

# Nike Missiles Sent to Pacific

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The Defense Department said yesterday the United States is sending Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missiles to "the Pacific area"—obviously to bolster Formosa's defense against air attack.

The Department refused to say flatly that the missiles were going to Formosa. But there were published reports Nike-Hercules launching sites were being built on "a crash basis" on the Nationalist Chinese island bastion.

The State Department, meantime, said that standby evacuation plans were being made to get Americans out of Formosa if necessary. Press officer Lincoln White said this was a "routine precaution" and emphasized that no evacuation has begun or been ordered.

There are between 11,000 and 12,000 Americans on Formosa—about half of them dependents. American officials on the island stronghold have suggested that pregnant women, disabled dependents or those with personal problems should return home. They were not ordered to do so, however.

## 75-100 Mile Range

Nike-Hercules missiles, which can be armed with either atomic or conventional warheads, have a range estimated at between 75 and 100 miles. They are considered this country's best ground-based weapon against enemy air attack.

The Pentagon announcement said the 2d Missile Battalion of the 71st Artillery Regiment at Ft. Bliss, Tex., will be leaving "shortly" for assignment to United States Army headquarters in the Pacific at Hawaii.

The Battalion, comprising between 700 and 800 men, is commanded by Lt. Col. Bernard F. Greenberg of Wilmington, Del.

A normal Nike-Hercules battalion has 48 launchers organized into four firing batteries of 12 each. The Pentagon did not say, however, how many missile launchers will be shipped with the Battalion.

There are Nike-Hercules in-

stallations in this country defending Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Baltimore-Washington. Philadelphia will be added to the list soon.

The Hercules would be the second major United States missile deployed opposite the Red China mainland if the current shipments are destined for Formosa.

## Matadors on Formosa

The United States Air Force has had Matador missiles on Formosa for about a year. These are 600-mile-an-hour pilotless aircraft in easy reach of all the Communist Chinese airfields across from Formosa.

American jet fighters operating in the Formosa area also are armed with missiles for use against other aircraft.

There were authoritative reports on Formosa that the United States had begun a major military building there with 1000-mile-an-hour planes, guided missiles, and giant cargo planes.

These reports said that F-104 Star Fighters, the super-speed craft, had been moved to Formosa secretly to reinforce F-86 Sabrejets and F-100D Super-Sabres.

Engineers, meanwhile, were reported working at high speed to construct launching pads for ground-to-air-missiles to provide defense against air attack of Formosa's major cities and air bases.