

By International Commission

# Moscow Calls for Check on U.S. H-Bomb Recovery

From News Dispatches

Oct 31 1946

The Soviet Union called yesterday for the creation of an international commission to oversee the recovery of the missing American hydrogen bomb from the Mediterranean Sea, as U.S. attempts to recover the bomb got under way.

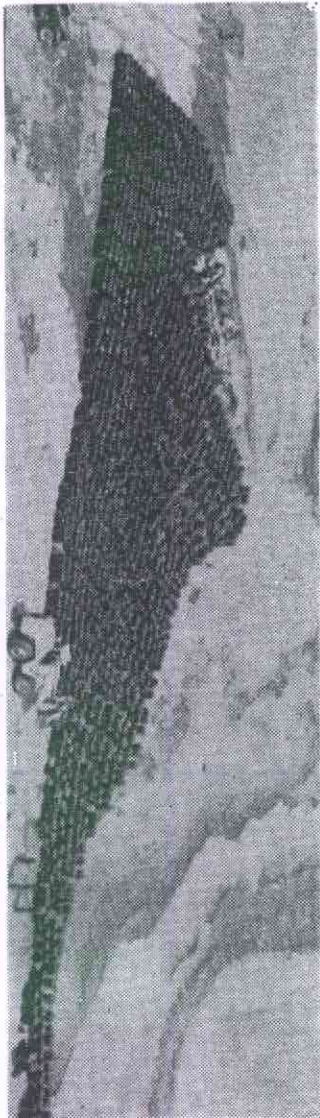
The official government newspaper Izvestia said in Moscow that the commission should make certain that no radioactive pollution occurs in hoisting the weapon to the surface.

"It is quite possible that the United States has succeeded in discovering the lost nuclear bomb," the newspaper said, in commenting on reports from U.S. search parties at Palomares, Spain.

"But the haste with which it has announced that the bomb presents no danger is suspicious . . ." Izvestia said.

"Only recently the United States denied that the bombs which had fallen on Spanish soil caused any radioactive contamination. Later on it became known that two of them had broken open and contaminated large areas."

"It is time to set up a prestigious international commission. See BOMB, A10, Col. 4



**SOILED EARTH** — Hundreds of barrels of radioactive Spanish soil wait on the beach at Palomares for shipment

to Aiken, S.C., to be deposited in the Atomic Energy Commission's "burial ground" there. Another photo, A10.

Associated Press

**BOMB—From Page A1**

## Reds Ask Check on A-Bomb Recovery

mission composed of representatives of the interested countries which could verify on the spot both the fact that the bomb has been found, that it will be raised, and that all the necessary measures will be taken to prevent pollution of the Mediterranean," the newspaper said.

Reuters reported from Palomares that experts who have studied the photographs taken by the midget submarine Alvin believed the bomb's casing to be intact, which would mean that no radioactivity has escaped. But, despite earlier

reports to the contrary, they said that the bomb's gray parachute obscures the photographs and this also makes a final, positive identification impossible.

Operations to recover the bomb, which is lying in 2500 feet of water, were hampered on Thursday by heavy swells.

The bomb was reported lying precariously on a 70-foot-long slope, and was in danger of plunging into even deeper water.

Further, recovery operations was considered hazardous because the sea bottom in this area is lined with underwater mountains, ridges and valleys.

How soon the bomb can be raised to the surface by U.S. Navy rescue forces was still uncertain. Originally, officials had hoped to bring it to the surface within three days.

During the day, two U.S. midget submarines worked with their mechanical arms in an attempt to attach a hoist cable to the weapon. It was not immediately reported how successful the attempt was.

If a cable can be attached, it is hoped that the powerful crane aboard the LSD (Landing Ship Dock) Fort Snelling could lift it slowly to the surface.

Recovery of the bomb by the Naval task force commanded by Rear Adm. William S. Guest would end the two-month search, which some observers call the most expensive in American history.

The bomb would be dismantled, crated and sent back to the United States for study.



Associated Press

**EARTH-MOVERS**—The London Daily Express published this picture yesterday and described it as showing the barrels containing radioactive earth that will be shipped from Spain to South Carolina for "burial."