

Missile Arm Against China Slated for 70s

By JERRY GREENE

Washington, Sept. 21 (News Bureau)—Construction of anti-ballistic missile bases will begin at 15 to 20 sites across the United States, and the first production contracts for the complicated system will be awarded in about six months.

It is expected, officials said today, that the first battery for the new system designed as defense against Chinese intercontinental missiles will become operational in about two years, and the full network will be emplaced in the early 1970s.

Put Cost Above 5 Billion

Completion of this "thin" defense designed specifically for protection against a Red China attack will take five or six years. Officials said the cost doubtless would exceed the \$5 billion price tag estimated by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara on Monday when he announced the deployment plan.

Both the long-range Spartan anti missile rocket and the high speed, short-range Sprint will be used, but both will not necessarily be installed at the same site.

Both Spartan and Sprint will carry nuclear warheads.

Close-In Interceptor

Spartans have a range of several hundred miles and are designed to detonate in space, while Sprints, with a range of 15 to 25 miles, are intended as a final, close-in interceptor within the atmosphere.

The combination of the two rockets will give a limited amount of protection to the entire U.S., and the Sprints will give added security to the radar of the new system and to the Minuteman ICBMs, being emplaced in 1,000 hardened silos in Midwestern and Western states.