

\$635,000 Spent To Hide A-Arms Attacked by GAO

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The Atomic Energy Commission spent \$635,000 to buy nylon "security covers" for certain nuclear weapons for five years after secrecy as to weapon sizes and shapes had been dropped, the General Accounting Office charged yesterday. The covers are designed to camouflage a weapon's dimensions.

The purchases, the GAO said, continued until March 1965, for certain nuclear weapons, even though the Air Force had "declassified" information about dimensions of those weapons early in 1960.

The AEC said it continued to buy covers after 1960 because "removal of security covers would permit visual observation and photography by the public when the weapons were being moved . . . and would thus negate the basic purpose . . . on restricting the amount of publicity on nuclear weapons . . ." Eventually the AEC agreed to buy only a limited number of security covers instead of one for each weapon produced, the GAO said.