# McDonald Defense Report Validated

The Department of Defense now acknowledges the full scientific validity of Dr. James McDonald's civil defense implications of 18 Titan II launching sites on Tucson's perimeter.

McDonald, of the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, received word yesterday from Steuart Pittman, special assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, that defense department testimony at last summer's Holifield Committee hearings pertains to McDonald's full findings, not only to sections acknowledged earlier.

As stated in the full congressional report, "Civil Defense—1961, Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations," the Air Force said, (regarding McDonald's findings) "There are no important technical errors with respect to his presentation."

But McDonald, since that first acknowledgement, has been attempting to determine if the Air Force's acknowledgement pertained to his full premise, or only to portions of his findings given when he testified before the subcommittee last year.

A letter to McDonald, through Herbert Roback, staff administrator of the military operations subcommittee, received yesterday, states that Air Force testimony at the hearings "also applies to Professor McDonald's paper in the Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science of August, 1961.

Principal implications of this official acknowledgement are:

(1) Tucson must expect to be hit with more than 350 megatons of enemy missile power in the opening phase of any future nuclear war. This is tied to McDonald's detailed targeting analysis leading to a prediction of two 10-megaton missiles aimed at each of 18 Titan silos.

The same (nuclear blast) would be used against Wichita, Kan., and the Little Rock, Ark., bases, also ringed by Titans.

(2) The enemy would have to land such a nuclear salvo within approximately the first minute of World War III.

(3) Blast effects in Tucson would not be of serious civil defense concern, but fallout intensities would quickly blanket Tucson, posing overwhelming hazards for civilian survival.

(4) Such blasts would deposit local fallout of such amount that underground shelter-stay of three months, and possibly even more, would be necessary for survival.

(5) To survive these intense fallout hazards, radiation protection factors of 10,000 to 100,000 would be required here. (About 5 feet of earth provides this amount of protection.)

(6) Local civil defense officials have said that underground stay of two weeks is all that has to be planned for here, and that shelter factors of 100 to 1,000 are recommended.

(7) McDonald's paper notes that 2,000 underground community shelters are required to shelter Tucson's population. Construction of that many shelters at current estimates would cost about $50 million.

(8) The Air Force's acknowledgement of the technical accuracy of McDonald's paper covers his arguments that the Air Force was wrong in siting Titan launching silos upwind of Tucson, instead of downwind.

Secretary of Defense McNamara earlier admitted that civil defense factors were not the prime consideration in the location of Titan sites, but said that fallout would be taken into account in future sitings.

McDonald says yesterday's full acknowledgement ends his battle to have his findings either accepted or officially and scientifically disproven.

He said today that it's "up to local and federal civil defense agencies to take it from here. We now know what the full problem is."