

Mine explosion cause is checked

BISHOP, Va. (AP)—Mining experts planned a descent into the Bishop coal mine today in an effort to fix the cause of a gas explosion that brought death to 37 miners.

Federal and state officials were joined by officers of the Pocahontas Fuel Company, operators of

the mine, in the formal investigation.

The miners were entombed Monday in the underground catacombs of the big mine by the explosion which a survivor described as "like a big puff of wind."

The blast occurred less than two hours after 180 miners had gone to work on the midnight shift at the mine straddling the Virginia-West Virginia border.

Sixteen hours later, the last bur-lap-shrouded body was brought up.

Not since Dec. 21, 1951, when 19 perished in a blast at West Frankfort, Ill., had there been a mine disaster of such magnitude.

So mild did Monday's explosion seem to miners only a short distance from the death tunnel that at first there was little thought of a major tragedy.

One survivor said the explosion "wasn't loud at all." Another, farther away, heard no noise. A third said it was like "a big puff of wind."

It was the worst North American mine disaster since November when an explosion at Springhill, N.S., trapped 113 men. The final death toll in the Nova Scotia tragedy was 39.

Scots ambushed in western Aden

ADEN (Reuters)—Two soldiers of the Scottish Cameron Highlanders were killed and six were wounded — including an officer—when ambushed Monday near Dhala, in western Aden protectorate.

Four of the wounded, including the officer, were in a serious condition.

hospital hurdle

discussions and Premier Frost has