

A Bomb on Plane Which Collided?

MADRID, Spain (AP) — U. S. Air Force detachments Wednesday were collecting every scrap of wreckage to be found from the B52 bomber and KC-135 tanker that collided and crashed Monday. Their activity touched off reports that the bomber had carried nuclear devices.

U. S. Air Force officials declined to confirm these reports and said the salvage activity, under the direction of Maj. Gen. Delmar E. Wilson, was intended to get material to build a mockup of the planes for investigation of the causes of collision.

The pieces found on the scene, near Almeria, 260 miles southeast of Madrid on the Mediterranean coast, were being flown to Torrejon where a special investigating team is building the mockup.

The Air Force announced that three more bodies were found, bringing the crash toll to seven. Four crewmen aboard the B52 survived the crash and were reported in good condition at Torrejon Air Force Hospital.

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Atom Device 'Missing' in Jet Crash

PALOMARES, Spain, Jan. 19 (UPI)—The U.S. Air Force was searching the Spanish countryside tonight, reportedly seeking an atomic device missing after Monday's collision of a B-52 bomber and a jet tanker.

U.S. officials in Madrid and at the scene refused to confirm or deny that a nuclear bomb was carried by the B-52 which crashed into the KC-135 jet tanker during a refueling mission over Spain.

Hundreds of U.S. troops were searching the scene, some of them armed with geiger counters. When asked what the geiger counters were for, an information officer said: "What are geiger counters normally used for?"

It was understood on good authority that the B-52 carried several atomic devices and that all but one of them had been accounted for after the crash, which killed seven men.

Other American bombers carrying defused nuclear bombs have crashed without incident in the past in the United States. Nuclear scientists have said repeatedly that a nuclear bomb aboard a plane cannot be detonated until it is armed, even on the impact of a crash.

(In Washington, the Defense Department said: "We have no comment on the report.")

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Jets Crash in Spain, 5 Live

ALMERIA, Spain (AP) — U.S. B52 jet bomber and a KC135 jet tanker collided over Spain today and crashed on the Mediterranean Coast.

Five of the 11 crewmen aboard the two planes were rescued, U.S. Air Force officials said. Four of them were identified as bomber crewmen.

Headquarters of the 16th U.S. Air Force near Madrid said the B52 with a crew of seven was

from the 68th Bombardment Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Base in North Carolina. It was being refueled by the tanker, carrying four crewmen. The tanker was from the 910th Air Refueling Unit at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Tex. It was temporarily stationed at Moron Airport near Seville.

The Spanish news agency Cifra said four crewmen were picked up from the sea, one

gravely hurt, and hospitalized at the coastal village of Aquilas.

A spokesman at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base identified the missing from the B52 as Lt. Steven S. Montanus, navigator, of Springfield, Ohio; Lt. George J. Glesner, Electronics warfare officer, of Belleville, Pa., and T-Sgt. Ronald P. Snyder of 6213 Foote St., Seat Pleasant, Md.