WXPost AUG 17 1975 U.S. Spy Plane Down Off Thailand

From News Dispatches

BANGKOK, Aug. 16—A U.S. Air Force U-2 reconnaissance plane crashed into the sea off southern Thailand yesterday but the pilot ejected safely, a U.S. military spokesman said today.

He said the plane had taken off from its base at Utapao on its way back to Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. It was not on a reconnaissance mission, he said.

In recent years two of the droop-winged spy planes have been based at Utapao, but spokesmen refused to say if they were now being withdrawn.

The pilot, Capt. John T. Little, 33, of Tucson, Ariz., was picked up by a Thai fishing trawler and taken to a coastal village. There was no immediate indication of the cause of the crash.