## **Small Blast, Smoke Rule Out More Rescue Teams In Mine**

## Enemy Downs 2 U.S. Jets

SAIGON (AP) — Two U. S. jet planes were attacked by MIG fighters and surface to air missiles and downed over North Vietnam, the U. S. Command announced today.

In a terse announcement, the Command said an unarmed re-connaissance aircraft and an armed fighter, which often ac-company reconnaissance sor-ties, were downed in separate incidents.



TALKING WITH KIDNAP-ties, were downed in separate the second sec

## Franc Shows Strength

By JOHN VINOCUR **Associated Press Writer** 

Associated Press Writer PARIS (AP) — The franc strengthened in Paris today and the government an-nounced new austerity mea-sures. There was a stampede to buy dollars in Germany but other transactions on Europe's markets gave little clue as to whether the world's monetary crisis was over.

over. Foreign speculators, who had figured on an upward revalua-tion of the mark, began unload-ing their huge mark hoardings in Frankfurt and the West Ger-man bank sold about \$1 billion U.S. dollars for marks.

U.S. dollars for marks. Gold sold briskly in Paris but at a slower rate than last Tues-day before the Paris markets were closed to dampen specula-tion.

Of You" MANNINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — A puff of smoke, triggered by a small explo-sion early today, ruled out the immediate possibility of sending more teams into deep mine shafts to look for 78 men missing for first 78 men missing for five

"Scare

Hell Out

days. "These puffs are what scare the hell out of you," coal com-pany official Alder Spotte toid a news conference today. He said rescue teams, such as the two which probed the mine's tunnels Sunday, could be walk-ing into "the dangers of fire from the explosion." The small blast blew smoke

from the explosion." The small blast blew smoke from the Llewellyn shaft, scene of the great impact when the first explosion ripped the Moun-taineer Coal Co. No. 9 mine last Wednesday. The 99-man mid-night shift was about to finish its tour when the explosion hit. The other 21 managed to reach safety or were rescued.

Clipped By:

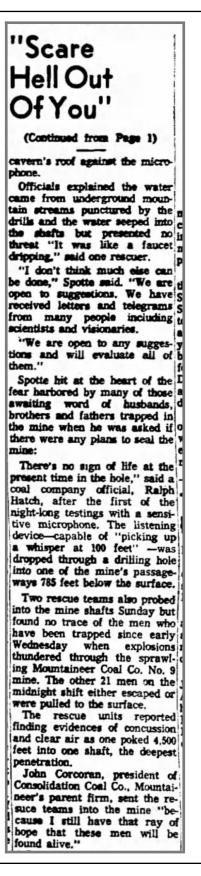
usmra\_rob Jul 11, 2025

1968 Consol No 9 Mine Explosion NEWS7

TALKS TO NEWSMEN — John Corcaran, president of Consoladation Coal Co., tells newsmen where a mine rescue team entered the Consol No. 9 mine Sunday night in search 01 78 miners trapped since Wednesday. (AP Wirephoto)







1968 Consol No 9 Mine Explosion NEWS7

Clipped By: usmra\_rob Jul 11, 2025

Corcoran said the teams could enter because of "conditions stabilizing" in the mine. He noted there had been no explosions since Friday morning and smoke from the mine's portals had diminished considerably. At 2 a.m. today, James Mc-Cartney, Consolidation public relations officer, announced "no further exploration of the underground areas of the mine by the underground rescue teams at this time, pending further information." Officials indicatedi they would analyze air samples taken from the mine before deciding whether to probe deeper. "It is felt that it would be endangering the lives of the mine rescue teams unduly to have them procede further into the mine than they already have," McCartney said. McCartney read a statement issued after a meeting in nearby Monongah of Consolidation officials, representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and West Virginia Department of Mines, and the United Mine Workers union. There had been no contact with any of the men since the first of the chain of explosions Wednesday. Several explosions followed within a few hours and another blast sent tremors throughout the area early Friday. Sending the rescue teams and the success of the drill teams in poking through the nearly 800 feet of shale and earth brought renewed hope to those who awaited word of the trapped men. "I never felt to so good in my life," said Mrs. June Heflin whose brother, Wayne Minor, is trapped. "I know there's a real chance now." "We must evaluate and see what else can be done," Corcoran said

1968 Consol No 9 Mine Explosion NEWS7

Clipped By: usmra\_rob Jul 11, 2025