

'Adequate Hearing' Sought On Titan Sites

By PETER STARRETT

A plea for an "adequate hearing, at once" on Titan missile locations here was sent the U. S. Air Force today from the Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans.

Meanwhile, the Tucson League of Women Voters has offered to sponsor and moderate such a hearing.

Gen. Curtis LeMay, Air Force vice chief of staff, had talked with Mayor Don Hummel in Washington last Thursday. He agreed to send a team of missile experts to Tucson to meet with a selected group of community leaders and explain the precautions and considerations taken by the service in locating the scheduled sites.

But Friday night the meeting was called off with the Air Force explaining that since several groups of Tucson citizens had sent messages saying they had confidence in the Air Force in the matter of location, the meeting no longer was necessary.

In a long telegram, sent LeMay today, Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona physicist and chairman of the Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans, asked once more for an opportunity to present technical arguments "in defense of our plea for downwind siting of all Tucson Titans."

McDonald's argument is that if the missile sites come under enemy attack the danger to the city from atomic fallout would be less if the bases are located downwind (east) of the city, instead of in a ring around the city.

The exact locations of the sites have not been announced.

In the telegram, McDonald points out that his group has sent a petition, with 1,173 signatures, asking for downwind location. "Since that number exceeds all Tucsonians directly behind recent votes of confidence in announced plans to ring Tucson with Titans,

we believe you are now obliged to arrange a special hearing in Tucson," McDonald wrote.

In a meeting Friday the League of Women Voters decided to ask for a hearing here.

Mrs. Clarence Robbins, league president, has sent telegrams to Sens. Carl Hayden and Barry Goldwater, Rep. Stewart Udall and LeMay and a letter to Hummel, offering the services of the league as sponsor and moderator of a hearing on the missile locations.

The messages point out that the league takes no stand in the matter of location, but urges that the sending of an Air Force team to Tucson be reconsidered.

"We feel that information of Air Force procedure in determining missile sites is wanted by the public and needed to clarify the controversial situation which has developed," the messages said in part.

In his telegram to LeMay, McDonald also suggested Air Force officers are "distorting our plea for downwind sites into an alleged plea to get Titans entirely out of Tucson.

"Your (LeMay's) and Gen. (Thomas) Power's (USAF chief of staff) coercive threats of possible removal of Titans and early deactivation of Davis-Monthan (Air Force Base) if Tucson does not show 'proper response' are deeply objectionable exhibitions of power of the military in view of the speed with which those threats were followed by numerous Tucson votes of confidence," McDonald wrote.

"We believe it to be in the best interests of the nation and Air Force to send a technical delegation here immediately for a full hearing, open to the press, the committee and civic officials.

"Possible increased costs in using only downwind sites here are small when measured against the national value of American lives . . .

"The issue must be confronted squarely," McDonald wrote in his telegram to LeMay.