

70 Feared Trapped In U.S. Mine Blast

Revaluing Of Mark Rejected

Franco Hangs In Balance

BONN (Reuters) — Prosperous West Germany waited today to see exactly what its government would do to take the steam out of its booming economy while maintaining a pledge not to boost the value of the mark by upward revaluation.

The fate of the faltering French franc, and possibly other European currencies, could hinge on West Germany's success in curbing its runaway prosperity.

The West German government announced Monday night that it would not revalue the mark, but would instead rush immediate import and export tax measures through parliament to reduce the country's massive export surplus and encourage imports.

FRENZIED DEALINGS

The decision followed days of frenzied dealings on foreign exchange markets after speculation the mark would be revalued and the franc devalued.

The problem facing Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and his ministers was how to support the crisis-stricken franc, yet avoid the drastic measure of revaluation.

Economics Minister Karl Schiller invited finance ministers of the Group of 10—composed of the leading Western industrial countries—to meet in Bonn today to thrash out the issue.

Canada is a member of the group.

Sources here said steps to support the West German action would be an obvious theme at a group ministerial meeting.

MARKETS CLOSED

Meanwhile, in Paris, all French stock and financial markets were ordered closed today and reliable sources said they will remain closed for the three remaining trading days this week.

It was the latest move to stop wild speculation in the French franc which some economic experts fear could undermine the stability of the world monetary system.

The crisis resulted from frantic selling of French francs to buy West German marks, at present the world's strongest

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WILL PROBE FIRE DEATHS

LONDON (Reuters) — A public inquiry was ordered Tuesday into a Glasgow warehouse fire in which 22 persons died behind iron-barred windows.

William Ross, secretary of state for Scotland, told Parliament the inquiry into the blaze Monday would be held before a magistrate and jury.

Most of the victims in the dockside inferno died screaming and clawing at the barred windows of the three-storey former bonded warehouse near the River Clyde.

Benson Flies To Germany For Talks

OTTAWA (CP) — Finance Minister Edgar Benson flew to West Germany at short notice Tuesday night for an emergency meeting in Bonn connected with the European currency crisis.

The minister was accompanied by Louis Rasminsky, governor of the Bank of Canada, deputy governor William Lawson and Alan Hockin, assistant deputy finance minister.

A finance department spokesman said the Canadians had arrived at Bonn in time for the emergency meeting today of the so-called Group of 10—the finance ministers of Canada, Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the United States.

The meeting was called by West German Economics Minister Karl Schiller.

Plans had been made for Canadian officials to attend a monetary meeting in Europe, but Mr. Benson's late-Tuesday decision to attend indicates major monetary policies are up for discussion.

The Canadians flew by government plane to Montreal, where they caught a night commercial flight to Europe.

Speculation has centred on the possibility of an agreement to adjust exchange rates of European currencies in response to recurring bouts of speculative trading based on a belief that some currencies are overvalued and some undervalued.

Main target of negative speculation in the current crisis is the French franc, which is being traded in favor of firmer cur-

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21 Believed Saved From Virginia Pit

MANNINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — A chain of booming explosions ripped through a deep coal mine early today, trapping most of the miners in smoke-filled shafts. At 1 p.m. EST, company officials feared "as many as 70 miners" could still be pinned in the mine.

Sheriff Robert Tennant of Marion County said 21 men had escaped or had been pulled from the mine. But James McCartney of the Mountaineer Coal Co., said 80 men were missing.

The first blast, just before 6 a.m., blew machinery through one of the mine's portals, Tennant said, and closed it as an avenue of rescue. Teams gathered around the Farmington portal, one mile away, to concentrate rescue efforts.

McCartney said either gas or coal dust, set off the explosion and fire which still was sending towers of smoke from mine entrances early this afternoon.

All communication into the mine was lost, McCartney said.

LIFTED IN BUCKET

Rescue teams, working in freezing temperatures and snowflurries, faced a dilemma. McCartney said air was being pumped into the shaft to keep the trapped men from suffocating but the air stream also fed the flames deep in the shafts.

"No one knows exactly where these men were at the time of the explosion," McCartney said. "There were six crews of six men each working in the general area of the explosion. The other men were on other assignments throughout the mine."

Rescuers found eight of the men in the Mohan air shaft and plucked them from the 600-foot level two-by-two, using a big scoop bucket on the end of a crane.

Tennant said the confusion about the number of missing men resulted from the destruction of the "lamp house" in the blasts. Miners check into work at the lamp house at the beginning of their shifts, but the explosion destroyed it and its records.

BLAST IN 1954

One of those reported safe was Matt Menas Jr., whose father was killed in the same mine in a blast that took 15 lives on Nov. 13, 1954.

The mine is situated in the rich coal country of north-central West Virginia near Mannington and just south of the Pennsylvania state line. The Mountaineer company is a division of Consolidation Coal Co.

Rescue efforts moved slowly because of the damage caused by the explosion and the smoke

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Map locates mine disaster.

Canada Role In NORAD Under Study

OTTAWA (CP) — The federal government's foreign policy review includes such questions as whether to keep defence forces in or out of Canada's two major security alliances, Prime Minister Trudeau disclosed Tuesday.

He told the Commons the review, begun last May, involves "what kind of defence policy we need, whether in or out of NATO, in or out of NORAD and so on."

The important aspect of the NORAD review is what Canada wants to put into it in the way of arms, he said.

If it was decided to contribute practically nothing, the agreement would become defunct. But Canada might decide to increase its arms commitment to NORAD, he said.

Canada renewed the NORAD pact with the U.S. last spring for a five-year term. The Canadian commitment includes three Voodoo interceptor squadrons and two Bomarc-missile sites, both a defence against bombers.

Either Canada or the U.S. has the right to withdraw from the defence pact on a year's notice.

But Mr. Trudeau gave no indication of Canada's course. He told one questioner that Canada

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MINE

which filled the shafts.

Red Cross units and women's clubs from nearby communities provided coffee and sandwiches for the waiting wives and children.

Dave Davis, president of the Mountaineer Coal Co., said the blast packed a powerful punch.

Tennant said the first explosion was just before 6 a.m. EST but he added there were "at least" two more explosions about 8:30 a.m.

Most of the men were due off their shift at 7:30 a.m. The mine normally employs about 360 men who work in three shifts.

State Mines Director Elmer Workman went to the scene to direct rescue efforts.

It was the second mine incident in West Virginia this year. Last May, a crew of miners broke through a wall into a flooded abandoned mine near Hominy Falls, in the south-central section of the state, and 25 men were trapped by water. Four men died but the other 21 lived through it, six of them after spending 10 days in a dark and flooded shaft without food.

The Manning mine produced more than 2,000,000 tons of coal last year. The shaft has a 98-inch coal seam, abnormally large for the area, and the mine's production indicates its richness. Daily production averages 9,434 tons.

A slope mine is a shaft burrowed into the side of a mountain at a low angle and the coal is pulled from the mine on cars riding a narrow-gaugé track.