

A-Device Reported Missing in Jet Crash

For 1/21/50
PALOMARES, Spain, Jan. 19 (UPI)—The U.S. Air Force was searching the Spanish countryside tonight, reportedly seeking an atomic device missing after Monday's collision of a B-52 bomber and a jet tanker.

U.S. officials in Madrid and at the scene refused to confirm or deny that a nuclear bomb was carried by the B-52 which crashed into the KC-135 jet tanker during a refueling mission over Spain.

But they gave every sign they were looking for one.

Hundreds of American troops were searching the scene, some of them armed with geiger counters.

It was understood on good authority that the B-52 carried several atomic devices and that all but one of them had been accounted for after the crash, which killed seven men.

Other American bombers carrying defused nuclear bombs have crashed without incident in the past in the United States. Nuclear scientists have said repeatedly that a nuclear bomb aboard a plane cannot be detonated until it is armed, even on the impact of a crash.

(In Washington, the Defense Department said: "We have no comment on the report.")