

Lost A-Bomb Found In Sea, Reports Say

PALOMARES, Spain, Feb. 1 (UPI) — A missing nuclear bomb lost in a U.S. air crash over Spain has been found by sonar 200 fathoms deep in the Mediterranean, informed sources said today.

The sources said two U.S. Navy submarines made contact with the bomb about one mile off the southeast coast of Spain, near Palomares.

Efforts to retrieve the unarmed bomb are awaiting the arrival of a specially equipped two-man midget submarine now aboard a C-133 Cargo-master transport plane at Otis Air Force Base, near Falmouth, Mass.

[The Associated Press reported from Almeria, Spain, that the recovery of the bomb has been delayed because of severe winter storms in the United States. The bad weather has prevented the departure of the transport aircraft.]

The midget sub Alvin will be flown to the Polaris submarine base at Rota, Spain, on the Atlantic coast northwest of Gibraltar and then taken by ship to the search area.

A second submarine, the 51-foot research craft Aluminaut, was scheduled to be put aboard a U.S. Navy landing ship dock in Florida and taken to Spain to assist in the search if necessary.

The two submarines that

made contact with the nuclear device are part of a group of 14 U.S. and Spanish warships pressed into the search.

An authoritative source said that a Soviet fishing trawler has been spotted near the search area. Soviet ships frequently go near NATO naval maneuvers.

The bomb was lost in the collision of a Strategic Air Command B-52 with a KC-135 tanker jet during a refueling mission.