

'Downwind' Sites Urged For Missiles

A group of leading American meteorologists has asked the military and civil defense agencies to consider prevailing winds in locating missile bases near population centers.

A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously last week by the meteorological section of the American Geophysical Union meeting in Washington, D.C., according to Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona physicist. McDonald submitted the resolution to the 143 meteorologists attending.

McDonald last year led the unsuccessful effort to persuade the Air Force to move its Titan bases surrounding Tucson downwind. Prevailing winds here are west to east, he said, and are likely to blow radioactive fallout in that direction.

The resolution passed by the meteorologists was sent to 10 agencies and officials in Washington.

McDonald gave a paper which presented his views on the wind hazards to the meeting. It was released nationally by the Associated Press.

He also was invited to testify before the Holifield Committee of the House—which investigates fallout and other civil defense problems.

"I also talked with Weather Bureau and Atomic Energy Commission meteorologists as well as S. M. Keeny, assistant to President Kennedy's scientific advisers, and all agreed with my position," McDonald said on his return here.