

Spanish Police at A-Crash Site Show Traces of Radioactivity

ALMERIA, Spain, Jan. 21 (AP)—Slight traces of radioactivity have been detected in Spanish policemen engaged in recovering wreckage of a U.S. nuclear bomber, Spanish physicians reported tonight as the search continued for a missing nuclear bomb.

The doctors, flown here by Spain's board of nuclear energy, said these traces were "very slight and should disappear in a few days."

Mayors of three villages in the crash area — Garrucha, Cuevas de Almanzora, and Vera — appealed to all persons who may have touched or picked up pieces of wreckage to submit their clothing to medical teams for examination.

Officials on the spot theorized that one of several bombs picked up from the crash site had broken open to let a minimum amount of radioactivity escape. Spanish sources said this material has been flown to the U.S. 16th Air Force headquarters at Torrejon, near Madrid.

The search for the one nuclear device, still missing among the tomato patches and

sand dunes of the coastal area, was being continued by 1000 Spanish and U.S. troops.

[Reliable military sources in Washington said yesterday that the missing device was an unarmed atomic bomb, and that some "small" amount of radioactive material usually was loosed when an unarmed bomb burned.

[However, this would contaminate crops only a couple of hundred yards downwind from the scene, they said. U.S. airmen with geiger counters were searching the area, one source confirmed. However, the Defense Department officially declined all comment, saying it would have to come

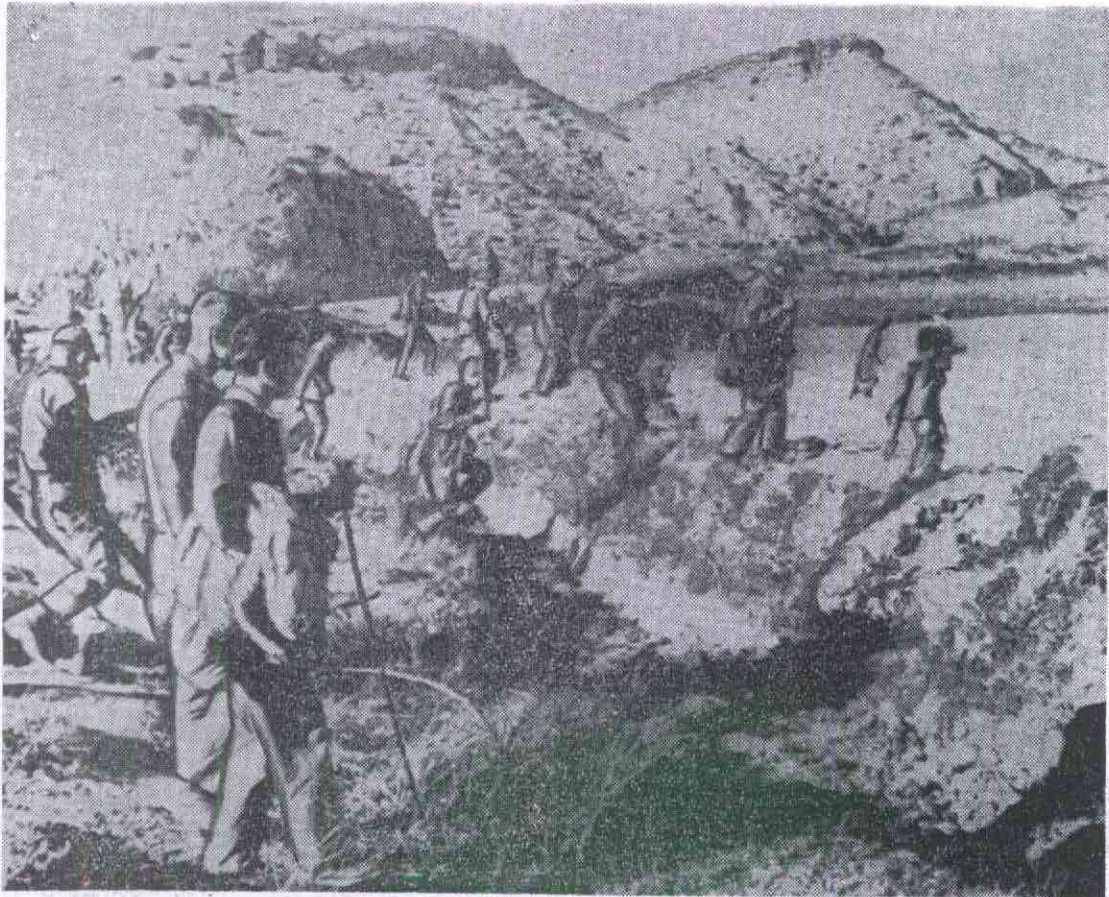
from U.S. Air Force headquarters.]

Some of the searchers were switched to a new coastal base at Garrucha. Many believed the missing bomb had fallen into the sea, and preparations apparently were being made to expand an underwater search. All sources, except the peasantry, agreed there was no nuclear explosion.

Drama is no stranger to the 85,000 residents of the coastal city of Almeria, near the crash site. They have participated in it—as extras—during the filming of such motion pictures as "Cleopatra," "Lawrence of Arabia," and "The Centurions."

But the real-life drama of the collision and crash of two American warplanes is something new to the residents. It creates a vague uneasiness

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United Press International

HUNTERS—U.S. airmen scour Spanish terrain in search of a nuclear device missing after a bomber crash.

SPAIN—From Page A1

Fear, Anger Stir Spanish Farmers As Crash Bars Crop Sales, Travel

here, coupled with unhappiness at being kept "off the set" by strict security.

"We are not afraid of nuclear bombs," said one lanky spectator just outside the search zone. "But we would like to get close, to see what they are doing, and maybe to help them search — whether they give us extra pay or not.

Reaction among the peasant farmers varied from anger at the United States to fear for their crops being trampled by the searchers, Roy Ferguson of Reuters reported. Ferguson added:

Crops Ruined

In Cuevas de Almanzora, about 50 Spaniards shouted, "Down with the Americans and their bomb!" in a brief demonstration in the main village square. The crowd assembled as rumors spread of the search for a missing warhead, but it dispersed quickly and quietly.

There were other complaints. U.S. Air Force nuclear experts have temporarily declared thousands of dollars worth of tomatoes, onions and beans untouchable, one source said. Said one farmer, whose acres of crops have been declared untouchable: "We



The Washington Post Jan. 22, 1966

SCENE — The cross locates the area where a search is on for a lost nuclear device.

are ruined. This was one of the best crops in years."

One family was quarantined at home with its chickens. A farmer in the search zone admitted: "We are frightened. They tell us not to touch the crop. What is going to happen to the crop? What does all this mean? Are we going to die?"

Others, however, were calm. Farmer Francisco Bravo said at nearby Herrerias: "There's nothing to worry about. The bomb exploded. We all saw it. The planes crashed in

flames and a short while later there was a big boom. That must have been the bomb."

Spain Bars Overflights By Gibraltar Traffic

MADRID, Jan. 21 (AP) Spain today informed the governments of North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries that their military planes no longer could fly over this country en route to and from Gibraltar. No connection was seen between this order and the collision of a U.S. bomber and tanker, after which a nuclear bomb was missing.

A diplomatic note pointed to "the risks and consequences to Spain of using Gibraltar as a NATO base."

Spain is now engaged in a dispute with Great Britain over Gibraltar. Spain wants it, and has charged that Britain repeatedly violated the treaty under which it holds "the rock."