

## B-52 Crashes; 4 H-Bombs On Board

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Defense Department disclosed Monday that a B-52 bomber carrying hydrogen bombs crashed Sunday on the ice near Thule, Greenland. The plane and its unarmed bombs apparently crashed through the ice to the bottom of Baffin Bay.

Nuclear-nervous Denmark, which owns Greenland, reminded Washington that it prohibits nuclear flights over its territory. About 50 to 100 Danes demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen.

THE PENTAGON said "no danger" of a nuclear explosion existed. It said the bombs were not armed.

The Atomic Energy Commission, manufacturer of H-bombs for the Defense Department, dispatched three experts to Greenland to help locate the weapons. Authoritative sources said the plane apparently carried four bombs, each equivalent in explosive power

Continued on A-5

Continued From A-1

to a little more than a million tons of TNT.

Six of the seven crew members aboard the eight-engine Strategic Air Command bomber on an "airborne alert" flight were rescued, one of them after spending a night on the ice.

The seventh crew member, copilot Capt. Leonard Svitenko, 27, of West Springfield, Mass., was killed. His widow and daughter, and the families of the other crew members, live at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, N.Y.

THE PENTAGON refused to say what happened to the plane and its load after it crashed at North Star Bay, seven miles from the runway at Thule.

A spokesman for the National Geographic Society said the ice would be five to eight feet thick at this time of the year. He noted U.S. submarines had broken through the ice that thick at the North Pole.

The crash was America's 14th "nuclear accident" to have been reported since 1953. Five of them involved B-52s, which circle the northern route, armed with nuclear weapons, on a round-the-clock alert to retaliate instantly against a nuclear attack on America.

The crash brought to Washington's memory to a national memory of the international attention which focused on the three-month search for a hydrogen bomb which fell into the Mediterranean in 1966 following the in-flight crash of a B-52 and a jet tanker.