

Top-Ranking Soviet Official Believed Shot; Virginia Mine Explosion Kills 37



Rescue Workers Discover Bodies Within Six Hours

Remainder of Miners Escape Pre-Dawn Blast

Bishop, Va. — (UP) — Thirty seven miners were killed here today when an explosion rocked one of the largest soft coal mines in the United States.

Rescue workers found the bodies scattered about in one area of the sprawling mine within six hours after the early morning blast.

Company officials said "there are no survivors" among those men who were trapped 300 feet from the mouth of the mine.

One resident said the men apparently died instantly in the blast. Their bodies, removed later in the morning, showed no indication of external injuries, indicating they had died from concussion or gas.

An official said the blast killed three 12-man work crews and another man who was with them.

Worst Since 1951

The blast rocked a section of the Pocahontas Fuel Company's Bishop Mine on the Virginia-West Virginia border. It employs some 800 men.

Company officials said in a statement that the cause of the explosion was not known but one official attributed it to gas.

It was the worst mine disaster in the United States since 1951, when 119 miners were killed at West Frankfort, Ill.

The Bishop mine is the second largest of the Pocahontas coal fields in this mountain area covering parts of two states. In an around the clock operations, the miners here produce, wash and ship 10,000 tons of coal a day.

The explosion occurred in a section of the main shaft as crews were cutting and blasting soft coal from the seam and was bolting the shaft ceiling as they pushed through the seam.

About one mile from the mouth of the mine, in rows of company-owned white clapboard houses, families of the miners waited in the early hours while the search for the men continued. The blast occurred just before 2 a.m. and for a while there was hope that some of them may have survived.

By 8 a.m., four bodies had been found, but 33 more men in the mine were missing.

Shortly afterwards, a company statement announced the tragedy in these words: "Less than 40 persons were involved . . . and there are no known survivors."

This afternoon, the exact number of dead was determined — 37.

There were 177 men working in the mine on the midnight shift when the blast occurred, but most of them escaped through an opening not available to the victims.

New Multnomah Jury To Investigate Vice

Portland — (UP) — A new Multnomah county grand jury under direction of Attorney General Robert T. Thornton was scheduled to investigate local vice conditions starting this afternoon.

Presiding Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding told the jurors that at first they would be acting under Thornton's direction "on matters the governor has asked the attorney general to handle."

Vessel Hits Iceberg; Another Reported Afire

Hallifax, N.S. — (UP) — A coastal vessel struck an iceberg and sank and a freighter carrying a cargo of oil was on fire today in storm-tossed waters off the Nova Scotia coast.

The crews of both ships got off in lifeboats.

51st Year MED

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Measure To Repeal Surtax on Income Goes Before House

Republican-Backed Bill Introduced

Salem — (UP) — A Republican-sponsored bill to repeal the 45 per cent surtax on income for 1957 and thereafter was introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives today.

A Democratic surtax repeal bill was the first bill introduced in the House this session.

Rep. Allen Tom, Republican member of the interim tax committee, claimed the Democratic bill "would repeal the surtax all right, but at the same time could impose higher income tax rates without allowing the people of Oregon to vote on the raise."

All 23 Republican House members and all 15 Republican senators signed the surtax repeal bill.

They asserted that the Democratic repeal bill was a "deliberate attempt by Gov. Robert Holmes and some of his followers to perpetuate a hoax on the people of Oregon regarding surtax repeal."

Republicans claimed that if the Democratic repeal bill passes and is referred to the people, then the surtax will be repealed. But at the same time, they said, Oregonians may have to accept raised income tax rates which may in some cases far exceed the 45 per cent surtax now in effect.

If the bill is referred so that the people may vote on the income tax rate changes, Republicans said, then it will not go into effect this year and the surtax will automatically continue.

Rep. Clarence Barton, Coquille Democrat who heads the House Taxation committee, countered that former Gov. Elmo Smith himself had indicated that if the surtax were repealed, the deficiency would have to be made up through adjusting income tax rates.

"What we want to do at all costs," Barton said, "is to avoid throwing any more burden on the property tax payer."

Barton said that if the surtax is repealed and if the state can't raise money through a revised income tax then a property tax would be the only source of revenue left. He said the people already had indicated that they would not go for a sales tax.

Barton said that if the state should be embarrassed by "obstructionist tactics" in trying to settle its financial problems, "the inevitable result would be a levy on real property."

Bill Seeks Higher Teacher Pay Minimum

Salem — (UP) — A bill calling for a boost in minimum salaries for school teachers was introduced in the Oregon Senate today.

Under Senate bill 56, teachers' minimum yearly salaries would be boosted \$400 effective July 1, 1958. A certified teacher having less than a bachelor's degree would get \$3400 instead of \$3000; a teacher with a bachelor's degree, \$3700 instead of \$3300; and a teacher with a master's degree, \$4000 instead of \$3600.

The measure was sponsored by Sen. Harry D. Boivin of Klamath Falls, Monroe Sweetland of Milwaukie, Philip B. Lowry of Medford and Rudie Wilhelm Jr. of Portland, and Reps. Herman H. Chindgren of Molalla, Shirley Field of Portland, Norman R. Howard of Portland, W. O. Kelsey of Roseburg, and Tom Managhan of Milwaukie.

France Not To Be Bound By UN Algeria Decision

United Nations, N.Y. — (UP) — France told the United Nations today the Algerian question is none of its business and the French will not be bound to respect any resolution the General Assembly may pass.

French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau told the Assembly's Main Political Committee that Russia planned to use Algerian unrest for the "elimination of all Western influence on the southern shores of the Mediterranean."

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Gary Meredith, 16-year-old Cave Junction Eagle Scout, left from Medford airport yesterday for Washington, D.C., where he will participate in the "Report to the Nation" activities held in observance of Boy Scout week. On hand to bid him goodbye were George Flanagan, Crater Lake Area Council president, left, and, at right, Gene Pulley and Ralph Huber, Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster of Cave Junction troop 20. Also present were most of the members of troop 20 and Gary's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Meredith. Gary is one of 12 Eagle Scouts in the Nation chosen to participate in the activities.

Israel Continues To Resist Appeal for Removal of Troops

Jerusalem, Israel — (UP) — Israel today firmly resisted a U.N. appeal for it to remove its troops from the Gaza strip and parts of the Sinai Desert facing the Gulf of Aqaba.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Moshe Leshem said Israel would continue to defy the resolution until the United Nations gives Israel some guarantee that Egypt will not use the areas to attack Israel and Israeli shipping. Campaign Launched

Cairo newspapers launched a campaign against the stationing of any UNEF forces along the gulf of Aqaba, and said this would "overstep UNEF's mission as originally accepted by Egypt."

The leading Arabic newspaper, Al-Ahram, said U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., "couldn't have meant what he said about the necessity of putting UNEF units at the Tiran Straits. That would be asking for something impossible."

The editor in chief of the government organ Al-Gomhouria recalled that "a state of war exists between Egypt and Israel" and asked, "Didn't Israel commit aggression in complicity with Britain and France?"

Resolutions Passed

The U.N. General Assembly passed two resolutions Saturday night calling for an immediate Israeli withdrawal and recommending the use of the UNEF troops in the disputed areas to

Bonanza Pensioner Enters Innocent Plea

Klamath Falls — (UP) — Guy Earl (Bill) Cramer, 76-year-old Bonanza pensioner who opened fire with a pistol during a Klamath County Welfare hearing last month, entered pleas of innocent to three charges, including one of first degree murder, when he was arraigned in Circuit Court today.

The elderly pensioner is charged with the murder of Commission Chairman Fred Peterson and the serious wounding of Altha Urquhart, welfare director, and County Commissioner Jerry Rajanus.

In addition to the murder charge, Cramer also faces charges of assault with intent to kill and assault with a dangerous weapon.

The two court-appointed attorneys for Cramer said they would introduce evidence at his trial which would show Cramer was "insane or mentally defective at the time of the alleged commission of each of the three acts."

King Saud Indicates Arab World Will Accept Eisenhower's Mid-East Doctrine

Washington — (UP) — King Saud of Saudi Arabia indicated today that the Arab world will accept President Eisenhower's Middle East doctrine after he explains its full meaning to other leaders in the area.

He said he felt the plan to U.S. arms, if necessary, to prevent Communist penetration of the Middle East, would be acceptable to other Arab leaders if the points raised here could be clarified to them as they have been to him.

The visiting monarch said he will try to clear up Arab misunderstandings and relay to other leaders the correct explanation he received in his conferences with Mr. Eisenhower.

Statements Confirmed

King Saud made the statements in an interview with Marguerite Higgins of the New York Herald-Tribune. Jamal Bay Al-Hussaini, his royal counselor and interpreter, later confirmed the statements.

The King's remarks indicated that Mr. Eisenhower has scored an important gain for his policies.

Elizabeth M. Beck Dies Aboard Plane Over San Francisco

Mrs. Elizabeth Myrtle Beck, 58, of Jacksonville, suffered a fatal heart attack aboard a Southwest Airlines plane Sunday a few minutes after the take-off from San Francisco International airport.

She was dead when the plane landed at Oakland. Her husband, Michael, said she had a history of heart trouble.

Returning from Hawaii

The Becks were returning from Hawaii where they had spent a three-week vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pease, 130 Vernada place, Medford.

The couple's son and two daughters, Alfred M. Beck, and Mrs. Gerald Note, Old Stage rd., and Mrs. James Farrar, Central Point Market rd., went to San Francisco late yesterday afternoon to bring their father home.

Beck was said to be in a state of shock and under a doctor's care.

Conger-Morris funeral home will be in charge of funeral arrangements. Mrs. Beck's body is being brought to Medford today.

Long-Time Resident

Mrs. Beck came to Medford with her husband from Tacoma, Wash., in the early 1920s and had lived in the valley since.

Her husband founded and operated Beck's bakery for many years, and after his retirement from active management of the firm a few years ago, the couple moved to a home on Forest creek near Jacksonville.

Mrs. Beck was a member of Zuleika temple, Daughters of the Nile, Adair chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Jacksonville, Medford Neighbors of Woodcraft and Mistletoe camp, Royal Neighbors of America.

Washington — (UP) — The House Agriculture Committee has voted to delay temporarily House passage of a drought relief bill.

TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

IKE WON'T PERMIT GUARD TO BE CUT IN STRENGTH

"The Trouble With You, Charlie, Is That You Say What You Think"



Flood Victims Busy With Mop-Up Chores In Devastated Areas

By UNITED PRESS

Thousands of victims of a flooded coal-mining area in three states today began clearing mud and rebuilding their damaged and destroyed property.

Scores of Appalachian Mountain towns inundated last week by some of the worst flooding in a generation were scenes of devastation that was expected to run above \$1 billion in property damage.

15 Known Dead

The known death toll stood at 15. Some 15,000 families were homeless. A number of mines were forced to shut down for repairs, adding the hardship of unemployment for thousands of miners.

Supervisor J. L. Gilley of a U.S. Bureau of Mines sub-district warned that roofs of many mines in eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia were in an "extremely hazardous condition."

Long-Range Relief

Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, president of the American Red Cross, said after a week end helicopter tour of the area that funds will be provided for long-range relief work in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

There was additional emergency help from the Army, National

Portland Arrest May Solve Many Thefts

Portland — (UP) — Police said today they may be about to crack a long line of burglaries staged by a gang of adults and juveniles in north Portland after a high speed chase last night resulted in the arrest of a suspect.

The wild flight through north Portland last night culminated in a four car crash before Elmer Haab, 38, was apprehended.

Detective James Smith said Haab is suspected of burglary and of serving as a "fence" in a number of other burglaries.

Police were en route to Haab's home to place him under arrest when he was spotted driving a car on N. Lombard st.

When the suspect spotted the police cars he speeded up with the officers in pursuit. Police said during the flight a rifle was tossed from Haab's car.

The chase ended when the suspect's car collided with a police car approaching from the opposite direction, glanced off onto a parked car which in turn struck another parked car.

Leaders Assured During Conference With President

Association Seeks 11 Weeks of Training

Washington — (UP) — National Guard leaders said today President Eisenhower has assured them he will not permit the guard to be "destroyed or reduced materially in strength."

Officials of the National Guard Association called on the President to ask him to reverse an Army decision requiring all new Guard enlistees to take six months of basic training, starting April 1.

Would Hinder Enlistments

The association opposes this plan, claiming it would hinder Guard enlistments. Representatives of the Guard urged the President to adopt their alternative plan requiring only 11 weeks of basic training.

Both the President and Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson are strongly behind the six months plan.

National Guard officials present at today's White House meeting said Wilson's recent criticism of the guard did not come up.

Wilson caused a furor by charging a "sort of scandal" developed in the guard during the Korean war. He said many youths used it for "draft dodging."

Mr. Eisenhower has termed Wilson's remark "very unwise."

President 'Receptive'

Acting as spokesman for the guard group, Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord, adjutant general of Maryland, said the President was "very receptive and assured us he would not permit the guard to be destroyed or reduced materially in strength."

Reckord said he did not believe Wilson was attempting to destroy the guard, but added he thought certain Defense Department officials were pursuing such a purpose. He did not name the officials.

Duff, Bashaw Back From Workshop

City Manager Robert Duff returned to Medford today after attending a workshop meeting Friday of the League of Oregon Cities legislative committee in Salem. City Attorney E. R. Bashaw also attended.

Purpose of the workshop was to outline a legislative program for the present session of the state legislature. The committee approved recommendations of the Oregon Police Chiefs association in regards to traffic control, Duff said.

He added that the most significant recommendation was to establish a maximum speed limit in Oregon cities to replace the basic rule. Most other recommendations concerned administrative and procedural matters, he said.

50,000 Shakespearean Festival Folders in Mail

Ashland—Fifty thousand pictorial folders announcing the 157 Oregon Shakespearean festival are being mailed to more than 500 chambers of commerce, automobile associations, travel agencies and interested individuals, it was reported today.

Covers 48 States

Distribution covers the 48 states, Hawaii and parts of Canada and Alaska. Packages of up to 100 brochures reach these outlets. Bill Patton, general manager of the festival, says more are available to them on request.

Prominent in the double-size publication is information on sports and scenic attractions of the Rogue River valley. Patton said. A map with detailed routes for the motorist and service to the area by air and bus lines are included. Advertising of motel

Tight Security Curtain Conceals Patient's Identity

German Specialist Summoned to Moscow

London — (UP) — A tight security curtain today hid the identity of a mystery patient ill in Moscow and added fuel to the fires of an international guessing game.

The guesses ranged all the way from some such top Soviet leader as Deputy Premier Lazar M. Kaganovich to a relatively unknown but important atomic scientist.

There was this much to go on: 1. Dr. Hans Joachim Shulten, a blood disease specialist in Cologne, Germany, suddenly was summoned to Moscow. He was not told his patient's identity.

2. The patient must be of importance to warrant the sudden summons.

To Study Obscure

The Supreme Soviet met in Moscow Tuesday and the leaders will be scanned closely for important absences.

In New York, the tabloid Daily News added a close and dagger touch to the speculation. It quoted "intelligence sources" to the effect that Kaganovich had been shot mysteriously in a power struggle and is "dead."

The News said the 64-year-old Kaganovich, a former right hand man of Premier Joseph Stalin, wanted to remove Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev and Premier Nikoiz Bulganin.

Shooting Said Ordered

Khrushchev and Bulganin, recognizing Kaganovich as the chief schemer in a plot to bring their ouster and a complete Kremlin reshuffle, reportedly ordered the deputy premier shot. "The News said."

"Something went wrong. Kaganovich was only gravely wounded when struck down by a bullet Thursday night, and now he is apparently receiving every care."

A United Press Moscow dispatch made no mention of the Daily News report but said flatly that Kaganovich had completed a two-week tour of Siberia only Sunday and had returned to Moscow. The report would seem to eliminate him from the guessing game, since the Cologne blood specialist was summoned to Moscow Saturday.

Holmes Asks Funds For Umatilla Growers

Salem — (UP) — Deep concern over the economic plight of Umatilla orchardists who suffered crippling losses in the 1955 freeze prompted Gov. Robert D. Holmes today to petition President Eisenhower for allocations from the president's emergency fund.

In his telegram to the president, Gov. Holmes said: "The general economy of the community is being threatened by the paralyzing effects" of the freeze which destroyed 95 per cent of the county's 4500 acres of orchards.

Federal assistance loans do not answer the problem, Gov. Holmes said, because it takes several years to bring an orchard to the productive stage and during that period the grower does not have the resources with which to pay annual installments.

Corvallis — (UP) — John F. Power, Corvallis city manager who suffered a mild heart attack Jan. 15, has been released from the hospital.

Weather

FORECAST: Mostly cloudy through Tuesday with light showers beginning early Tuesday. Low tonight 30. High Friday 40.

Highest Yesterday 45

Lowest This Morning 27

Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise 7:23 a.m.
Sunset 5:25 p.m.
Moonset 10:34 p.m.
First Quarter Feb. 7

PROMINENT STARS

Alphard, in southeast at moonset. Its name, given it by the Arabians because of the absence of any other bright stars in its vicinity, means "The Solitary One."