops. A U. S. Marine unit which came here for a joint landing operation with Nationalist Chinese marines has remained.

- At least three wings of United States jets manned by American fighter pilots are now based on Formosan fields. A wing normally was 75-to-80 planes, plus spares.

It already has been announced by American command officials that American air units have taken active participation in night time defense of Formosa.

United States authorities, meanwhile, have set in motion a program to evacuate gradually most or all of the 6000 American women and children on Formosa.

The evacuation, for the present at least, will be wholly on a voluntary basis and is set up to take two to three months.

The first group is expected to leave late this week on a United States transport ship, probably around Sept. 19.

Within the last few days, American military families have received questionnaires on their family status to enable authorities to set up possible priorities.