

## NIKE PLAN CALLED STEP TO FULL NET

Senators Foresee \$7-Billion  
to \$15-Billion System

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 — The Administration's decision to deploy a limited missile defense around the country was viewed in Congress today as the first step toward establishment of a full-scale system that would cost \$7-billion to \$15-billion.

But Administration sources characterized such interpretations as erroneous. They said it would be emphasized, when the decision was officially announced, that a massive missile defense was still regarded as

The decision drew a mixture of praise and condemnation, but indications were that the predominant Congressional sentiment was favorable.

Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, who is chairman of the Congressional Joint Atomic Energy Committee, called the planned defense "a starter toward an over-all effective antiballistic system." He said it was necessary, even though expensive.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expressed "deep regret" over the decision.

"Once this is started," he said, "there will be no stopping it, and its cost will be astronomical, comparable to the space program. I also have very grave doubts about its effectiveness."

He said he had hoped the Administration would allow more time for negotiations with the Soviet Union on the mutual limitation of missile defenses.

### Amplification Sought

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, said he would seek amplification of Administration policy at hearings late this month or early in October by the Joint Atomic Energy Subcommittee on Military Application. He is chairman of the panel.

Senators Pastore and Jackson are among a number of influential legislators who have been pressing the Administration to move ahead promptly and set up missile defenses.

Others include Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senator John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the Preparedness subcommittee. Spokesmen for the Republican party have also taken a strong stand in favor of an antimissile system.

In a speech a week ago, Senator Pastore served notice on the Administration that his Joint Atomic Energy Committee would fight for such a system.

Today, in a telephone interview, he predicted that the so-called "thin line" of Nike-X defenses now planned would lead to the establishment of an over-all system, effective "not only against China but against Russia as well."

### 'Matter of Survival'

"This, to me, is a matter of survival and not the trigger to constitute an arms race," he added. "I would hope we could have avoided this with a disarmament treaty that is reasonable, but that is a long ways off."

The defensive net to be established under a recent but still unannounced Administration decision would be designed to thwart a relatively small number of intercontinental ballistic missiles, such as the Chinese Communists are expected to have in operation in 1971 or 1972.

It would also afford some protection against an accidental or unauthorized launching of a few missiles from the Soviet Union.

The Administration decision, disclosed yesterday by reliable sources, is expected to be announced Monday by Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, in a speech before a group of United Press International editors in San Francisco.

Full-scale development and deployment of the Nike-X system has been urged by military leaders for at least six years. But successive Defense Secretaries, including Neil H. McElroy, Thomas S. Gates and Mr. McNamara, have resisted the program because of its cost.

The system would employ long-range radar constantly scanning for incoming missiles thousands of miles away. As the invading missiles approached within about 400 miles, the nuclear warheads of Spartan missiles would be exploded in their path to destroy as many as possible.

If some penetrated the Spartan area-defense screen, faster accelerating Sprint missiles would be fired skyward within 50 miles or less of the defended area.

Under the limited, Chinese-oriented defense, long-range Spartans would be spaced around the country to afford wide protection against a low-order threat. Sprints would be placed near Minuteman silos for additional so-called terminal defense.

The projected limited, or thin-line, defense system would cost \$3-billion to \$5-billion and take three to five years to complete.

It was not yet known whether the deployment finally agreed upon would, in addition to providing an area defensive shield around the United States, also call for heavier defenses around Minuteman missile bases.