

## Underground Probe Set In Mine Tragedy

**CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP) —** Mining authorities made plans Saturday for an underground investigation of the explosion which killed 22 coal miners underground in northern West Virginia on Thursday night.

Representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the State Department of Mines, Clinchfield Coal Co. and the United Mine Workers Union met for two hours.

Investigators planned to go underground for testing beginning Sunday, a spokesman for the group reported.

The explosion, possibly involving methane gas, jarred Clinchfield's Compass No. 2 mine shortly before midnight Thursday night, apparently bringing quick death to the trapped men. The mine is at Dola, about 12 miles northeast of Clarksburg.

The amount of time required for the underground checks will be determined "by the degree of difficulty in pinpointing the source of the ignition and finding the cause of the disruption of the mine ventilation," the spokesman said.

UMW President W.A. Boyle said the disaster again "has focused public attention on the fact that coal mining is our nation's most hazardous industry."