

Anti-Titan Group Set Up

By S. C. WARMAN

A committee of nine was set up here last night to spearhead a fight on the Air Force's proposed Titan missile-launching ring around Tucson.

The meeting was held in the home of Prof. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the UA Institute of Atmos-

pheric Physics. Thirty-six men and women were present, and they argued for more than three hours over the moral issues involved.

About half wanted missile launching installations eliminated from the Tucson area entirely.

Another half wanted the Titan ring proposed for Tucson broken by moving one of the three proposed ICBM firing installations northeast of Tucson across the Rincon Mountains to the San Pedro Valley.

THE AIR FORCE is indifferent to the welfare of the civilian population it is intended to protect by ignoring (publicly) the danger of atomic fallout that could be carried into the Tucson area by prevailing winds, McDonald said.

Ten months out of the year, McDonald said, the prevailing wind is west to east. Therefore, an enemy atomic bomb landing in the neighborhood of Three Points (west of Tucson in the Altar Valley) would be a greater peril to Tucsonians than a similar atomic blast downwind.

The Titan bases proposed for Tucson vicinity are intended to survive anything but a direct hit on a silo by an enemy warhead, McDonald said.

But if an enemy attacks the United States, it must hit all of the fixed bases with bombs big enough to knock them out before Titans can be fired back at the foe.

"Missile launching bases will be the first targets," McDonald said, "not great cities or industrial areas because the enemy in the first half hour wants only to halt or prevent retaliation and would want the cities and factories left intact as prizes in war."

The University of Arizona professor said he had carried his protest about the Titan ring to Mayor Don Hummel. The mayor finally asked McDonald to prepare a technical letter for the mayor to forward to Washington.

HUMMEL OPPOSES any public outcry, McDonald said.

Mrs. Betsy McDonald, wife of the scientist, presided at the meeting and finally obtained a majority vote for a specific form of action.

Moral issues split the group of 36 four ways: those who oppose war, those opposing nuclear war, those against Titan bases near big population centers and those who would settle for a limited goal of breaking up the Tucson Titan ring.

As one speaker said, "If you ask the Air Force to move a Titan launching pad, you approve of missile bases, and that I don't want to do."

But finally Mrs. McDonald got

a compromise. So at 8 p.m. today the steering committee will meet at the McDonald home, 3461 E. 3rd St., to plan a local campaign of petitions and protests to break up the Titan ring.

Members include the McDonalds, the Rev. Walter A. McClenghan, Richard Jones, Paul Dayton III, Paul Martin, George Papcun and Wesley Bramhall. The ninth place was to be offered Atty. Frank Barry, who sent his regrets to the meeting.

BURIED ALIVE

'I Thou

By JIM JOHNSON

"I thought I would die before they found me," said Ruben Robles from his hospital bed last night.

Robles, listed in fair condition at Tucson Medical Center, was buried alive yesterday afternoon in a grave-like trench under several hundred pounds of caliche. He suffered back and chest injuries.

The 23-year-old Tucson plumber's helper was down on his knees in the trench preparing to lay a sewer pipe when the caliche suddenly fell on top of him. Robles remained buried for almost an hour before his plight was discovered by other workers on the construction home site at 5555 S. Wilshire Dr.

Jess McKenzie, 44, of 501 E. Jacinto St., was inside the house with other workers when the accident occurred. When he came out he noticed the lower part of Robles' body sticking out from under a large piece of caliche in the ditch.

McKenzie and two other workmen dug for a half hour, breaking the hard caliche and removing other dirt before Robles could be freed. The frantic rescuers used planks, shovels, and their bare hands to dig Robles out of the debris.

The victim was buried face down in ditch he had dug, 3 feet wide and 5 feet deep. When he struggled to free himself, he found he could only move his left arm.

"I knew the others were inside the house," he said, "but I thought I would die before they found me."

With his free hand Robles clawed a small opening to the outside, enabling him to breathe. But when he tried to yell for help his mouth filled with dirt and it choked him.