

New Report of A-Arms in Japan

Yokosuka, Japan

Despite statements and evasions by Tokyo and Washington officials, there is no doubt that the U.S. aircraft carrier Midway has taken nuclear weapons into Japanese ports, members of the ship's crew reported yesterday.

Seamen with first-hand knowledge of the Midway's armament and cargo said her nuclear bombs are kept in "special ammunition" magazines under 24-hour guard by armed marines.

Nuclear weapons were aboard when the carrier left California a little over a year ago for its new home port of Yokosuka, south of Yokohama, and more bombs were brought aboard under heavy guard at Subic Bay in the Philippines this February, crew members said.

So far as the crewmen can determine, the only nuclear weapon removed in recent months was a single bomb taken off the ship by helicopter near Okinawa.

It was believed to have failed a safety test.

The Midway crewmen, who have been warned to stay away from reporters and to say nothing about the carrier's armament, asked not to be quoted by name.

The warnings were redou-

bled after the nuclear armament of U.S. ships generated a major political controversy in Japan a week ago.

While relying on the protection of the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" in East Asia, Japan maintains an anti-nuclear policy prompted by the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The U.S.-Japan security treaty authorizes U.S. military bases in Japan but requires prior Japanese approval for "major changes in the (entry) into Japan of United States armed forces (or) major changes in their equipment."

That requirement has been cited by a succession of Tokyo administrations to assure its public that American nuclear weapons are not present.

Recent congressional testimony by retired Rear Admiral Gene R. La Rocque stimulated press comment and a political controversy here, and sharply increased public doubts.

Contrary to officially fostered hints of the past, La Rocque testified that American warships do not "off-load" their nuclear weapons before entering Japanese and other foreign ports.

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