

Zuckert Won't Attend Reception in His Honor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert refused to attend an Air Force Association reception in his honor Thursday night because the association had assailed the nuclear test ban treaty.

Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force chief of staff, said, however, that he would attend the reception planned to honor both him and Zuckert during the association's convention.

Convention delegates Wednesday adopted a policy statement criticizing Kennedy administration defense policies and declaring

the test ban treaty would entail "unacceptable risks to the security of this nation and of the free world."

Zuckert, in a letter to AFA President J. B. Montgomery, called the policy statement "so immoderate and based on such misinformation as to disregard completely the best interests of the United States." He said it was a resort to "irrationalism," was "alarmist" and would not lead to reasoned debate.

The civilian air force chief said this left him "no alternative but to cancel" his appearance.

Shortly after Zuckert's letter was made public, LeMay presented the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Service Award to Montgomery.

He cited the one-time general for fostering public understanding and appreciation of the Air Force and "its mission of maintaining world peace." LeMay also expressed "Air Force gratitude" to Montgomery.

About one third of the AFA membership consists of active duty members of the Air Force,

but they have no vote at its meetings.

It frequently is considered to

represent Air Force views even though the AFA describes itself as: a national, political or commercial organization with no per-sonal, political or commercial "an independent, non-profit, aero-tax to grind."