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Quest for Bomb Takes Pause

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MADRID, March 21 — The object believed to be America's missing hydrogen bomb is in danger of being lost irretrievably in an undersea crevasse, it was learned today.

The object is perched unstably on an extremely steep slope at whose bottom is a 4-foot wide trench of unknown depth.

Should the bomb roll into the trench, there is no undersea equipment capable of retrieving it, highly placed authorities said.

Rescue officials are so concerned that they refuse to touch the object under less than ideal conditions, and bad weather today postponed further attempts to recover it.

The object, discovered 2500 feet below the surface some six miles off Palomares after a two-month search, was dislodged Saturday when the midget submarine Alvin attempted to get a line under it.