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## NAVY ADMITS NEW WOES IN H-BOMB PICKUP

### Line Breaks, 'Object' Shifts, Admiral Says

PALOMARES, Spain, March 27 [Reuters]—Recovery of the missing American H-bomb from the Mediterranean will be more difficult than expected because it shifted position when a lifting cable snapped last week, the United States navy announced today.

Adm. William R. Guest, commanding the recovery force, issued an official statement referring to the bomb only as "the object."

The bomb fell into the sea after a midair crash of an eight-jet B-52 nuclear bomber and a KC-135 jet tanker over Palomares in January.

#### Shifting Cable Snaps

Three nuclear bombs which fell on the Spanish mainland have been recovered.

Informed sources reported earlier that the cable snapped Thursday while naval salvage men were trying to shift the bomb to shallower water from its resting place 2,500 feet down on a steep slope five miles offshore.

Today's statement said: "The commander of task force 65 advises that, in a first attempt to recover the object with parachute attached in the waters off Palomares, Spain, the lift line parted as a result of having become caught in and cut by the fluke of an anchor which was part of the recovery rig.

"The object and parachute

are still in the same area, but have been moved from the position at which they were originally located, making the next recovery attempt even more difficult and lengthy."

#### New Device En Route

An undersea device, normally used for recovering torpedoes, has been flown from Long Beach, Cal., to help in the two-month-old recovery operation.

Salvage efforts have depended mainly on the midget submersibles Aluminaut and Alvin, specially equipped for dealing with objects on the seabed.

The torpedo recovery device, called Curv [controlled unmanned recovery vehicle], is

being reassembled after its trans-Atlantic flight. It is expected to be ready for use Tuesday.