Missile
Base Sites
Critcized

WASHINGTON — The Air Force says its policy of locating intercontinental ballistic missile sites near air bases doesn't in-
crease the danger of enemy ther-
monuclear attacks on nearby cities.

The Air Force made the state-
ment yesterday in reply to Dr.
James E. McDonald of the Uni-
versity of Arizona, who denounced
building ICBM launching sites
near major population centers.

McDonald said this creates
prime targets for enemy attacks
and fallout from nuclear detonations
would endanger the population
of nearby cities.

"It is our firm belief that the
dispersal of the launch sites 50 to
40 miles from the main support
base will not materially in-
crease the potential of any one location
as a target," an Air Force spokes-
man said.

Referring to suggestions that
launching sites be located far from populated re-

dions, the spokesman said several factors,
including money, are involved.

"It must be noted," he said,
"what the construction of com-
ectly safe, self-sufficient miss-
ile facilities in such areas as
isolate sections of the Rocky
Mountains would not be feasible
in terms of initial costs, time of
construction, high costs of sup-
port facilities and other factors."