

French Set H-Bomb Test In Pacific

PAPEETE, Tahiti, June 17 (AP)—More than 6000 French technicians are speeding preparations for France's first hydrogen bomb test, scheduled to take place southeast of this idyllic Polynesian island in July 1966.

Most of the technicians live in camps on islands stretching southeast of Tahiti. Among the islands are Mururoa and Fangatauba, where the first French thermonuclear device is to be detonated.

A year later a second hydrogen bomb will be exploded there.

Newsmen learned during a government tour of the test station area in the Pacific that work is well ahead of schedule.

Three centers are being established: The main air base at Papeete, an advance operational base at Hao and the two test locations on Mururoa and Fangataufa.