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## 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 KC135 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.

## Nuclear Weapons Aboard

# Kirtland Men Probe B52 Crash in Spain

Five Air Force officers from Albuquerque are in Spain investigating the crash of a B52 bomber which was carrying nuclear weapons.

Four are from the Directorate of Nuclear Safety, a tenant organization at Kirtland AF Base. The directorate has world-wide responsibility for

the safety of nuclear weapons.

The four men are Col. William E. Gernert, director; Col. J. A. Norcross, Lt. Col. H. E. Fjeseth and Capt. J. S. Pizzuto. The fifth man is Maj. G. En. Hanlin of Field Command, Defense Atomic Support Agency at Sandia Base.

A Defense Department statement released in Madrid said:

"A SAC (Strategic Air Command) bomber engaged in refueling operations off the coast of Spain and which suffered an accident with a KC-135 tanker was carrying unarmed nuclear armament.

"A radiological survey has established that there is no danger to public health or safety as a result of this accident."

The announcement ended a three-day official silence over whether the big jet bomber was carrying nuclear weapons when it and the tanker collided high above the Spanish coast and crashed 65 miles northeast of the town of Almeria, killing seven of the 11 crewmen aboard the two planes.

The reference to "unarmed" nuclear armament appeared to confirm that the nuclear bombs were aboard in a state of "peacetime readiness" which means they cannot be detonated until arming processes are carried out.

Spanish sources in Almeria claimed one nuclear bomb was recovered near the wreckage, one five miles from the spot, and another six miles away.

These sources said American Air Force personnel in the area still were searching for a fourth one.