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Officials Take Cold Dip To Deny H-Bomb Hazard

From News Dispatches

PALOMARES, Spain, March 8—U.S. Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke and Spain's Minister of Information and Tourism

shivered in the 53-degree Mediterranean today to demonstrate that there is no radioactive danger from a U.S. hydrogen bomb believed buried in the seabed.

Duke, 50, and Manuel Fraga Iribarne, 44, probably ran more risk of pneumonia than of radiation poisoning during their 3.5-minute dip.

Under the eyes of news and television cameras, the two men entered the water within sight of the 13-ship American flotilla that is continuing to search for the missing bomb lost when a B-52 bomber crashed Jan. 17. Two Spanish newsmen and an official of the Spanish Foreign Office waded in with them.

The Ambassador's wife, Robin, and three U.S. generals who are involved in the search watched from the shore.

Earlier, Duke, two of his children and two of Fraga's children swam from a beach a few miles away from Palomares. Fraga didn't arrive in

time for the first swim, but despite his statement that he swims poorly, he waded in bravely for the second immersion.

About 2000 residents of the Palomares area turned out carrying signs to greet the swimmers when they toured the village.

"The humble of Palomares welcome the illustrious visitors" one sign read. "We have blind faith in the justice of your plans" and "the children have confidence in your voices" read others.

In a luncheon speech, Duke referred to the U.S. plans to cart away contaminated topsoil from the crash area and bury it in America. He said the cleanup operation will continue "until both Spanish and American scientists are convinced that we are leaving Spain as we found it."

At a dinner several days ago, someone suggested to Duke that instead of the icy swim, Mrs. John F. Kennedy should pay Palomares a brief visit.

"For the time being, I think we've mobilized sufficient forces," Duke replied.