

Prepare To Hoist H-Bomb

Recovery will end almost nine weeks of searching a 120-square mile area of sea and a massive land hunt by hundreds of U. S. airmen.

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But the real hero of the great bomb search was a Spanish fisherman who led the U. S. Navy to the spot where the bomb was found.

Francisco Simo shunned any suggestion that he deserved any compensation for helping find the bomb.

"I know I did something good for the Americans and also for Spain," he said. "This is enough reward for me."

Mr. Simo, who has been at a depth of 2,500 feet in the fishing off the coast for 17 Mediterranean, was dragged years, saw the missing bomb carefully today off an extreme float slowly down, hanging by steep slope of the sea bottom from a giant parachute and to a more favorable recovery later splash into the water barely 80 feet from his boat.

The bomb was expected to be brought to the surface by tomorrow night.

A U.S. official said the dragging lessened the risk of having the bomb, with its parachute still attached, slip off "its present precarious position into much deeper water."

The bomb, missing since an air collision Jan. 17, was found Wednesday about five miles off the shore from Palomares by a naval task force headed by Rear Adm. William

SAW COLLISION

Mr. Simo and his crew of 12 saw the B52 rendezvous with the KC135 jet tanker and then saw the planes collide and explode.

"We saw several red and white parachutes of the planes' crew members," Mr. Simo recalled.

"One of them burned up before landing. Then minutes later a striped white parachute landed about 80 feet from my boat. There was a light blue box about five feet long attached to it. It landed in the water and sank immediately." The vessel expected to lift the bomb out of the water is the U.S.S. Hoist, a salvage ship the Navy's Sixth Fleet.

Although there has been no official announcement the object located Wednesday was the bomb, few expressed doubt it was.

"Some seconds afterwards another much bigger parachute splashed down near the boat and at first I thought there was a man hanging from it. It was attached to a cylindrical object about 10 feet long and hanging vertically."