

ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE
9 Apr 1966

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H-Bomb Recovered Off Spain

MADRID, April 7 (AP) — An American H-bomb missing since the crash of a U. S. nuclear bomber Jan. 17, has been recovered from the Mediterranean off Spain's south-east coast, it was officially announced today.

The bomb, which was lost when a B52 bomber and a tanker plane collided over Palomares Beach, was recovered by a U.S. naval task force which had been searching the sea depths for more

than two months. The bomb was located in 2,500 feet of water about five miles offshore on March 15 by the midget sub Alvin. It was found almost exactly where Francisco Simo, a Spanish fisherman, told the searchers he saw a strange object fall into the Mediterranean after the crash.

Rescue Vessel

A U.S. spokesman said the bomb was pulled up by the small submarine rescue ves-

sel Petrel. A 1,650-ton vessel, the Petrel is jammed with special equipment for underwater operations. The ship carries a crew of 85.

U. S. officials would not comment, but informants said that the successful cable hitch to the bomb was made by Curv, a torpedo recovery vehicle flown to the scene from Pasadena, Calif.

A U. S. Embassy spokesman announced:

"The U. S. Embassy, the

U. S. 16th Air Force in Spain and the U. S. Naval Task Force 65 are all pleased to announce that the long missing bomb has been identified and recovered, intact."

Widespread Fear

The loss of the bomb disrupted fishing and farming in the coastal area and for a time aroused widespread fear among the peasants that they were in danger from radioactivity. Normal life has now resumed, most of the fear has

subsided, and some villagers have regretfully watched the American shore personnel depart because of the shot in the arm they gave local business life.

To demonstrate that there was no longer any danger from radioactivity, U.S. Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke and Spanish Information and Tourism Minister Manuel Fraga Iribarne went swimming at Palomares Beach a month ago.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
9 Apr 1966

The recovered 20-megaton United States hydrogen bomb, a bit dented but intact after 80 days on the Mediterranean bottom, was displayed before officials and correspondents off the Spanish coast to establish the "international credibility" of the United States. [1:4-7.]