

MINING - ACCIDENTS

1986

~~SEP~~ — DEC.
FEB

W/E ARGUS 20/9/86

Foam fires SA has details on mine deaths

2/2

Weekend Argus
Correspondent

DURBAN — Warnings about the dangers of the foam shaft-lining which appears to have been responsible for the Kinross mine disaster are available in South Africa. The foam has caused deaths in mining accidents elsewhere before.

At least 177 miners died this week after the polyurethane lining ignited at Kinross gold

mine at Evander, east of Johannesburg

It was the worst gold mine disaster in South Africa

In the United States, 10 mine fires have involved the foam, which was first introduced in the early 1960s

The American National Materials Advisory Board investigated the foam and other polymers and recommended that they be replaced with safer materials. The report by the committee — comprising a large number of experts — was published in 1980. A copy is obtainable at the Johannesburg reference library.

It says the foam is flammable and subject to spontaneous combustion and its decomposition represents a significant toxic hazard.

Yet, on Thursday a spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said "Polyurethane and other products used in mines have until now been regarded by mines as safe."

And on Friday the heads of Gencor, which owns Kinross, said they were not aware of any tests on the polyurethane which lined the shaft.

But in another interview in which he was asked why the mine ignored warnings about the product, Dr Con Fauconier, Gencor's head of mining, metallurgical and medical services, said he had known of the possible dangers of the foam.

"That is why the mine used a polyurethane material that was treated with flame retardent chemicals. Perhaps these chemicals have deteriorated over a period of time," he said.

The American report says that although various substances are added to the foam to control its fire risk, high surface heat can "almost instantaneously turn it into flammable gases."

The executive chairman of Gencor, Mr Derek Keys, said at a Press conference that the group had thought it was operating at a "reasonable level of safety. This accident has made us think otherwise and we are going back to our safety programme and will reconsider every aspect of it."

A spokesman for the Underground Officials' Association said the safety of the foam had never been queried.

In spite of a recommended deadline by the Government Engineer for the introduction of life-saving, self-rescue masks on gold mines by this year and coal mines by last year, the Chamber of Mines is still in the "testing" stage.

A top mining engineer said the masks, which give wearers a 30-minute oxygen supply, could have averted the loss of so many lives at Kinross. But Gencor says local conditions require a special adaptation and extensive research.

Meanwhile, the polyurethane foam is being removed from the mine.

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is to bring in international mining experts to help in the judicial inquiry into the Kinross mining disaster.

The union's general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said the union would soon bring in mining experts from Britain and Germany.

The Chamber of Mines said yesterday the South African mining industry would be happy to open its doors to any team of international mine safety experts

The chamber was responding to an announcement from Bonn

Experts barred claims NUM

that the West German Foreign Minister, Dr Hans Dietrich Genscher, had asked the South African Government to permit a commission of deep-level mine experts to inspect the Kinross Mine to determine if poor safety standards contributed to the disaster there this week

However, according to a report late last night, Mr Ramaphosa said Gencor, the owners of the mine, had refused NUM's mining experts

access to the Kinross mine to conduct an inspection

He said that on the day after the accident Gencor had agreed to allow NUM experts from Germany, Sweden and Great Britain to inspect the mine

Yesterday afternoon "they called us to say they could not see their way clear for our experts to inspect the mine" The experts were already on standby to

visit the mine he said

Mr Ramaphosa also accused Gencor of "going against their promise" to stop production at Kinross mine

He said workers had been "compelled" to go underground on Thursday but yesterday refused to do so

The NUM has called for a national day of mourning on October 1 to honour the 177 victims

Mr Ramaphosa said the union had approached the chamber to close all mines on October 1 He said NUM members would still observe the day should the chamber refuse — Sapa

2/14 27/10/86 (212)

Miners crushed in shaft accident

JOHANNESBURG—Six black gold miners were crushed to death when a plummeting kibble fell on top of them at the foot of an 800 m ventilation shaft at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine yesterday.

At least four of the rest of the 32-man team were seriously injured. They were rescued and admitted to Robinson Hospital.

The chairman of the owners of the mine — Johannesburg Consolidated Investments — Mr Gordon Waddell, said the empty kibble (a huge bucket used for carrying men and equipment up and down a shaft) was on its way up to ground level when the heavy steel cable support-

ing it broke, weighed down the kibble and caused it to crash to the bottom.

'We're still not exactly sure what happened, but an inquiry will be held,' he said.

The men were trapped for eight hours before the hoist winder drum was repaired and an emergency kibble lowered a rescue team down the shaft.

Mr Waddell said rescue operations were proceeding slowly because the dead and injured had to be lifted through a narrow opening above the kibble.

The shaft is being constructed by a company called Shaftsinkers — (Sapa)

Five feared dead in ^{BUSDAY} ²¹² mine shaft accident

MICK COLLINS

FIVE men were feared dead and many more injured in an accident at the Randfontein Estate Gold Mine yesterday.

Rescue workers were still battling late yesterday to free the remainder of 32 men trapped underground.

The accident happened when a kibble crashed 800m down the shaft on to the men working below.

Mine spokesman Gordon Waddell said: "Over 120 tons of steel rope also crashed down.

"We are lucky our feared casualties are not worse.

"The injuries appear serious. With that amount of steel falling many of the shaft-sinkers lost arms and legs.

"The shaft is being sunk by a private concern, Shaft Sinkers Pty (Ltd).

cut. Times 27/10/86
Six killed in mine disaster

Own Correspondent *(212)*

JOHANNESBURG. — At least six men were killed and an undisclosed number injured yesterday in an accident at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine, west of Johannesburg, company officials said.

The accident occurred during shaft-sinking operations.

Rescue workers were still toiling late last night to free many of the injured, trapped about 800m underground

The accident happened at 7.40am yesterday when an empty kibble went out of control and crashed down the shaft on to 32 men

By 7pm yesterday, 17 miners had been brought to the surface and rescue operations were continuing. A spokesman said progress was slow as only one kibble was in operation, which could accommodate only two stretchers at a time.

Rescuers were being hampered by 120 tons of steel cable which had also fallen down the shaft.

Equipment for Kinross autopsies acceptable

Equipment used in the autopsies of the 177 Kinross mine disaster victims was acceptable, the Department of Health has said

In a statement made yesterday, it said: "The Department of National Health and Population Development took note of the Press reports surrounding the post-mortem examinations and is investigating the allegations made therein."

The department said it had been established that the equipment used in the post-mortems was acceptable equipment used for all post-mortem examinations.

All findings would be made available as evidence at the time of the inquest, the statement said. — Sapa

CAPC - Trips
24/10/86

Kinross 212 autopsy equipment 'acceptable'

PRETORIA — Equipment used in carrying out autopsies on the miners who died in the Kinross mine on September 16 was "acceptable", the Department of Health said yesterday

Reacting to reports "in respect of anomalies during post-mortem examinations on the victims of the Kinross mine disaster," the department said

"The department took notice of the press reports surrounding the post-mortem examinations which followed the Kinross mine disaster and is investigating the allegations made therein"

It added "At this stage it has already been established that the equipment used in carrying out the post-mortems was acceptable equipment used for all post-mortem examinations" All findings would be made available as evidence at the time of the inquest — Sapa

Gas, batons after Machel

meeting

CARL TRIPS 24/10/86

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[Handwritten initials]

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Teargas was fired and hundreds of students were baton-charged yesterday at the University of the Witwatersrand after a memorial meeting honouring Mozambique's President Samora Machel

The meeting, held in the Great Hall, was addressed by UDF president Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Mr Aubrey Mokoena of the Release Mandela Campaign and the Rev Frank Chikane of the UDF

After the meeting, students singing freedom songs marched towards the entrance of Wits, but were confronted by police who ordered them to disperse

Professor Mervyn Shear, deputy vice-chancellor in charge of Student Affairs, tried in vain to mediate between students and the police before the baton charge

At the lunch-time meeting, Mrs Sisulu said the death of Mr Machel was not only a tragic event but a "setback for the struggle"

"We did not see Samora as a foreign leader, or head of an African state, but one of our own comandos in our struggle against racism and exploitation," she said

Mr Chikane said Mr Machel had died under "mysterious and controversial" circumstances

He said blacks were "getting impatient" for change and called on South Africans and Mozambicans to resist the "aggression from Pretoria"

Pathologist didn't want NUM report published

A pathologist retained by lawyers acting for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), who prepared a report on the manner in which autopsies were conducted on some Kinross mine victims, says he never intended the report to become public.

Dr J B C Botha, the state pathologist of Namibia, has instructed the union's lawyers to make it clear that the report was written on the expectation that it be passed on to the relevant government authorities. He did not intend it to become part of public debate.

The union, which commissioned the report from Dr Botha and referred it to the Department of National Health and the Government Mining Engineer, took the decision to make the report public after certain pronouncements made this week by Gencor, owners of the mine.

"Dr Botha would have preferred for the matter to remain departmental until the outcome of any judicial proceedings," said union lawyers.

JUST Kinross shaft NUM

212
CITY PRESS

19/10/86

GENCOR must close the No 2 shaft at Kinross gold mine until there's been an enquiry into the two fires, National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

Ramaphosa was commenting on this week's fires at the No 2 shaft, when 2 000 workers were brought to the surface.

Last month 177 miners died in an underground fire at the mine, sparking an outcry at safety conditions underground.

Gencor confirmed that 2 000 workers had to be evacuated following "two separate and minor fire incidents of unknown origin" at the mine's No 2 shaft.

Ramaphosa said workers' lives are "continually being endangered because of management's neglect of safety standards."

He reiterated NUM's call for a judicial commission of inquiry into the safety standards at Kinross mine "with the participation of international safety experts as proposed by the European Community's Foreign Ministers".

In a statement, Gencor said there was no danger at the mine and nobody was affected. It said the men were taken to the surface because of last month's accident at the mine.

The fires - which occurred on the 15th level - were in short sections of a rubber cover of an overhead electric locomotive line, the statement said.

According to the statement, the cause of the fires was not known.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Mines dismissed charges by Britain's Granada television program that the safety rating system used in SA mines is "bogus" and is not widely used elsewhere.

Chamber Mine Safety Division head Anthony Gill said bogus is "an ugly word to give to something which prevents people being killed".

The program also said the mine's safety system -



NUM's Cyril Ramaphosa

introduced with the assistance of the US Loss Control Institute - was not used in European mines and was employed by only a few mines in the US.

Gill said the system, known as the International Safety Rating System, was used by the Canadian mining industry, the world's second largest.

The ISR was also used in Chile and in about 35 mines in Australia.

"It is used in some major mining areas around the world. In other words, it works well," he said.

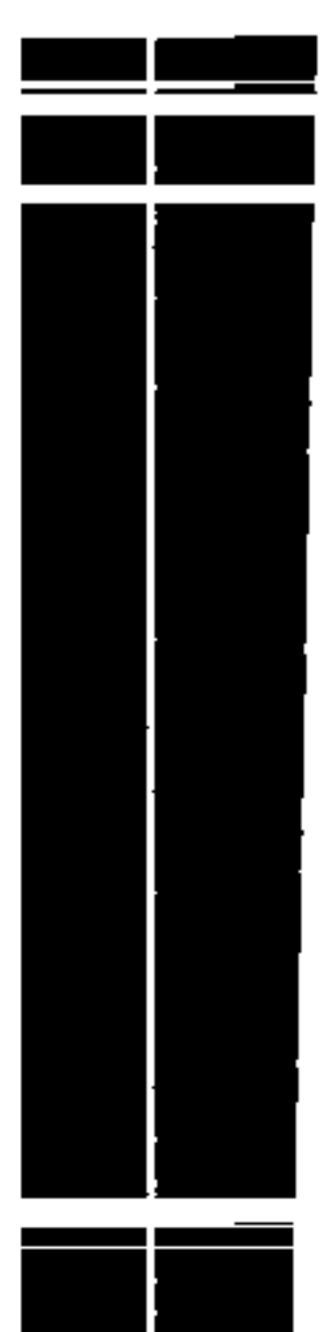
The system had been adapted for local conditions since its introduction, Gill said.

He said that, in the first six months of 1986, South African collieries administered by the chamber had recorded 0.24 fatalities for every 1 000 workers, compared with 0.64 internationally and 0.62 in the US, the world's largest coal producer. Sapa

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really Luis Posada, "one of those for the explosion of an urban airliner in which over 70 people

blew up short-off from a stop-bados Posada for eight years in for the crime last year said Posada is long-term crimi-



Govt moves on Kinross autopsies

212
Cape Town 18/10/86

JOHANNESBURG — The National Health Minister, Dr Willie van Niekerk, has called for details of alleged deficiencies in post-mortems on Kinross mine-disaster victims "Until I am *au fait* with the facts I cannot comment," he added yesterday.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a government inquiry into autopsies on 33 bodies at the Springs mortuary on September 22. The 33 were among the 177 who died in a fire at the mine on September 16.

A Granada Television film on the Kinross disaster was screened in Britain this week, claiming bodies had been stacked and industrial bolt cutters used during post-mortems in Springs.

Gencor, owners of Kinross, said the film appeared to contain unfounded, unsubstantiated and biased statements. Mr Bruce Evans, chief executive of Gencor's gold and uranium division, also said reports on the way the autopsies were carried out were "blatant untruths".

Yesterday Mr Evans said he still believed the film contained a number of biased and unfounded statements but that Gencor's information about the manner in which autopsies were carried out appeared to have been "incorrect".

Dr J B C Botha, state pathologist of Namibia, who represented NUM at the Springs post-mortems, found serious deficiencies in the equipment.

Dr Botha said in a report to the union's lawyers that bodies were stacked on top of each other, resulting in post-mortem injuries which were difficult to distinguish from pre-death injuries.

He also found the bodies had not been refrigerated, decomposition had set in and industrial bolt-cutters had been used — Sapa

Minister calls for autopsy row details

JOHANNESBURG—The National Health Minister, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said yesterday he had called for details of alleged deficiencies regarding certain postmortems on Kinross mine disaster victims

'Until I am au fait with the facts I cannot comment,' he said

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for an urgent inquiry by the department and the Government mining engineer into the way in which postmortems were carried out on 33 bodies at the Springs mortuary on September 22

The 33 were among the 177 who died in a fire at the mine on September 16. Other postmortems were carried out at Bethal and Standerton

Attention focused on the postmortems in Springs after a Granada Television film on the Kinross disaster was screened in Britain this week. The

film claimed bodies had been stacked on top of one another and that industrial bolt cutters had been used during postmortems

Gencor, owners of Kinross, said the film appeared to contain a number of unfounded, unsubstantiated and biased statements. Mr Bruce Evans, chief executive of Gencor's gold and uranium division, also said reports were 'blatant untruths'

Yesterday Mr Evans said he still believed the film contained a number of biased and unfounded statements but that Gencor's information about the manner in which postmortems were carried out appeared to have been 'incorrect'

Dr J B C Botha, the State pathologist of South West Africa, who represented the union at the postmortems in Springs, found serious deficiencies in the equipment available to perform the postmortems

18/10/86 2/2 N/M

17/10/86
SMR (2/2)

Minister wants autopsies facts

Political Correspondent

Health Minister Dr Willie van Niekerk has called for details of alleged irregularities during autopsies on Kinross mine fire victims

He said today newspaper reports had alerted him but he could not comment until he was acquainted with the facts

Sheryl Raine reports that the National Union of Mineworkers has requested an urgent investigation by the Department of Health and the Government mining engineer

Dr J B C Botha, the Namibian pathologist who represented the union at the autopsies, said he found serious deficiencies in the equipment available to perform the examinations.

He said bodies were stacked due to lack of space, causing injuries difficult to distinguish from pre-death wounds

The bodies had not been refrigerated and many had begun to decompose.

Gencor, owners of Kinross, said allegations that bodies had been stacked and industrial bolt-cutters used during the autopsies were "blatant untruths"

Gencor was asked to comment on Dr Botha's claims but has not responded.

Disaster mine autopsies row

N/M, 2/10/86 (212)

JOHANNESBURG—A storm of protest has erupted over the way in which autopsies were carried out on some black mineworkers who died in the Kinross gold mine disaster.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday released a highly critical report written by the pathologist who represented the union in the postmortem process, claiming serious deficiencies in the equipment used and the tests carried out.

'Concern about the matter in which the autopsies were carried out and a request for an urgent investigation were conveyed to the Department of National Health and Population Development, as well as the Government Mining Engineer this week,' said a spokesman for the law firm Cheadle, Thomson and Hayson.

'In the light of developments this week the union has instructed us to release the pathologist's report before receiving an official reply from the authorities.'

The union's pathologist, Dr J B C Botha, who is also the State Pathologist of South West Africa, reported the following in respect of autopsies performed on 33 victims of the disaster at the State mortuary in Springs on September 22.

Stacked up

'The bodies had not been adequately preserved prior to autopsy and in many, decomposition had already commenced. I do not know where the bodies had been stored as the Springs mortuary has, to the best of my knowledge, only refrigeration facilities for 24 bodies.

'The bodies were stacked on top of each other in four piles on the floor because of the inadequate space available. This resulted in postmortem injuries which were at times exceedingly difficult to distinguish from antemortem lesions.

'The mortuary is inadequately equipped for the performance of autopsies. Skulls are opened with an agricultural bow saw as no electric saw is available, while bolt cutters are used to open the thorax as cartilage shears have not been provided. The scale provided for weighing organs is both obsolete and broken while the mortuary staff are expected to weigh the bodies on an antiquated scale, calibrated in pounds and ounces, of the type used to weigh bags of grain.

Inexplicable

'No specimen containers were available for the taking of blood or tissue samples.

'The Kinross mine accident was of national importance and may have far-reaching implications for the South African mining industry. I therefore find it inexplicable that the postmortem examinations of the victims were not performed with more thought and co-ordination.'

Dr Botha said that he believed all the bodies should have been transferred to a central point with adequate facilities.

A State pathologist should have been appointed to supervise and co-ordinate the autopsies by representatives of the National Centre of Occupational Health and the Department of Manpower.

Details of the positions of the bodies when found in the mine and circumstances of the accident should have been given to the people conducting the autopsies.

Blood samples should have been obtained from all the deceased and not just a random few so that a systematic analysis of the toxic gases in selected victims from different parts of the mine shaft could be performed.

A spokesman for Gencor said last night they were studying the allegations and a statement would probably be issued sometime today. However, he said he wanted to point out that autopsies were performed by the health authorities and not the mine.

A television film shown in Britain this week said bodies of black mineworkers were piled on top of one another and industrial bolt cutters were used to carry out autopsies.

In response to the television allegations Gencor said 'We find it distasteful that anyone should go to such lengths to sensationalise this tragic accident and cause further distress to the families of the victims' — (Sapa)

Autopsies on 33 Kinross victims were 'deficient'

JOHANNESBURG — A storm of protest has erupted over the way in which autopsies were carried out on some black mineworkers who died in the Kinross mine disaster which claimed 177 lives

Lawyers acting on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday released a highly critical report written by the pathologist who represented the union in the post-mortem process claiming "serious deficiencies"

"Concern about the manner in which the autopsies were carried out and a request for an urgent investigation were conveyed to the Department of National Health and Population Development, as well as the government mining engineer this week," said a spokesman for the law firm

"In the light of developments this week the union has instructed us to release the pathologist's report before receiving an official reply from the authorities"

The union's pathologist, Dr J B C Botha, the State pathologist of Namibia, reported in respect of

autopsies performed on 33 victims of the disaster at the State mortuary in Springs on September 22 "The bodies had not been adequately preserved prior to autopsy and in many, decomposition had already commenced I do not know where the bodies had been stored as the Springs mortuary has, to the best of my knowledge, only refrigeration facilities for 24 bodies

"The bodies were stacked on top of each other in four piles on the floor because of the inadequate space available This resulted in post-mortem injuries which were at times exceedingly difficult to distinguish from ante-mortem lesions

"The mortuary is inadequately equipped for the performance of autopsies Skulls are opened with an agricultural bow saw as no electric saw is available, while bolt cutters are used as cartilage shears have not been provided The scale for weighing organs is both obsolete and broken while the mortuary staff

are expected to weigh the bodies on an antiquated scale, calibrated in pounds and ounces, of the type used to weigh bags of grain

"No specimen containers were available for the taking of blood or tissue samples

"The Kinross mine accident was of national importance and may have far-reaching implications for the South African mining industry I therefore find it inexplicable that the post-mortem examinations of the victims were not performed with more thought and co-ordination"

Comment from Gencor, owners of Kinross, on the allegations was not available Neither was comment available from the Department of National Health and Population Development

□ The NUM has demanded the closure of the Number Two shaft at the Kinross mine, where two underground fires on Wednesday forced the evacuation of 2 000 mineworkers The fires broke out at the 15th level, the scene of last month's disaster — Sapa

Gencor: electric fault caused fires

AP
7/10/81
2/2

JOHANNESBURG — Wednesday's two fires in Shaft Two at Kinross gold mine were caused by an electrical fault in the overhead trolley line that caused the rubber insulation shroud to burn, a statement from a Gencor executive, Mr Bruce Evans, said yesterday

Gencor said the fault "had been rectified" and the trolley line was in operation by yesterday evening

"It has been confirmed that the minor amounts of smoke involved contained no toxic gases," the statement said

Gencor described the fires as "minor"

Both Wednesday night's and yesterday's shifts had returned underground and work in the shaft "proceeds as normal"

No cause for further delay or disruption of operation was foreseen, the statement said

A National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman said the union had called on Gencor to close the number Two Shaft where the fires caused the evacuation of 2 000 workers yesterday

The NUM spokesman confirmed that workers had gone underground on Wednesday and yesterday morning

● Protests have erupted over the way in which autopsies were carried out on some mineworkers who died in the Kinross gold mine disaster

Lawyers acting on behalf of the NUM yesterday released a critical report written by the pathologist who represented the union in the post-mortem process, claiming serious deficiencies in the equipment used and the tests carried out.

Concern about the matter in which the autopsies were carried out and a request for an urgent investigation were conveyed to the Department of National Health and Population Development, as well as the government mining engineer this week, said a spokesman for the law firm Cheadle, Thomson and Hayson

"In the light of developments this week the union has instructed us to release the pathologist's report before receiving an official reply from the authorities"

Comment on the allegations was not available from Gencor — Sapa



17/10/88 WEEKLY MAIL (212)

Kinross autopsies: Bodies found decomposed

By SEFAKO NYAKA

THE bodies of 33 victims of the Kinross Mine disaster were found stacked on top of each other in four piles on the floor when a pathologist conducted autopsies at the Springs State Mortuary last month.

In a report submitted to lawyers for the National Union of Mineworkers, the state pathologist said the bodies had not been adequately preserved prior to the autopsy and in many decomposition had already commenced.

Dr JBC Botha had sharp words in his report for the conditions of the bodies and the facilities available to him for the post mortem.

"I do not know where the bodies had been stored as the Springs Mortuary has, to the best of my knowledge, only

refrigeration facilities for 24 bodies," he said.

The stacking of bodies on top of each other "resulted in post mortem injuries which were at times exceedingly difficult to distinguish from ante mortem lesions."

"The mortuary is totally inadequately equipped for the performance of autopsies, skulls are opened with an agricultural bow saw as no electric saw is available while bolt cutters are used to open the thorax as cartilage shears have not been provided."

The scale provided for weighing organs is both obsolete and broken while the mortuary staff is expected to

weigh bodies on an antiquated scale, calibrated in pounds and ounces, of the type used to weigh bags of grain, he said.

No specimen containers were available for blood or tissue samples, according to Botha, and insufficient protective clothing was provided.

He described the facilities as 'unacceptable' and "not conducive to the performance of thorough autopsies."

"The Kinross mine accident is of national importance and may have far-reaching implications for the South African mining industry. I therefore find it inexplicable that the post mortem examinations of the victims were not performed with more thought and coordination."

The bodies were those of 33 of the 177 miners who died when a fire broke out at the Gencor-owned Kinross mine recently. The same mine was evacuated again this week when two small fires broke out in the number 15 shaft.

It was reported last night that miners had returned to work following the two fires on Wednesday.

The fires were caused by an electrical fault due to moisture in the overhead trolley line, causing rubber insulation to burn, a Gencor representative said.

"Work in the shaft now proceeds as normal and no cause for further delays or disruption of operations is foreseen," he said.

SOME 750 workers will be allowed to take up their jobs in SA as a result of the recent talks between the Chamber of Mines and government on the recruitment ban on workers from Mozambique.

17/10/86 BUSINESS Respite for 750 miners

But this seems to be the only concession granted after a week of talks.

The first official statement released by the chamber after the talks said the 750 Mozambican workers had been recruited at the time of the government ban but were not permitted to enter SA.

The chamber's President, E P Gush said: "As a result of these negotiations, clarity on this issue has been obtained and some 750 mine workers who were affected will now be permitted to enter SA and take up their jobs."

Gush said the chamber had been discussing the situation with the SA government since last week.

Chamber spokesmen have not said whether they are expecting further concessions or whether talks will continue.

Gush also made the announcement at a function at East Rand Proprietary Mines Ltd (ERPM) in Boksburg.

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

He said: "For the best part of the past 100 years Mozambique has been one of the most important sources of labour for SA's gold mines and wages earned on the gold mines have been the main source of foreign earning for Mozambique."

"It is a matter of great regret therefore that this relationship between our mining industry and the people of Mozambique has been threatened because certain political organisations are exploiting a situation of considerable volatility and of considerable weakness in the Mozambican government's position on the one hand and the sustained pressure being encountered by the SA government on the other."

● To Page 2 →

Respite for 750 miners

17/10/86
He said all South Africans should be aware of the very great debt owed to the hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans who have worked on the mines and helped sustain the industry in difficult times.

Gush said Mozambicans had formed a large proportion of the ERPM work force from its inception 93 years ago, as they did on other Witwatersrand gold

17/10/86 ← ● From Page 1
mines, especially the Central Witwatersrand mines, many of which have long since closed

"Today Mozambicans constitute about 43% of ERPM's workforce," he said

"I would also like all Mozambican mine workers in our industry to know that we appreciate them as people and as workers"

976 times 16/10/86
Emergency
at Kinross 42

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG —
About 2000 men were evacuated yesterday when underground fires triggered an emergency at the Kinross mine, scene of South Africa's worst gold mine disaster

The men were brought to the surface following "two separate and minor fire incidents of unknown origin", according to a statement from the General Mining Union Corporation

16/10/86
N/M (2/2)

Miners evacuated after fires at Kinross

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—About 2 000 miners were evacuated from the No 2 Shaft at Kinross gold mine at 11 a m yesterday after two 'separate and minor' fires broke out at 15 Level near the scene of last month's disaster in which 177 people died

A Gencor spokesman said the fires were extinguished immediately and that workers were not in any danger. However, in view of 'possible employee sensitivity' after last month's disaster, the shaft's entire workforce was removed to the surface.

The cause of the fires has not been established. According to the spokesman, the rubber cover of overhead electric locomotive lines ignited and a small amount of smoke entered some underground workings.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) last night said it was 'deeply shocked' at the incident, and called for the closure of No 2 Shaft at Kinross until the inquiry into last month's disaster was concluded. The Gencor spokesman, however, said he did not see why operations should not resume almost immediately.

Chamber of Mines rejects claim on safety measures

DD 15/10/86

JOHANNESBURG — The Chamber of Mines has dismissed charges by a British television company that the safety rating system used in South African mines is "bogus" — and is not widely used elsewhere

"Bogus is an ugly word to give to something which prevents people being killed," said the head of the chamber's mine safety division, Mr Anthony Gill

Since the introduction of the safety system in the late 1970s, injuries on South African mines had halved — and there had been a "dramatic" drop in the number of fatalities, Mr Gill said

He was reacting to the

screening this week, by Britain's Granada television, of a programme blaming the Kinross mine disaster on management negligence — and describing the safety rating used by South African mines as "bogus"

The programme also said the system, introduced with the assistance of the United States Loss Control Institute, was not used in European mines and was employed by only a few mines in the US

Mr Gill said the system, known as the International Safety Rating system (ISR), was used by the Canadian mining industry, which was the

world's second largest

The ISR was also used in Chile and in about 35 mines in Australia

He said that in the first six months of 1986, South African collieries administered by the chamber had recorded 0,24 fatalities per 1 000 workers, compared with 0,62 for all South African collieries and 0,64 in the US, the world's largest coal producer

On member gold mines, the fatality rate was 0,81 per 1 000 workers, "a more than significant reduction" on the figure before introduction of the system, according to Mr Gill — Sapa

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, EASTERN PROVINCE

<p>Parties Employer Organisation: the Eastern Province Automobile Manufacturers' Association Trade Union: S.A. Yster, Staal en Verwante Nywerhede Unie; National Automobile & Allied Workers Union</p>	<p>Area Magisterial Districts of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage.</p>
<p>Funds</p>	
<p>1. Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Fund with employer and employee contributions, for use in times of lay-offs.</p>	

Criticism of mine safety standards slammed

JOHANNESBURG—The Chamber of Mines has dismissed charges by a British television company that the safety rating system used in South African mines is 'bogus' and is not widely used elsewhere

'Bogus is an ugly word to give to something which prevents people being killed,' said Mr Anthony Gill, head of the chamber's mine safety division

Since the introduction of the safety system in the late 1970s, injuries on South African mines had halved and there had been a 'dramatic' drop in the number of fatalities, Mr Gill said

Not used

He was reacting to the screening on Monday night by Britain's Granada television of a programme blaming the Kinross mine disaster on management negligence and describing the safety rating used by South African mines as 'bogus'

The programme also said the system, introduced with the assistance of the US Loss Control Institute, was not used in European mines and was employed by only a few mines in the US

Mr Gill said the system, known as the International Safety Rating system, was used by the Canadian mining industry, which was the world's second largest

The ISR was also used in Chile and in about 35 mines in Australia

Works

'It is used in some major mining areas around the world. In other words, it works well,' he said

The system had been adapted for local conditions since its introduction

He said that in the first six months of 1986 South African collieries administered by the chamber had recorded 0,24 fatalities for each 1 000 workers, compared with 0,64 internationally and 0,62 in the US, the world's largest coal producer

On member gold mines, the fatality rate was 0,81 for each 1 000 workers, 'a more than significant reduction' on the figure before introduction of the system, according to Mr Gill — (Sapa)

One dead, 25 hurt in accidents at refineries

By Mike Siluma

A worker died and more than 25 had medical attention after accidents at two East Rand platinum refineries yesterday.

Gencor confirmed that Mr G C Fourie (49), a process operator, died — apparently from a heart attack — after the accident at the Impala plant and 25 other workers were kept under observation for a few hours.

Two other employees involved in the accident were still in hospital today.

A Gencor spokesman said a spill of processing liquid was involved but the accident had minimal effect on production.

At Matthey Rustenburg Refineries, Wadeville, eight workers were affected by chlorine fumes from a burst pipe, the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) reported.

CWIU spokesman Miss Chris Bonner said eight workers were

affected and three of them were sent to hospital.

Miss Bonner said evacuation procedures at the plant were inadequate and had been raised with management about a month ago. Nothing had been done to correct the situation.

She said tight security at the plant allowed only security personnel to open exits. Workers wanting to escape would not be able to do so because they had to wait for security men to open the doors.

A company spokesman confirmed the accident but declined to comment on the allegations about evacuation procedures.

The spokesman said three workers were affected.

●Late editions of *The Star* yesterday wrongly reported Miss Bonner's comments about safety as concerning the Impala refinery. In fact she was referring to the situation at Matthey Rustenburg.

Maize dust inferno victim dies

By Abel Mabelane

One of 13 people injured when maize-meal powder exploded at the Jabula Food factory in Springs has died.

Colleagues identified her as Ms Ellen Madonsela (25).

She suffered third-degree burns and died in the Far East Rand Hospital, where the injured were taken after the explosion on Monday.

Two of those hurt have been discharged. The remaining 10, some still in critical condition, were transferred to a Johannesburg hospital.

Springs fire chief Mr Johan Venter said the explosion was caused by static electricity igniting the fine powder suspended in the air.

Mr Jabu Ngwenya, who escaped with burns on the wrist and temple, told *The Star*: "I was in the mill tower when the explosion occurred. There was a loud bang followed by thick black smoke and fire."

"We all ran for the exit and in the process almost tripped over each other in our rush to get away from the inferno."

The building where the explosion occurred was badly damaged.

BUSDAM 13/10/86

Genkor's donation is 'blood money'

NUM line on Kinross 'hostile'

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ALAN FINE

THE National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) response to the Kinross mine disaster has been marked by uncompromising hostility towards Gencor — owner of Kinross — and the mining industry in general.

Union spokesmen have described the accident in harsh terms and referred to Gencor's donation of R2m to a trust fund for families of victims as "blood money".

The union criticised arrangements made by the company for union-appointed experts to investigate the scene of the accident, and alleged that Kinross miners wanting to attend a memorial meeting a week after the accident were forced to work at gunpoint.

There is also a belief that NUM orchestrated the disruption of the memorial meeting organised by the company.

The accident and its aftermath have placed severe strains on a relationship which had been at a low ebb for more than a year. The dismissals of NUM members at Gencor mines during the 1985 wage strike, and the mass dismissals at Impala Platinum in January this year, led the union to cite Gencor as an "enemy company" at its annual confer-

ence in April.

Ironically, the disaster occurred only 16 days after a new top-management team — which appears to support a less hard-line industrial relations approach — took over the reins at Gencor.

There is a feeling within Gencor management that many NUM statements since the disaster have over-stepped the line between a legitimate expression of anger and an attempt to make political capital of the disaster.

"We understand the union's anguish at the deaths. But they do not have a monopoly on it. Kinross was an unmitigated disaster for us too," says Gencor corporate services director Naas Steenkamp.

Steenkamp says Gencor does not plan to respond specifically to recent union statements. "Gencor has signalled that it views the union as a legitimate interested party regarding safety matters, and would like calm and reasoned interaction with it on these issues," he says.

He believes the two should have a "co-operative" relationship on safety matters, rather than using the issue for "scoring points over one another in public."

'We won't stand for another Kinross - ever'

By MONO BADELA

"THERE was no need for any of the 177 miners to have died in Kinross gold mine," SA Council of Churches general secretary Beyers Naude told hundreds who gathered at Cosatu Hall in Johannesburg on Wednesday

Naude said he could not believe such a tragedy could happen

"It must never happen again," he told the crowd at the emotional service

Naude called on the government to allow experts to conduct a thorough investigation into the mine disaster

ter "Even if it costs an extra half million rands, it is worth it to send experts to South Africa to investigate the disaster" he said

A coffin draped in black and inscribed *Safety before Profits*, was carried shoulder-high by members of the

National Union of Mineworkers

They entered the hall singing *Sechaba Sa Bolava* (The nation is being killed)

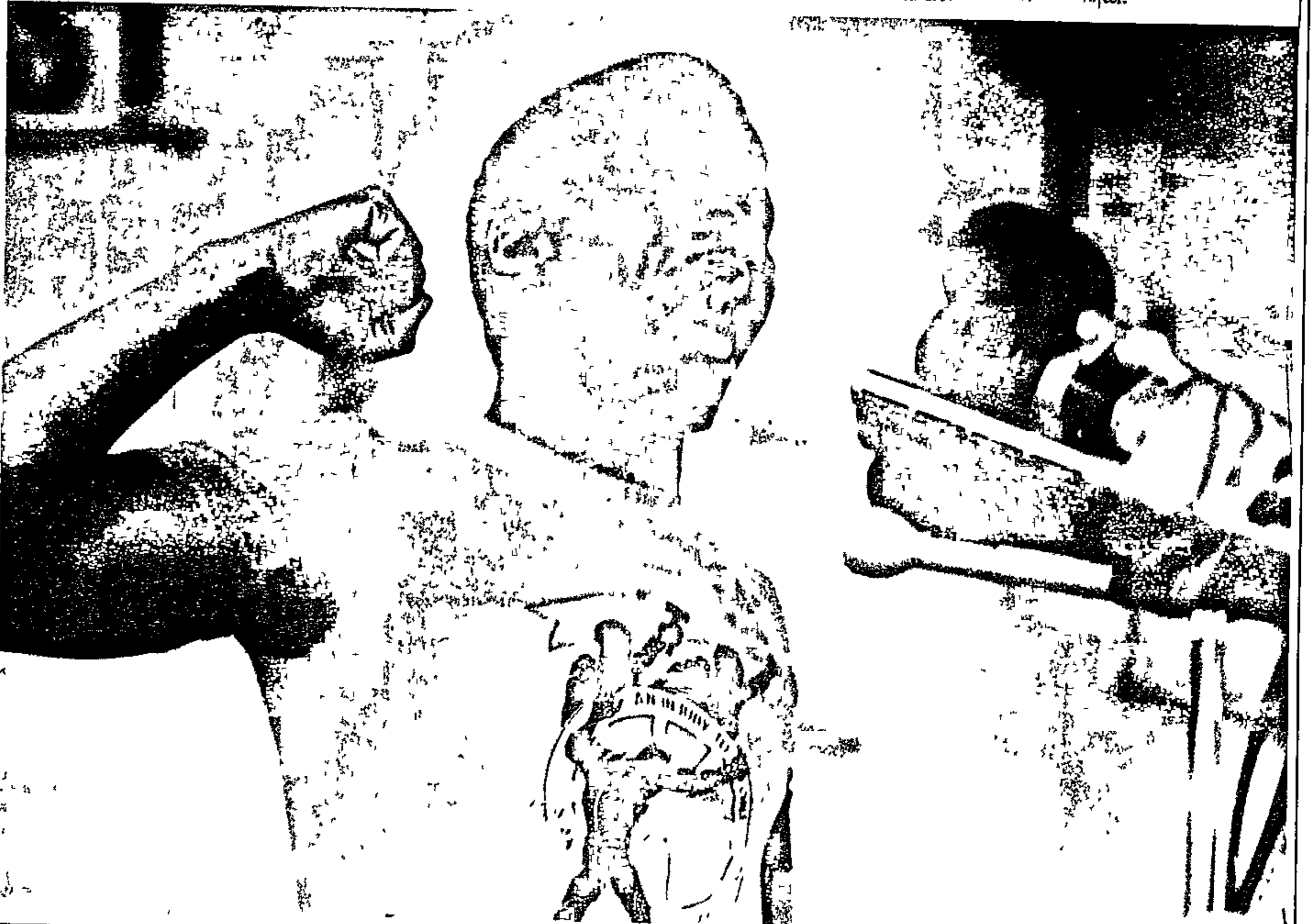
The service was characterised by the singing of freedom songs and the chanting of slogans

capitalism' "Down with Gencor" and "Up with the workers" were the order of the day

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said the whole means of production should be under the control of the working class to ensure effective safety and health measures

Naidoo said workers had gathered in the hall not only to mourn the dead, but "to rededicate ourselves to the liberation struggle"

NUM safety officer Hazzy Sibonyile said the mining houses should not 'victimise or dismiss' workers who had survived the disaster.



Leading the singing at this week's Kinross memorial service at Cosatu House East Rand shaft steward Albert Godongwana

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this week voted ing its relations

ters to be mem decided to set up ed churches edged to end a motion' con- partheid man Rev Abe tion in Cap- is being charged

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600 000 MOURN MINERS

By MONO BADELA

ABOUT 600 000 people either stayed away from work on Wednesday or observed a one to three-hour work stoppage - called by the National Union of Mineworkers to mourn the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mine disaster

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa told a Press conference that the stayaway was a "huge success"

"It was the biggest (stayaway) in the mining history," he said

Several mines from Namaqualand to Phalaborwa came to a halt on Wednesday as miners heeded the call to mourn the dead

The stayaway affected not only gold mines, but platinum, diamond, coal and other mines

The stayaway cost the mining houses about R8-million in lost profits, a spokesman for the La-



One of the 250 people who attended NUM's Cosatu House memorial

bour Monitoring Group told *City Press*

Ramaphosa said as many as 325 000 miners - more than half the total number of mineworkers in the country - stayed away in answer to the call made by their union

He said the support by unions affiliated to the Congress of SA Trade Unions raised the figure to more than 600 000 people

This figure excludes

thousands of schoolchildren who stayed away from school in sympathy with the dead miners

And according to information supplied by various mining houses at least 225 000 miners failed to report for duty

Cosatu spokesman Jay Naidoo said that as many as 275 000 Cosatu members observed the call by NUM

He said most of these people attended memorial services throughout the country

Wits University officially observed a one-minute silence at noon on Wednesday

Lecturers were asked by the university authorities to interrupt their lectures for the one-minute silence

And the Soweto Chamber of Commerce closed all shops in the township to mourn the miners

The UDF and Azapo

had called on Soweto residents to observe the day of mourning

Ramaphosa alleged at the conference that there had been arrests of mourners at some of the memorial services, but in terms of the emergency regulations details of his allegations may not be published

According to the Bureau for Information the police have no record of any arrests at any memorial services

"As far as allegations concerning police action are concerned, we refer you to Schedule 2 of Regulation 7(1) of the emergency regulations as promulgated in Government Gazette No 10429 of September 3, 1986," the bureau said

"However in Welkom and Witbank some people were removed by the police from a scene, but they are not being held," it added

300 000 miners in stayaway - LMG

AS MANY as 300 000 miners heeded Tuesday's stayaway call by the National Union of Mineworkers with massive support by Congress of SA Trade Unions affiliates the Labour Monitoring Group said this week

Non Cosatu unions which supported the day of mourning included the African Mine and Allied Workers Union and the Media Workers Association of SA

The United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation called on township residents to observe the day in some way

Gencor owners of Kinross gold mine said 70% of their 97 000 gold miners and 50% of their coal miners availed themselves of the offer to take Tuesday off is leave

In Witbank Anglo Vaal reported no abnormal ab-

senteism' while East Rand Proprietary Mines had a 3% stayaway of their 85 000 workers

Services were held at various mines and telegrams of sympathy for the families from church and political organisations were sent to NUM

NUM spokesman Marcel Golding said This worker action is unparalleled in SA labour history and demonstrates the importance of worker safety at the work place

The LMG report said A feature of the growing trade union movement has been its willingness to take strike action in support of other workers

In 1982 100 000 took action at the death in detention of Neil Aggett In 1985 107 000 took action in protest against the death of Andries Raditsela Sapa

ON Wednesday South Africa's black miners made history

According to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) about 325 000 miners responded to their call for a day of mourning for the 177 miners who died in the Kinross disaster two weeks ago. Management put the figure at 250 000.

Either way, it was — by far — the biggest-ever stayaway in the mining industry, the biggest-ever stayaway in any one industry, and the most impressive response to a safety issue by the South African union movement.

It was a clear articulation of the feelings of black miners towards the dangers of the mines where hundreds of workers die and thousands are injured every year.

The stayaway went ahead in spite of the fact that the mining houses, with the exception of Gencor, opposed the day of mourning and proposed a five minute silence instead.

Anglo American, in particular, blew it. They wasted an opportunity to co-operate with the NUM and its own workers, forcing black miners to take the day off without permission and creating an unnecessary conflict.

On the other hand, several hundred thousand members of Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) affiliates engaged in unprecedented solidarity action, arranging various stoppages, memorial meetings and demonstrations.

The Metal and Allied Workers' Union, for instance, said that 56 of its 60 organised factories took some form of action, while members of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union at Sasol held a three-hour memorial meeting on Wednesday morning.

Whatever the figure, the biggest boycott

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

The stayaway was a barometer of the NUM's ability to mobilise its huge membership of more than 300 000, which has mushroomed in the brief four years of the union's existence. It proved that it is not simply a paper membership.

The sheer size of the stayaway poses an interesting contrast with the 1983 half-hour stoppage after the Hlobane disaster — the NUM's first industrial action — which was supported by about 30 000 workers.

Wednesday's stayaway was organised in less than two weeks and the NUM claimed virtually their entire membership responded to the call.

The question that has to be asked is whether the NUM could mobilise as much support as it was able to on Wednesday for action around other pressing issues such as the current wage talks with the Chamber of Mines, the sanctions question and broader political action.

The NUM's central committee is to debate policy on sanctions this weekend, while the deadlocked annual pay talks are about to enter mediation, a last attempt to find a negotiated solution and prevent a strike in the industry.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa told a press conference on Wednesday that the stayaway was a "demonstration" of what workers

would be prepared to do on an issue which "affects them as closely as safety and political rights".

"I think that this stayaway just speaks for itself," he said. "Management should take heed that the NUM is prepared to take up any issue be it wages, political issues, be it safety, and it could mobilise workers around any issue, virtually."

Asked about the debate on sanctions, Ramaphosa said "I would hesitate to even suggest what the decision of our central committee would be."

Pressed further, he said the NUM would debate the possibility of cutting gold production, thus restricting the country's ability to weather sanctions.

He said they would also be discussing the "whole question of sanctions and how the workers and the union should respond, not only to sanctions affecting coal but to sanctions affecting gold".

The NUM's support for sanctions has met with considerable scepticism inside the industry, where management does not believe the NUM will be able to mobilise workers over an issue which would mean sacrificing jobs.

Job security ranks alongside wages and safety as an issue close to the hearts of black miners.

Indeed the NUM has so far been unable to mobilise substantial support for non-workplace issues. Both the May Day and June 16 stayaways

received negligible support among black miners, who ignored calls by the NUM.

This indicates at the very least that the kind of issue the NUM chooses to mobilise around is crucial to the success of the action.

Which is why the government's off-repeated threat to repatriate foreign miners in retaliation against sanctions could be the site of political action for the NUM.

The warnings — uttered by the government as part of a political game of sanctions one-upmanship — have threatened the job security of thousands of miners.

Meanwhile, as a barometer, Wednesday's stayaway revealed that the heart of the NUM's support remains at Anglo American's Free State gold fields.

According to management, the only Anglo gold miners who did not go out were three shafts at Vaal Reef, one at Western Deep Levels and one at President Steyn.

Support for the stayaway was extremely high at Gencor gold mines, as was to be expected.

Other key areas of union support, were the collieries of union support, militant town of Witbank, Tubotse Ferrochrome and the chrome mines in the north-eastern Transvaal, centred on the strong union township of Eerste Geluk, and the Cape diamond fields.

The most notable exceptions were the mines in the Gold Fields Group, which has superseded Gencor as the toughest nut in the industry, the collieries of Natal, and Rand Mines' Blyvooruitzicht, the home of Cosatu president and NUM vice-president Elijah Barayi.

Miners want right to sit on safety bodies

THE National Union of Mineworkers has demanded to sit on the two groups set up by the Chamber of Mines to investigate the Kinross Mine Disaster, which claimed 177 miners lives two weeks ago

Speaking at a memorial service held at the Congress of South African Trade Unions' Hall in Johannesburg on Wednesday, the NUM's Health and Safety Officer, Hazy Sibanyoni, said the commissions would otherwise just be "another talk-shop whose results won't see the light of day".

The Chamber recently announced that it would set up a Hazardous Material Unit to look into materials used underground and a Multi Disciplinary Task Force consisting of experts who will investigate and make recommendations for greater protection of miners in the event of accidents on the mines

Sibanyoni also announced that the NUM would set up a commission to study the long term effects of the polyurethane chemical fumes which killed the miners

He said the objectives of the commission are to identify workers' respiratory impairment as a result of

By SEFAKO NYAKA

exposure to the chemicals (isocyanates), to get compensation for workers with diseases resulting from exposure, and a description of the long term effects of exposure

He called on Gencor to ensure alternative jobs, without loss of earnings, to those workers unfit to work underground as a result of the fire

He said Gencor and the Chamber of Mines should give the NUM access at all times to keep contact with workers exposed to the fire.

The affected workers should be given proper medical care at the mine's expense he said

Sibanyoni also urged Gencor and the Chamber to give the NUM all information on substances used underground and to spend more money on safety. They should also recognise safety stewards, "as they are the only alternative power

"We hope that the Chamber's pledge to compensate the miners will not be used as an excuse to dismiss workers

"The survivors of the inferno are not yet out of danger. Isocyanates are known to be dangerous and have long term effects. These workers could develop chronic lung diseases."

The more than 500 people who crammed into the hall ululated and chanted freedom songs as several miners and NUM officials carried a black coffin onto the stage at the start of the service

Cosatu's general secretary, Jay Naidoo, said safety in the mines is the prerogative of the white miner

Racism was rampant on the mines he said. "During rescue operations separate ambulances were ferrying the dead and injured to different hospitals"

28/4/86
FUN MAIL
3/10/86

NATIONAL PARTY

Who will succeed P W Botha?

P W Botha's decision to step down after 20 years as Cape leader of the National Party (NP) will undoubtedly intensify the struggle among aspirant successors to the State presidency.

His move, announced at the Cape NP

While Viljoen and Pik Botha are not the major contenders, their supporters could be crucial to the final outcome — in much the same way that Pik Botha's supporters backed P W Botha to keep Connie Mulder out in the last party leadership contest



Botha



Heunis



Viljoen



De Klerk

Congress in East London this week, clearly aimed to give Cape NP chairman Chris Heunis — who was elected leader to replace him — a stronger base from which to make his running for the top job

It is also the clearest indication yet that Botha is seriously considering retiring. Some observers believe he may step down within the next 18 months

Botha gave pressure of duties as the main reason for his decision to quit as Cape leader, but it was clearly also a strategic move to help Heunis

Rivals for the presidency are now expected to draw their battle lines even more clearly

Transvaal NP leader F W de Klerk remains the firm favourite. Heunis, now with the apparent public blessing of Botha, must rank second, with Gerrit Viljoen running third — although he could be chosen as a compromise between De Klerk and Heunis to avoid a party rift. Pik Botha looks very much an outsider at this stage

Indications of De Klerk's preparations for the leadership struggle include his insistence that constituencies be redelimited before the next general election. Transvaal has more than half the country's 3m white voters, and some gerrymandering of previously loaded platteland seats must be a priority for De Klerk given the Right's strength in them

The new delimitation could give the Transvaal up to 10 new seats, the Cape could lose about six. In theory, this would give De Klerk a possible 10 extra caucus votes and deprive Heunis of six. Obviously, some Transvaal seats could go to opposition parties, but De Klerk is apparently willing to take that chance

Heunis is now expected to become more high profile than ever, while De Klerk, who seems to prefer low-key working behind the scenes, is likely to step up his lobbying

Heunis' biggest problem is likely to be his relative unpopularity in caucus, which chooses the party leader. He is also the architect of government's esoteric reform programme, which seems to be crumbling

P W Botha's decision to step down as Cape leader and, by implication, give his backing to Heunis, might help his position

But De Klerk remains the man most likely to succeed

FUN MAIL 3/10/86
KINROSS DISASTER

Miners in mourning

The call for a day of mourning in the mining industry on October 1, to mark the deaths of 177 miners in the Kinross disaster, was expected to receive massive backing as the *FM* went to press

Preparations for the commemoration by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which called on all mineworkers to observe the day, appeared to be well advanced on Tuesday

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the United Democratic Front and the National Education Crisis Committee backed NUM's stand

According to Cosatu, most of its affiliates called on their members to stage hour-long services, with some pushing for two-hour services at factories where they have a strong presence. The worker federation has demanded that no employees should suffer loss of pay or be victimised for participating in the commemorations

On Tuesday, the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries announced that all stores in the area would close at 1pm "in a show of solidarity" with NUM

NUM's call has been favourably re-

ceived by Gencor, the owners of the mine, which has indicated its willingness to allow employees on gold and coal mines to take a day's paid leave to mourn their colleagues

The Chamber of Mines announced that its member mines would observe five minutes of silence — "the universal and time-honoured method of paying respect to the dead" — at noon on Wednesday. It was not clear whether the chamber's response would provoke a showdown with NUM

Meanwhile, the disaster continues to be a source of conflict between NUM and Gencor. The union's most recent complaints relate to the underground tour of the scene of the accident, which Gencor arranged on Monday. NUM representatives were accompanied by two foreign mine safety experts

Although the visit was useful, says NUM, its worth was diminished because

□ About 13 days had elapsed and the site had been substantially cleared,

□ The party was too large. It consisted of some 60 people, including representatives of trade unions which have no members at Kinross, such as the Inkatha-backed United Workers' Union of SA and the African Mine and Allied Workers' Union,

□ The visit was hastily conducted and the union's technical advisers did not have the opportunity to take basic measurements,

□ Although management indicated that questions would be allowed after the visit, this did not occur, and

□ The union is dependent on the company's favour for access underground

"This state of affairs clearly impairs the union's ability to prepare for the inquiry and to protect the interests of workers generally in regard to safety," says NUM

In response, Gencor spokesman Dawie de Beer told the *FM* "NUM is not the only interested party in the mining industry. We received requests from many trade unions which wanted to know more about what happened at Kinross. We sincerely and honestly tried to afford all the visitors the opportunity to talk to management and, afterwards over snacks, they had full opportunity to speak to senior Gencor directors as well. If anybody wants further investigation or discussion, they are welcome to contact us"

FUN MAIL
GENERAL ELECTION

Keep 'em guessing

President P W Botha's decision to cool speculation about an early general election was probably influenced by a number of factors. Not least of them was the expected opposi-

3/10/86
28/4/86

250 000

miners

in NUM

stayaway

Cape Times 2/10/86

2/10/86

2/12

AT LEAST a quarter-of-a-million miners stayed away from work yesterday in a massive show of support for the call by the National Union of Mineworkers that October 1 be marked as a day of mourning for the 177 victims of the Kinross Mine disaster

This is the largest stayaway ever in any single industry and the independent Labour Monitoring Group (LMG) estimated the stayaway cost the mines at least R8-million

There are claims that another 225 000 workers in other industries — mainly in Congress of South African Trade Unions-organized factories — took various lesser forms of action

The NUM claimed yesterday that 325 000 members had observed the call NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said memorial services had been held "at virtually every mine where the union has a strong presence"

According to figures supplied by the six big mining houses, 250 000 miners stayed away from work A Gencor spokesman reports that about 70 percent of the 97 000 workers on the company's gold mines and 50 percent of the 14 000 colliery employees "availed themselves of the offer to take the day off"

Several incidents were reported, mainly from the Transvaal. In some of these

● NUM press officer Mr Marcel Golding claimed that at the Kloof Gold Mine security men tried to force workers to go underground A Kloof spokesman denied this.

Mr Ramaphosa said workers singing in the hostels at No 9 shaft at Vaal Reef were teargassed by mine security "Some were injured but I'm not sure of the exact number"

Anglo American, owner of Vaal Reef, said mine security had dispersed a "group of intimidators" preventing workers from reporting for duty

Mr Ramaphosa alleged that at Welkom, 152 workers were arrested while going to the NUM union office to attend a service

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Division confirmed there was a march involving about 150 workers. He said the march was "turned back", but could not confirm any arrests.

Mr Ramaphosa said one worker was seriously

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From Page 1

Stayaway

injured during a service at Winkelhaak Mine when "Gencor mine management sent in the (mine) police who teargassed the workers"

Mr Harry Hill, spokesman for Gencor, said mine security used teargas to disperse an "illegal meeting" at Winkelhaak Mine after numerous requests had been made for the workers to disperse.

● In Cape Town, workers at between 30 and 40 Cosatu-organized factories are believed to have held work stoppages ranging from five minutes to an hour, although unions were last night still awaiting reports from their branches for accurate figures.

In the Cape Town docks, about 350 members of the Transport and General Workers' Union observed stoppages, while at Nampak Paper, about 70 workers stopped work from 12 45pm to 1 45pm

At Nampak Recycling the hour-long stoppage was taken at 7 30am by all 144 workers at the factory, a spokesman for management confirmed

● Memorial services were held at the universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape

About 1 000 students attended a joint National Union of South African Students (Nusas) and Azanian Students' Organization (Azaso) lunchtime meeting in the Molly Blackburn Memorial Hall at UCT, while Dr Allan Boesak spoke at UWC.

High-school children from Athlone, Guguletu, Nyanga and Langa attended the memorial services at UCT and UWC at the invitation of the universities, and the UCT meeting was also addressed by Cosatu and United Democratic Front speakers.

● The University of the Witwatersrand officially observed a minute's silence at noon in sympathy with the mineworkers Lecturers were asked by the university administration to interrupt their lectures for this purpose

● In Port Elizabeth, a preliminary survey of Cosatu-organized workplaces showed that workers at almost 50 percent of them had observed the stoppage

● In Natal, workers at most Cosatu-organized factories stopped work at midday, although no immediate figures were available as unions awaited reports from their branches.

In Durban last night, a large crowd attended a special prayer service for the Kinross disaster victims

● About 35 senior Gencor management personnel held a short prayer service at lunchtime to mark the official day of mourning Gencor's executive chairman, Mr Derek Keys, concluded "God bless Africa, guard her children and her rulers and give her peace" — Staff Reporters, Own Correspondent, Sapa and UPI

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October 2 1986

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Stayaway seen as buildup to safety row

By Sheryl Raine

The one-day strike which affected many of the country's gold and coal mines yesterday reflected the growing confrontation on the mines over health and safety issues, according to the independent Labour Monitoring Group (LMG)

The LMG, comprising a group of academics who monitor labour matters, said that by any standards the strike was significant not only because of its impact on the mines but as a national, industry-wide stoppage over safety conditions

Yesterday's action called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) could have a significant impact on the current wage dispute between the union and the Chamber of Mines, an LMG spokesman said

"Yesterday's response to the union's call was the biggest the NUM has ever received and it comes at a time when there is union talk of a strike ballot following deadlocked pay talks"

The gold mining industry had a long history of bitter industrial conflict

White miners brought the industry to a halt in 1907, 1913, 1914 and hundreds died in fighting with security forces in the 1922 Rand Revolt

MOTIVATION

In 1946, 60 000 black miners out of 350 000 struck for five days for higher wages. Significantly, part of their motivation was a high accident rate

"Since the formation of the NUM there have been strikes in pursuit of wage claims in 1984 and 1985 with 70 000 and up to 40 000 being involved respectively

"Although the strikes focused on wages, health and safety issues have figured prominently in negotiations with the Chamber of Mines

"For example, during the 1986 negotiations, agreement was reached that employers would increase the allowance to cover the cost of transporting the bodies of dead miners back home

"Yesterday's strike involved between 250 000 and 275 000 people and is the largest ever to occur"

There had been a number of big mine accidents which had received publicity but by far the most deaths — on average 600 to 800 a year — occurred in small, fatal accidents

"It is not then surprising that NUM has declared health and safety a priority for the union"

A feature of the emerging black trade union movement was the ability of certain unions to organise stoppages on a national scale

According to LMG figures yesterday's stoppage was the largest national industrial stoppage yet to take place

600 000 observed stayaway, say unions

By Mike Slluma

About 600 000 workers in various sectors of the economy yesterday responded to the call for a day of mourning to honour the victims of the Kinross mine disaster, according to union leaders.

Yesterday also saw the biggest miners' stayaway in South Africa's history.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) had called on mineworkers to stay away from work for the whole day. It was supported by unions affiliated to the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu).

At a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday NUM and Cosatu leaders said about 600 000 workers had observed the day.

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said that apart from the 525 000 mineworkers who took the entire day off, an estimated 275 000 organised by Cosatu affiliates on the Witwatersrand had taken part in stoppages of varying duration.

Cosatu-affiliated unions in other industries commemorated the day in various ways including lunch-time services.

The Independent Labour Monitoring Group (IMG) said 250 000 to 275 000 mineworkers boycotted work in the largest mines strike ever in the Free State alone, 127 000 workers did not report for duty, said the IMG.

Flag at half-mast

The IMG estimates that the stayaway cost the mines at least R8 million in lost profits.

A five-minute silence at midday was observed by those who reported for work at Gencor mines and head offices. Senior Gencor executives lowered the flag to half-mast at head office at noon.

On Anglo American gold mines, absenteeism ranged from zero to 100 percent. A significant number of employees did not report for work at seven of Anglo's 13 collieries.

A Gold Fields spokesman said that at Clydesdale coal mine near Witbank, which employs 850 workers, there was a total stayaway.

The NUM claimed mine security at the Kloof and Vaal Reefs mines had tried to force workers to go underground. A Kloof spokesman denied this, saying it was mine security's duty to protect workers.

Anglo American, owners of Vaal Reefs, said mine security dispersed a group of "intimidators" preventing workers from reporting for duty. Mr Ramaphosa rejected this. He said Vaal Reefs management had, in fact, apologised after security personnel fired teargas at workers.

R1.7 m goes to Kinross families

By Sheryl Raine

More than R1.7 million has already been allocated for the dependants of 164 of the 177 men who died in the Kinross mine disaster, according to the Rand Mutual Assurance Company.

More applications for benefits are being processed.

Mr W.D. Molteno, Rand Mutual's general manager, said the money was on its way to black families.

This initial payout comes from a death benefits scheme administered for black employees by Rand Mutual. The 164 families should receive an average of about R10 845.

The money has been sent to the Kinross mine for distribution to various depots of the Employment Bureau of Africa, which will then distribute it to dependants.

Mr Molteno said benefits for the remaining eight black workers and five white workers who died at Kinross would be processed as quickly as possible.

Pretoria Bureau

Police yesterday "removed" 72 shouting, placard-waving mineworkers from the centre of Welkom.

The workers, members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), had joined the union call to stay away from work and mourn those killed in the

Welkom marchers 'removed'

Kinross mine disaster

A spokesman for Police Headquarters in Pretoria, Major Steve Venter, said the workers had moved into the town shouting and waving placards.

He said the workers had not been arrested but rather "re-

moved" from the town.

Earlier reports alleged that 150 miners were arrested after marching from the President Steyn mine to the union's offices.

Thousands of mineworkers in the Free State and Western Transvaal observed the day of

mourning. According to NUM secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, more than 120 000 in the Free State (which has about 180 000) had not worked. Various political bodies, political parties and other unions joined the stayaway.

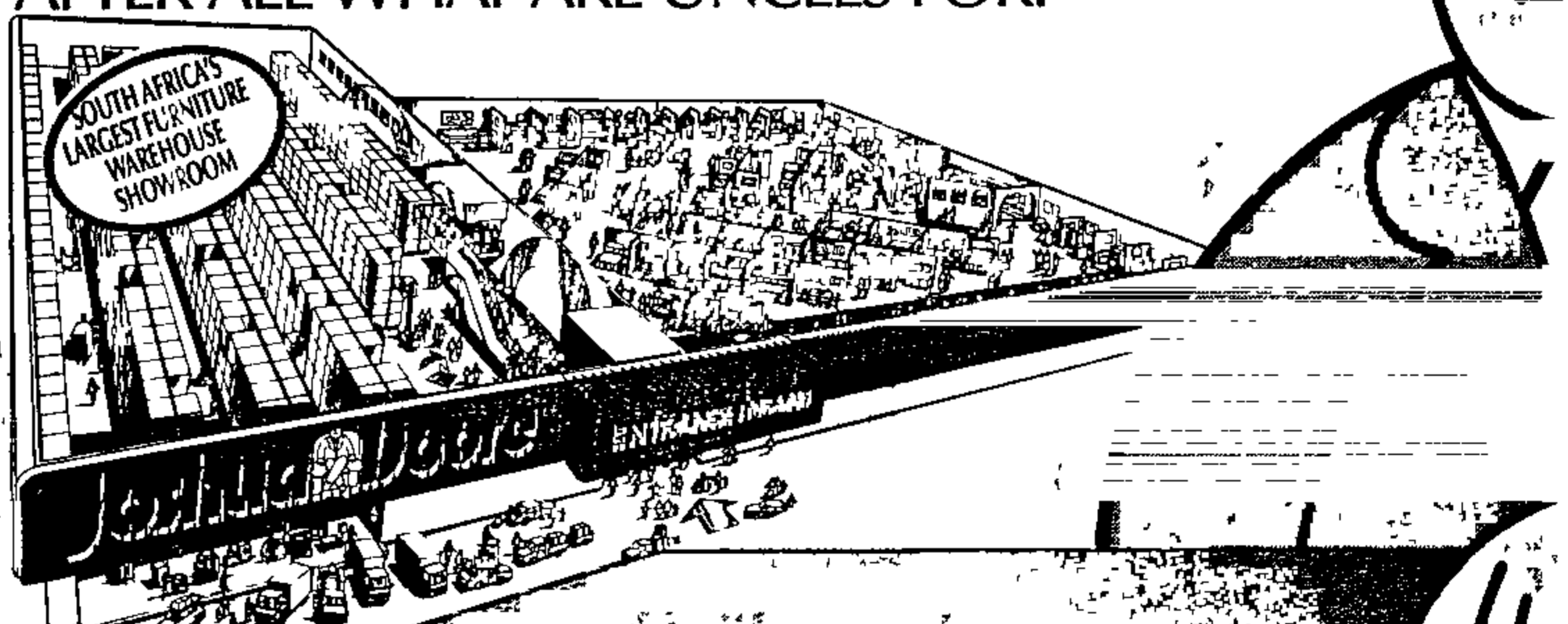


A single coffin draped in black was used to symbolise the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mining disaster during a committal service in Johannesburg yesterday. The service included a number of worker slogans and songs. Picture by Alf...

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

"Walk into any Joshua Doore Store and see the difference. With better quality, bigger range and always the best possible value, I can give you exactly what you want — more than ever before. And this is only the beginning..."

AFTER ALL WHAT ARE UNCLES FOR?"



WHAT ST. J. C. P. N. Z. C.

Workers heed solidarity call

Dispatch Correspondents

PORT ELIZABETH — Township pupils staged a mass stayaway yesterday to commemorate the death of 177 gold miners killed in the Kinross disaster two weeks ago.

The Labour Monitoring Group (LMG) of the industrial relations unit at the University of Port Elizabeth reported a varied response in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage to work stoppages called for by the Council of South African Trades Unions (Cosatu).

The LMG said a preliminary survey of Cosatu-organised workplaces in Port Elizabeth showed workers at almost 50 per cent of them had observed a work stoppage.

In Uitenhage, workers at the majority of Cosatu-organised workplaces responded to the call.

The Universities of Cape Town (UCT) and the Western Cape (UWC) also held memorial meetings yesterday in commemoration of the mining disaster.

About 1000 students attended a joint National Union of South African Students and Azanian Students Organisation meeting in the Molly Blackburn Memorial Hall at UCT, while Dr Allan Boesak spoke at UWC.

Workers at many factories in Natal heeded a call by the Congress of South African Students and stopped work at midday.

Several Indian-owned shops in the Grey Street complex in Durban also shut down between 12 and 1 pm in response to a call by the Natal Indian Congress for solidarity with the National Union of Mineworkers, which demanded October 1 be declared a national day of mourning.

BUDAY 11/10/86

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140A

Expert questions safety at Kinross

ALAN FINE

A SWEDISH expert invited to SA by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to assist investigations into the Kinross Mines disaster has attributed the accident to a failure of the mine's safety system, a function he sees as the responsibility of management. He also questioned the use of polyurethane foam underground.

Dr Peter Westerholm, medical adviser to Sweden's trade union federation — the LO — made these comments after a visit to the mine on Monday, together with a number of other labour representatives.

Westerholm said that, based on what he has been told of the fire, he expects the cause of most of the deaths to be found to be asphyxiation and exposure to cyanide and carbon monoxide fumes normally given off by burning polyurethane foam.

He says visitors were specifically asked not to remove samples of the foam from the mine because the matter is under official investigation. However, Westerholm says he didn't consider this a major problem because he assumes the material will be subjected to "major and valid tests" prior to the inquiry.

According to Westerholm, in Scandinavia the foam is considered to be combustible. "We try to avoid the use of any plastic material underground as far as possible," he says. Westerholm says that mines cannot rely entirely on devices like breathing equipment and fire extinguishers to avoid accidents.

For him the key is a comprehensive safety system, which should include training, education, equipment maintenance, adequate routines for the handling of materials (like fuels) and the existence of escape routes and alarm systems.

There must also be adequate work practices designed for welding and cutting operations, responsible for about 30% of mine accidents in Sweden.

The NUM, meanwhile, has objected to the conditions under which Monday's visit to the Kinross Mines by labour and management representatives was conducted. It says the visit was too long after the accident, was hastily conducted, the group too large and little opportunity for questioning mine management.

130 000 in stayaway to mourn Kinross dead

SMR 6/10/80
More than 130 000 mineworkers in the Free State and Western Transvaal were observing a day of mourning today for those killed in the Kinross disaster

The National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) call was also supported by black unions and political organisations

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said more than 120 000 workers in the Free State (which employs about 180 000) had not reported for work, and 34 000 out of about 40 000 stayed away at Vaal Reefs near Klerksdorp

Other mines affected included Beatrix, President Brand, Western Holdings, Erfdeel, Saaiplaas and President Stein, all in the Free State. About 5 000 miners stayed away in Kimberley

Organisations which pledged support in various ways included the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), to which the NUM is affiliated, the United Democratic Front (UDF) the African Miners' and Allied Workers' Union, Soweto businessmen, the Azanian Peoples' Organisation (Azapo) and the Azanian Students' Organisation (Azaso)

Gencor, owners of Kinross, said workers wishing to stay

away could apply for a day's leave. The Chamber of Mines made a similar offer and suggested five minutes' silence at all member mines

Unions affiliated to Cosatu were holding hour-long commemorative services, with some strongly-organised member unions opting for two hours

A commemoration service was being held at the Cosatu headquarters in Johannesburg today. In Port Elizabeth, Cosatu members were stopping work for three hours, in East London for an hour and in Uitenhage for 30 minutes

Cosatu has demanded no lost pay or victimisation for taking part in commemorations

The UDF said it stood by the NUM and Cosatu over their demand that unions be given a say in all matters related to miners' health and safety

Mr Sydney Mahlangu, secretary of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said Soweto stores would close from 1 pm

Azapo publicity secretary Mr Muntu Myeza said the organisation offered its support and called on all students to support and observe the day "in whatever way they deem fit on their campus"

NUM sees
Kinross, but
'too late'

Health and safety experts representing the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) were taken down Kinross Gold Mine at Evander yesterday, but said the inspection was of limited use because of the time which had lapsed since the accident which killed 177 men.

NUM Press Officer Mr Marcel Golding said 13 days had lapsed since the fire, and the site underground had been cleared substantially.

The visit had been "hastily conducted, and the union's technical advisers did not even have the opportunity to take basic measurements on the site", Mr Golding claimed.

He added that the NUM team formed part of a larger delegation of 60 people, and this also hampered the union's investigations, he said.

He said it was a fundamental problem for the union that its experts depended on company permission for *in loco* underground inspections at Kinross.

"This state of affairs clearly impairs the union's ability to prepare for an inquiry, and to protect the interests of workers in regard to health and safety".

Mr Harry Hill, spokesman for Gencor, which owns Kinross, confirmed the visit.

"It was part of an open day for representatives of various unions and other organisations", he said.

He declined to comment on the NUM complaints.

Samuels accused of 'sensation'

Mercury Reporter

THE row between the House of Delegates and the Teachers' Association of South Africa, Tasa, over 'political interference' in Indian education, took a new turn yesterday

Mr Amichand Rajbansi, Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House, accused Tasa president Pat Samuels of trying 'to create a sensation to embarrass the House of Delegates with facts he will not be able to substantiate'

'In respect of the 1987 school calendar, it was Mr Samuels who took it to the politicians after he was not satisfied with the decision of the Executive Director and now he complains about political interference.

'He is guilty of dragging the politicians into an administrative matter

'The call for a judicial commission is one of his regular sensations, and I think Tasa should search itself and ask itself whether there is too much politics and less work on educational matters in Tasa itself

'The fact that Mr Samuels

writes letters directly to the minister and not to the executive director gives a lie to his public stance about politicians interfering with day-to-day matters

'There are many teachers who are concerned about Tasa's political role and they have repeatedly requested us to recognise another teacher's body that will deal with the interest of teachers and education generally'

Purpose

He said the day-to-day administration of education was left in the hands of the head of the administration of education

'I think that teachers must now seriously examine Tasa's political role as compared to the purpose for which it was established'

Mr Samuels said it was a pity Mr Rajbansi had misunderstood Tasa's conference resolution, which basically attacked not only the House of Delegates but the tricameral parliamentary system

He said there had also been erosion of the Director of Education's powers

only 60 cm clearance on either side

The Winterberg, a Safmarine container vessel, was damaged when its bulbous bow was ripped open when it struck an object while coming into port late last week

Although it will give him more time to tend his roses, play bowls and travel, Mr Hansen, who was appointed chief dockmaster 18

fell over, have found attention under his guidance and he cannot count the number of times he was had to work through the night to get one repaired

The busiest time he can remember was during the Suez crisis when ships were queuing to get into the dry dock.

Mr Hansen's successor has not yet been named

Cosatu unions to mourn mine victims

JOHANNESBURG—Unions belonging to the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) will remember tomorrow the miners who died in the Kinross disaster, the organisation said in a statement yesterday

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called a day of mourning and their members nationally will not be going down the mines tomorrow

Some unions are pushing for a two-hour service

Cosatu said all unions were demanding that no worker suffer loss of pay or victimisation for taking part in commemoration activities

Soweto businessmen have agreed to close their stores 'in a show of solidarity' with the NUM day of mourning

In a statement, Mr Sydney

Mahlangu, secretary of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said all stores would in the area would close at 1 pm 'in a show of solidarity' — (Sapa)

Martin far out ahead

CAPE TOWN—South African yachtsman John Martin is all on his own as he heads for Cape Town with the rest of the BOC Round-the-World Race fleet now well behind him

Martin was 111 miles ahead of the second placed yacht on Friday, and has increased his lead to 277 miles over the past two days. According to the latest position report, Martin is just over 2 000 miles from Cape Town, the first race stop — (Sapa)

Services for mine victims

~~1/2~~
2/2

THOUSANDS of miners are expected to attend a memorial service at the Kinross gold mine near Evander tomorrow, where 177 miners died a fortnight ago

National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa told the *Sowetan* that, besides the main service at Kinross, different mines will organise their own commemoration services

The Chamber of Mines has said its member mines will allow their workforce

By LEN MASEKO

to participate in a five-minute period of silence to be observed in honour of the dead miners at noon tomorrow

The Chamber, writing in its mouth-piece, *Mining Sun*, said it acknowledged that the Kinross disaster was a very serious accident "which had profoundly shocked employees and managements" throughout the industry

Production is expected to come to a halt at a number of mines as black miners observe the Num call for a day of mourning

Num has said its members will stay away from work for the whole day as a sign of respect for the dead Kinross miners

Gencor, which manages the Kinross mine, is to allow mineworkers "who wish to do so" to take a day's leave to

morrow to mourn the victims of the disaster

The United Democratic Front has pledged its support to the Num in whatever call it makes to mourn and pay homage to those miners who died in Kinross

The Congress of SA Trade Unions, Num and UDF were due to meet late yesterday, to discuss arrangements for tomorrow's day of mourning

The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) has supported the call for a day of mourning. The organisation would observe this day "knowing that tens of thousands of our people have died in the mines forced to dig for a living", Azapo said in a statement yesterday

"The sadness we feel at the death of so many of our kind is increased by the knowledge that their death could have been avoided had the necessary precautions been taken to ensure the safety of the mine," the statement read

- Black workers — including domestic workers — were told at all Port Elizabeth township bus stops yesterday morning to stay away from work on Wednesday, October 1

JOHANNESBURG — Affiliates of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) are to remember the 177 victims of the Kinross mine disaster tomorrow, Cosatu announced yesterday

Most of its affiliates were calling on workers to hold an hour-long service, it said in a statement, but a number of unions were pushing for a two-hour service in strongly organised factories

The unions were demanding workers did not suffer pay losses or victimisation for taking part in commemoration activities

Earlier, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) called a day of

^{2p}
Disaster

victims: DO

plan for 30/1/86

services

mourning and its members are set to stop work tomorrow

Soweto businessmen are to close their stores "in a show of solidarity" with the NUM day of mourning

The secretary of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mr Sydney Mahlangu, said in a statement, all stores in the area would close at 1 pm — Sapa

POLYURETHANE
foam was only one
component leading to
the Kinross mine di-
saster and the death of
177 miners, says the
Chamber of Mines.

Chamber defends its use of polyurethane

At a weekend Press conference, the chamber said heat and air were two other components which would have contributed to the tragedy.

The chamber confirmed that Kinross was the third SA mine fire in which the sealant foam was involved.

The mining industry has been slated for not following overseas examples by outlawing underground use of the foam.

Defending its continued use, chamber executive Kennedy Maxwell said polyurethane was one of more than 20 inflammable substances used underground.

□ A large party of mine-safety experts is

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BUD DAY 29/11/86
CHERYLYN IRETON

scheduled to visit Kinross today to investigate the location, reports ALAN FINE.

A Gencor spokesman said the group would include Chamber of Mines representatives as well as experts and officials of mining-industry unions, including the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Mineworkers' Union.

The NUM's national executive met yesterday to consider its attitude towards the chamber's proposed arrangements for October 1, the day the NUM has declared a day of mourning for the Kinross victims.

DD 29/9/86 (212)

Safety experts ~~(S)~~ to visit Kinross

JOHANNESBURG — A large party of mine safety experts is scheduled to visit the Kinross gold mine today to investigate the location of the September 16 disaster in which 177 miners died.

A spokesman for Gencor, the owners of the mine, said the group would include representatives of the Chamber of Mines as well as experts and officials of mining industry trade unions, including the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the Mine Surface Officials' Association and the white Mineworkers' Union.

Two overseas experts invited to SA by the NUM — a Briton, Mr Hubert Eisner, and Mr Peter Westerholm of Sweden — will be in the group.

In a related development, the NUM national executive met last night to consider its attitude towards Gencor's and the chamber's proposed arrangements for October 1.

Gencor said it would permit any employee to take a day's leave on Wednesday, while other chamber members said they would observe five minutes silence from noon. However, the NUM called on its members throughout the industry not to work at all on Wednesday.

In a statement, the chamber stressed that heat and air had also contributed to the underground tragedy and said the use of polyurethane foam should be seen in perspective — DDC

MINE TRAGEDY AFTERMATH

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—Gen-
cor executive chairman
Derek Keys, other senior
company personnel, and
Kinross mine manager
Kobus Olivier faced a bar-
rage of questions on the
Kinross disaster at a Press
conference yesterday

Much of the questioning
revolved around the fall of
the mine's international
safety rating from five to
three stars in June, and
the use of the polyure-
thane foam thought to be
responsible for the emis-
sion of deadly fumes be-
lieved responsible for
many of the fatalities

Mr Olivier and the
group's head of mining,
metallurgical and medical
services, Mr Con Faucon-
nier, explained that
Kinross's safety rating had
fallen two-and-a-half
months ago, after an in-
spection by the mine safe-
ty division of the Chamber
of Mines

The inspection ad-
judged that Kinross's pro-
cedures had fallen below
the 80% rating level in
three of the 21 elements
used to determine levels
of safety standards.

Mr Olivier said steps
were taken to correct the
situation within a week of
receiving the chamber's

Kinross officials face the Press

report None of the report-
ed deficiencies was relat-
ed to the events that
caused the accident, he
added

Company spokesmen de-
clined to comment on cir-
cumstances directly sur-
rounding the accident, on
the grounds that it was for
the official inquiry to de-
termine the precise cause

Sapa reports that the
National Union of Mine-
workers has called for a
national day of mourning
on October 1 to honour the
177 miners who died at the
mine

Accidents in South Afri-
can gold mines had killed
more than 46 000 workers
and seriously injured
more than 1 000 000 since
the beginning of the cen-
tury, a study released in
Geneva yesterday said —
(Sapa-Reuter)

(Handwritten marks) M 20/9/86

N-B

Argus 29/9/86

Safety experts to visit mine of death today

The Argus Correspondent *JL*

JOHANNESBURG — Safety specialists representing the National Union of Mineworkers are among a party of experts who will today inspect the Kinross gold mine, where 177 people died in a fire two weeks ago

Also in the party will be officials of the NUM, the white Mineworkers' Union and the Chamber of Mines

The experts include Dr Hubert Eisner of Britain and Mr Peter Westerholm of Sweden

Dr Eisner, a guest of the NUM, was earlier refused access to the mine

DAY OF MOURNING

● The NUM is going ahead with plans to commemorate those who died in the disaster

The union has called for a day of mourning on October 1. It originally asked for a nationwide shutdown of the mining industry for a day.

The Chamber of Mines and Gencor said employees wanting to attend the commemoration may take a day's leave

Mandela

CITY PRESS

212

says:

Workers

hold key

By MONO BADELA

"YOU hold the golden key to liberation," Winnie Mandela told thousands of miners at Secunda's Embalenhle stadium this week

She was addressing a memorial service for the 177 miners killed at Kinross last week

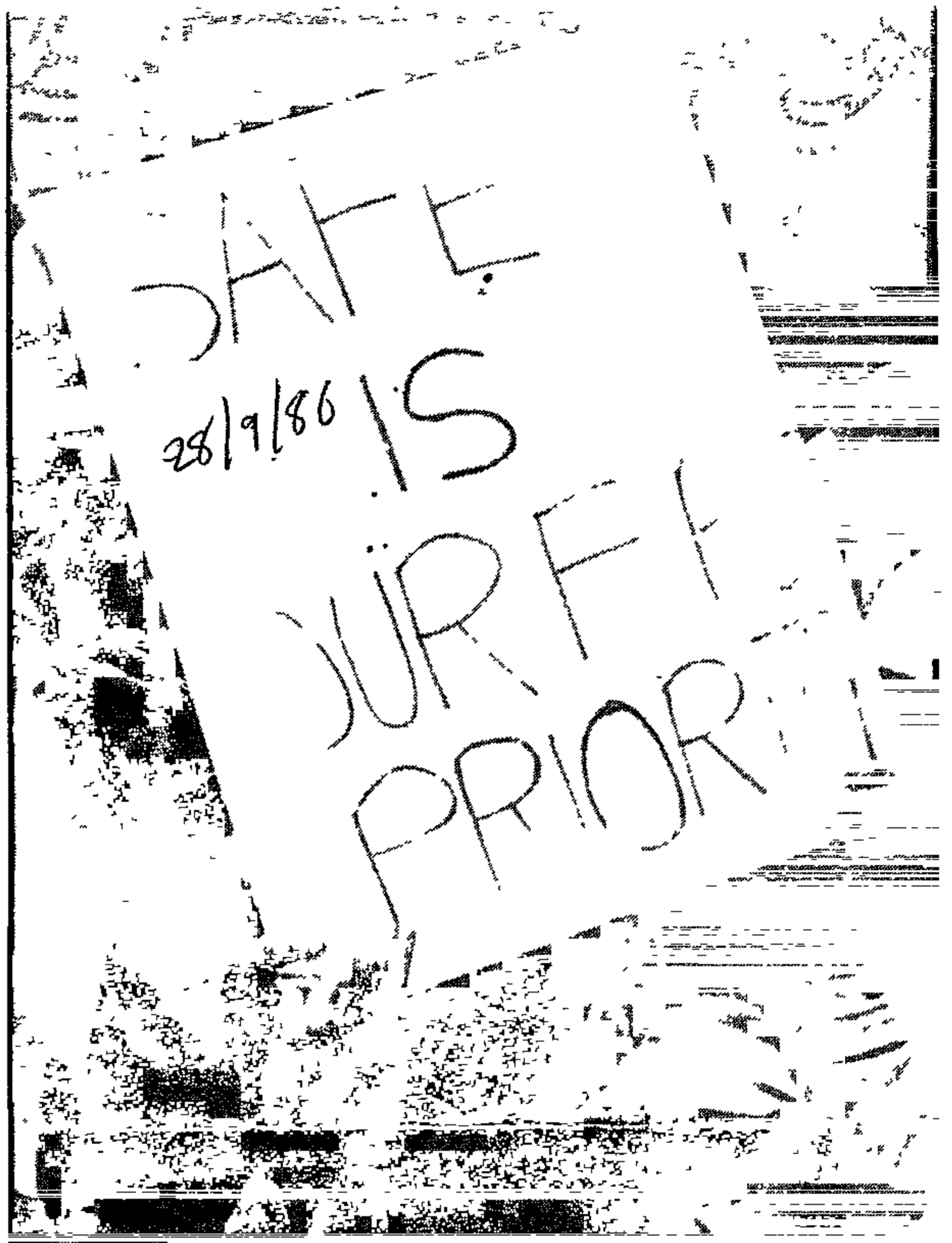
"Your freedom, our freedom that we all dearly love and cherish so much is in your hands. You hold the golden key to our freedom," Mandela said

"We are the power of this land, the labour of this land. Without you SA would not be what it is today. The moment you stop digging their gold and diamonds, we will be free. They will not have money to sell us to the outside world."

Mandela said she brought messages of condolences to the families of the dead on behalf of her husband Nelson Mandela in Pollsmoor Prison, African National Congress President Oliver Tambo in exile, and all political prisoners throughout the country.

She was applauded when she said "You are making the money to let those men sit on those Casspirs outside. Those vehicles cost millions and millions of rands. It's the gold and diamonds that you dig that pays them, pays for their arms and their uniform."

"We accept this challenge from Pretoria who surround us with their army while we are praying for our dead."



SAFETY-FIRST: Workers show their feelings at a memorial service for the 177 miners killed at Kinross

Mandela said Sow people would stay at home next Wednesday and mourn the dead with the miners who "for far too long have been separated from us - the people in the urban areas." "You are our brothers, we are your sisters."

National Union of Mineworkers' president James Motlatsi asked the crowd whether they were prepared to continue "filling the graves with our bodies." The graves are filled with the bodies of 46 000 mineworkers.

CITY PRESS

28/9/84



Winnie Mandela told the 15 000 mourners at the memorial service that the workers were the "power of this land".

2/10/88 (212)

Pretoria Bureau

Police yesterday "removed" 72 shouting, placard-waving mine-workers from the centre of Welkom.

The workers, members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), had joined the union call to stay away from work and mourn those killed in the

Welkom marchers 'removed'

Kinross mine disaster.

A spokesman for Police Headquarters in Pretoria, Major Steve Venter, said the workers had moved into the town shouting and waving placards

He said the workers had not been arrested but rather "re-

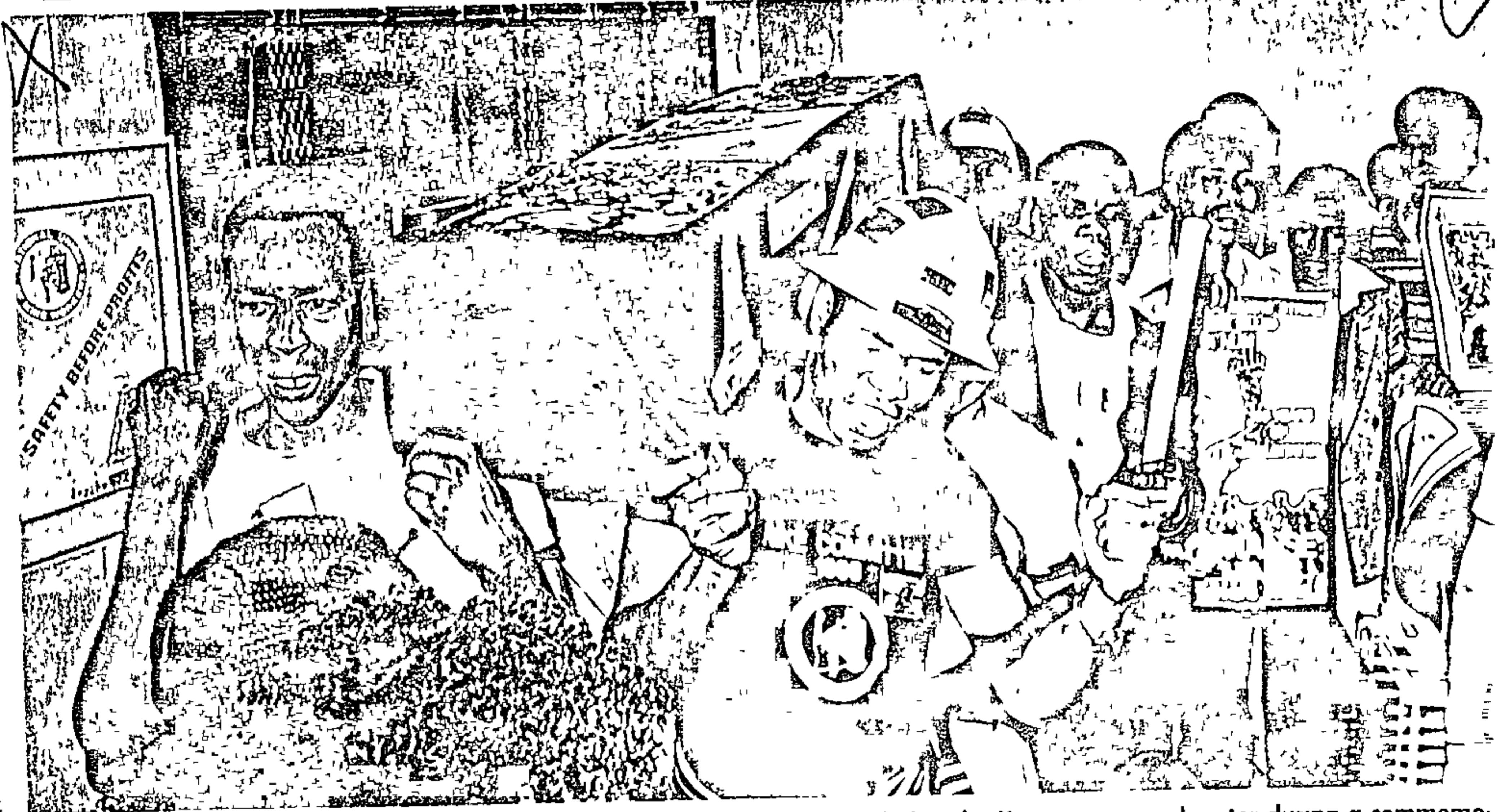
moved" from the town

Earlier reports alleged that 150 miners were arrested after marching from the President Steyn mine to the union's offices

Thousands of mineworkers in the Free State and Western Transvaal observed the day of

mourning

According to NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, more than 120 000 workers in the Free State (which employ about 180 000) had not reported for work. Various student bodies, political organisations and other unions joined NUM in the stayaway



A single coffin draped in black was used to symbolise the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mining disaster during a commemoration service in Johannesburg yesterday. The service included a number of worker slogans and songs. Picture by Alf Ku...

YOU'VE GOT AN UNCLE IN THE FURNITURE BU

IPRINGS CNR 6TH AVE & 6TH ST TEL 56 0491 STEELEDAL (SOUTH HILLS) PICK 'n PAY HYPERMARKET, LINROYST TEL 613 2418 BOKSBURG PICK 'n PAY HYPERMARKET, CNR RIETG...
NORTH TEL 826 6761/71 WYNBERG CNR OLD PRETORIA RD & WYNBERG RD (NEXT TO DION) TEL 786 8115 KRUGERSDORP CNR MARKET & PRETORIA STS (OPPOSITE OK CENTRE...
FLORIDA: CNR GOLDMAN ST & 2ND AVE (PARKING IN 2ND AVE) TEL 674 3535 PRETORIA CNR EBEN SWEMMER & VOORTREKKER RD) GFZINA TEL 76 2111 CARLETONVILLE C...
TEL 74173 VANDERBIJLPARK. CHECKERS HYPERMARKET, JAN VAN RIEBEECK BOULEVARD TEL 31 1546/7/8/9 KLERKSDORP CHECKERS HYPERMARKET MARGARETHA PRINSLOO ST TEL 7...
h PAY, JOHN BAILY ST, KLIPFONTEIN TEL 70108 NELSPRUIT CNR LOUIS TRICHARDT & PAUL KRUGER STS TEL 52 341/2/3



The deadly necklace ... an angry reminder to the mourning crowd

CHILLING WARNING THAT FACED GRIEVING KINROSS MINERS

By CAS St Leger

THIS was the moment when the unpleasant face of township politics invaded a memorial service for the Kinross dead

The open-air service on Monday was disrupted by 400 chanting miners and ugly mob scenes as pulpit flowers and refreshment tents were destroyed and ransacked

Meanwhile, open house is to be held tomorrow at the mine, scene of last week's underground tragedy in which 177 miners died. All "interested parties" — but not the Press — have been invited to inspect the scene of the disaster

After a stormy week, with relationships between the owners of Kinross, Gencor and the Chamber of Mines on the one hand, and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on the other, at their lowest ebb, the union regards the granting of an "open day" as a victory — albeit a belated one

Expert

"We hope it is in response to the NUM's request but we're disappointed it has come late in the day," the NUM information officer, Mr Marcel Golding, said yesterday

The NUM organised its own memorial service for the Kinross victims at Embalenhle near Secunda on Wednesday, attended by 5 000 and addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela

On Thursday, the NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said that a British expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, invited by the NUM to inspect Kinross in response to the Chamber of Mines' invitation to overseas experts to visit South Africa's deep-level mines, had been denied access by Gencor

Now Dr Eisner, a former director of the British Explosion and Flame Laboratory, which is specifically involved in investigating mine fires, will join the NUM party of six, led by president Mr James Motlatsi and Mr Ramaphosa, due at Kinross's fatal No 2 shaft, at 10am tomorrow

SUMMES
28/9/86 2/2/86
1407A
1407B

Gencor aware of foam danger

By Sheryl Raine

Gencor, owners of the Kinross mine where 177 men died last week, says it was aware of the potential dangers of polyurethane foam

The Chamber of Mines technical adviser revealed this week that several circulars concerning the dangers of polyurethane foam materials had been circulated to chamber members over the past 18 years.

The chamber also said that in May 1977 information concerning a fire at Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine was distributed after the flammable materials underground were identified as polystyrene and polyurethane

A Gencor spokesman confirmed that Gencor

was aware these were potentially dangerous but said in all mines, a large number of potentially dangerous materials had to be used

Asked if Gencor took any steps regarding the use of polyurethane and whether, after the Buffelsfontein fire in 1977, the company acted on the information circulated about polystyrene and polyurethane, the spokesman said

"Yes As with other potentially dangerous materials their use was restricted .. and precautions were taken to manage the risk. At Kinross, for reasons that still have to be established, these proved tragically inadequate and this has prompted Gencor to re-assess its safety practices and procedures with regard to flammable materials completely".

THE Pan Africanist Congress of Azania has called on all Azanian patriots and all their organisations to fully support the National Union of Mineworkers' call for a day of mourning for the Kinross gold-mine victims on October 1.

The PAC was reacting to the call made by NUM that on October 1 be a day of mourning for the 177 miners who died at the mine last week.

The NUM has also called for a Commission of Inquiry into the deaths of the miners.

Support miners' call - PAC

On Tuesday a British mining expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, who is in the country for a week at the invitation of NUM, was refused permission to inspect the disaster hit gold mine by Gencor officials.

The NUM is expecting two other experts from overseas to inspect the gold mine.



Surwefan

26/9/86

2/2



Chamber replies to NUM's safety allegations

SMK 26/9/76

By Sheryl Raine

The Chamber of Mines says it is committed to the safety of the mining industry's employees and is prepared to collaborate with representative employee organisations in bringing about and maintaining the safest mining conditions possible.

The *Star* invited the chamber to comment on a safety booklet issued by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) as part of a union national safety campaign.

"The NUM reports in its newly published safety booklet that there have been some 46 000 deaths on South African gold mines since the beginning of the century," said the chamber.

"This is clearly intended to evoke an emotional reaction of shock and outrage at perceived shortcomings in safety standards on South African mines and indeed, it is a most regrettable statistic — as is every fatal accident.

"It needs, however, to be placed in some perspective. While comparisons of this nature are odious it is a fact that British mines have a worse historical record with some 56 000 deaths over the period since 1903

"On the face of it, therefore, it would appear simply that South African gold mines are safer than British coal mines but the truth is that no such conclusion can necessarily be made. In fact, there can be no valid comparison between South African gold mines and British coal mines or, indeed, between them and other mines in the world."

Numerous factors had to be taken into account for a proper

evaluation of safety standards in mining throughout the world.

Unique conditions prevailed in South African gold mines including the vast size of the industry, its labour-intensive nature, the depths of mining which were unmatched anywhere in the world, the consequent pressure and heat conditions underground, the hard quartzite rock and narrow stopes

"Merely to quote the number of fatalities over 86 years is not particularly helpful in any genuine attempt to evaluate the safety standards on South African gold mines. The statistics show simply that underground mining is hazardous."

The chamber was aware of the hazards and devoted enormous time, effort and millions of rands in trying to reduce the risks of accidents and fatalities.

"That the South African mines are fitted with some of the most advanced safety equipment in the world is acknowledged by mining safety experts in Britain and the United States."

Mr Sam Stafford, an official of the US Government Mines Safety and Health Administration, had said "We consider that South Africa has some of the most advanced safety-conscious equipment and safety training we have seen."

Another expert, in South Africa as guest of the NUM, Dr Herbert Eisner, said on arrival here that in visits to several mines during an earlier trip he had seen nothing to suggest that they were any less safe than their American and European counterparts.

"The opinion of these experts would seem to contradict a literal interpretation of the NUM booklet which is propagandistic in tone and contains emotional generalisations, uninformed comment and numerous unsubstantiated allegations."

The chamber suggested that the NUM submit points raised in the booklet to the Prevention of Accidents Committee of which the NUM was a member, for proper consideration.

"The committee, which was formed in 1913 with the purpose of creating safer working conditions, is the proper channel for the union to raise its concerns if it really wants to contribute in a positive manner towards the safety of its members on the mines."

"Ironically the NUM has served on the committee for some 18 months and has raised only five issues regarding safety. All these issues have been or are being addressed by the chamber."

'Statistics do not support union allegations'

This is borne out in South Africa where gold mines attaining five-star status, the highest ISR (International Safety Rating), have recorded commensurate increases in productivity."

The chamber rejected NUM allegations that black workers were inadequately trained and challenged the union to produce evidence. It also rejected NUM criticisms of the ISR.

Responding to claims that the chamber refused to release 42 confidential reports to the NUM, the chamber said it had offered to share research findings "on joint projects". The NUM refused.

The spokesman added "Following NUM participation in Prevention of Accidents Committee activities, the chamber, on March 14, made available a number of reports which NUM had requested and reiterates its wish for NUM involvement in safety in this forum."

However, the chamber said a statement by NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa that it was time to "take control of the mines to ensure no more miners fell victim to accidents", did not inspire confidence.

It added that claims that 17 workers were sacked from West Driefontein for refusing to work in dangerous conditions but later reinstated by the Industrial Court were a "blatant distortion"

The Chamber of Mines has taken the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to task over allegations in the union's mining safety booklet, "A Thousand Ways to Die".

Statistics did not support the booklet's allegations, a chamber spokesman said. Allegations included:

- Black team leaders are doing the work of white miners but are not adequately trained for the work
- Production bonuses paid to white miners induce them to maintain production at the expense of safety

But the chamber spokesman said "Statistical evidence shows that since 1976, when exemptions were introduced to allow team leaders to do certain aspects of white miners' work, the fatality rate has fallen by 36 percent and the injury rate by 58 percent."

"Delegation of safety responsibilities to black team leaders may have contributed to steadily improving safety performance."

On production bonuses, the spokesman said "Accidents disrupt mining operations and therefore production, on which miners' contract earnings depend."

"High productivity is more compatible with safe mining prac-

Names of dead Kinross miners

FOLLOWING are the names of 168 employees who died in the accident at the Kinross Mine on September 16.

The names of another four employees, two from Lesotho and two from Transkei are being withheld until confirmation is received that their next of kin had been contacted.

The names of five other employees have been released earlier.

Osupeng Israel Lentswe, Taung, Bophuthatswana, Hans Moholonyane Thabane, Rooikop Farms, Schweizer Reunke, Aupanyane Jan Makati, Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana, Tsietso William Montsoto, Wildhoe, Bloemhof, Mpitmpiti William Sompondo, Alice, Ciskei, Manduleli Headman Mzongwana, Middledrift, Ciskei, Thembisile Thembisile Bazi, Alice, Ciskei, Reckson Mfokeng Mashego, Mhala, Gazankulu

Mufundisi Mashele, Ritavi, Gazankulu, Levis Boy Mpenyane, Ritavi, Gazankulu, Masilo John Moloto, Bolobedu, Lebowa, Joseph Khana Mashapu, Mokebong, Lebowa, Matuba Stanford Mashamate, Bochum, Pietersburg, Mafodi Lawrence Mathabatha, Thabamooop, Lebowa, Alpheus Makgalangake Mahlaku, Naphuno, Lebowa, Seshaba Joshua Tiro, Molopo, Bophuthatswana, Jonas Maputla Mashego, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Solomon Sarel Monareng, Mapulaneng, Lebowa

Million Bernard Moshwane, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Albert Rasanang Chikane, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Sepolane Aaron Shai, Seshego, Lebowa, Tseke Abram Seboka, Sekhukhuni, Lebowa, Donald Seletjane Thobela, Praktiseer, Lebowa

Mahlakweng Carphus Kgoedi, Praktiseer, Lebowa, Lephechane Makhtseane, Mokhotlong, Lesotho, Abel Young Mpesi, Mokhotlong, Lesotho, Matela Mouti, Lenbe, Lesotho, Augustinus Mafate, Leribe, Lesotho, Karabo Manyakalle, Mafeteng, Lesotho, Qetelo Ntjolo, Quthing, Lesotho, Johannes Mosiuoa Sakoane, Lenbe, Lesotho, Gobilawu Tweswe, Tabankulu, Transkei, Mkhululi Rumpu, Ken-

tani, Transkei, Zamqhinga Nxathule, Flagstaff, Transkei, Simon Kolisi Nchakha, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Danile Ngxongo, Engcobo, Transkei, Paulo Justinus Maseru, Buthe, Lesotho

Ngeva Mayekiso, Tabankulu, Transkei, Somandla Ndobeni, Umtata, Transkei, Tembani Maqokolo, Ngqeleni, Transkei

Mosoue Phillip Thabane, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Doodle Ernest Mpingwana, Matatiele, Transkei, Komokholo Clarence Mapelepo, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Nkosinam Ntoba, Butterworth, Transkei, Mnikelwa Zwani, Ngqeleni, Transkei, Joseph Qumba, Flagstaff, Transkei

Leonard Tshintshenkile Maga, Kentane, Transkei, February Namba, Mqanduli, Transkei, Mncedisi Matwa, Mqanduli, Transkei, Mantshingilane Dlutu, Willowvale, Transkei, Armando Uisse, Massinga, Mozambique

Albert James Nobela, Kamhushwa, Kangwane

Bigone Amos Msimango, Kamhushwa, Kangwane, Million Solomon Sambo, Schoemansdal, Barberton, William Gwazilandi Ngwenyama, Magogeni, Barberton, Jobe Victor Manyile, Kwamhushwa, Kangwane, Sipho James Ndlovu Phaphazele, Barberton, Arnon David Sibuya, Pinaar Enkomem, Nelspruit

Limited Mangulenje, Thyolo, Malawi, Odile Nyalungwe, Zomba, Malawi, Michael Jumbe, Blantyre, Malawi

Mphangeni Bistoli, Stutterheim, Cape; Jas Magano Motlhoare, Taung, Cape, Alphus Shtihelane, Langverwacht, Evander, Million Fanyana Sambo, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Phineas Johannes Raganya, Praktiseer, Lebowa

Mbulateni Mandlemosi Gumede, Ubombo, KwaZulu, Joseph Elphas Mathenjwa, Ingwavuma, KwaZulu, Amos Mkhahlela Mngomezulu, Ingwavuma, KwaZulu, Mpipi Buthelezi, Mahlabatini, KwaZulu, Petros Ndawo, Mnambithi, KwaZulu

Mofaseng Daniel Mooki, Ditsobotla, Bophuthatswana, Macks



THE general secretary of the Council of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) Mr Jay Naidoo (left) and a NUM official listen to speakers during a service held for the dead miners

Sontaga Tshelha, Naphuno, Lebowa, Petrose Mahlori Boo, Quthing Lesotho, Lekhotla Mapei, Quthing Lesotho, Mqokeleli Zazini, Khuhle, Port Elizabeth, Natal James Silubane, Bostonfontein, Barberton, Jackson Goutsemodimo Botakwe, Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana

Josaya Mahlobo Nkosi, Amersfoort, Transvaal, Katiti Simon Sambo, Kamhushwa, Kangwane, Selalome Solomon Modirwa, Molopo, Bophuthatswana, Matome Joshua Moagi, Naphuno, Lebowa

Kamoho Molozi Mofaka, Quthing, Lesotho, Qayile Summer Rain Si jobo, Tsole, Transkei, Mzukisi Mbondle Mbondle, Tsomo, Transkei, Lindikhaya Joka, Tsole, Transkei

Tsumbo Daniel Tlou, Boberwa, Louis Trichardt, Zacharia Dumsani Ntuli, Mtubatuba, KwaZulu, Zandisile Sandlana, Bathurst, Cape, Freddy Munyai, Sibasa, Venda, Phangumusa Mchunu, Tugela Ferry, KwaZulu

Bonginkosi Mthemba, Hlabisa, KwaZulu, Mosabi Mafodi Peter Mathabatha, Thabamooop, Lebowa, Peter John Gadama, Zomba Malawi, Wedson Menadi, Blantyre, Malawi, Wicknala Kamputa, Lilongwe, Malawi,

Gidione Khombe, Dedza Malawi, Benart Chimalizeni, Ntcheu Malawi, Kidney Magwira Ngumbe, Malawi, Zinaumaleka Banda Lilongwe, Malawi

Denis Thukani Lyne dock Farm, Bedford Mchutshwa Reuben Dlamini Manzini, Swaziland, Obed Thobela Mkhonta, Shiselweni, Swaziland, Sempe Mphuthi Qopo, Berea, Lesotho

Ntutuzelo Welsh Sontodosee, Tsomo, Transkei, Lungisa Mgqatsa, Lusikisiki, Transkei, Ptaas Spungu, Engcobo, Transkei, Moe ketsi Machili, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Zuzile Bollivia Yose, St Marks, Transkei, Mungungo Mahotyana, Lusikisiki, Transkei

Leyo Mbendela, Mulanje, Malawi, Mampemba Chelimbe, Mwanza Malawi, James Saidi Dedza Malawi, Berson Mwawa Chiradzulu Malawi, Dines Moses Mosses, Mulime Malawi, Joao Jos s Nguenha Bie Bilite, Mozambique

Fernando Jacob Bie, Panda, Mozambique, Flias Uisse Matsinhe MASSINGA Mozambique, Lote Antonio Bila Xai Xai Mozambique, Gabriel Zefarias Chungo Massinga, Mozambique Pazimane Bande Mazive Massinga Mozambique

John Magoda Pisana, Emoyeni Nelspruit, Ronnie Aaron Nkosi Nsikazi Lebowa Elmon Reckson Dlamini Acornhoek Transvaal, Vusi James Dlamini, Shiseleni Swaziland, Mthandeni Madikane, Tsole Transkei, Nya wuzakhe Mlemebelele, Lusikisiki Transkei

Bennet Matanda, Libode Transkei, Nayi Vayeka Lusikisiki, Transkei Jacob Vusuzi Mlenzana Mount Fletcher Transkei Mhlabutshona Mqunye, Port St Johns Transkei,

Mzuzwana Mwel, Qumbu Transkei, Lungisa Rozani, Libode Transkei, Thomas Bonginkosi Phonca, Flagstaff, Transkei, Gcaleka Bebeza, Mount Fletcher Transkei

Tobotela Mpho Lelchla, Mokhotlong Lesotho, Zakia Ntwelho Rangoana Mafeteng Lesotho, Nephtally Moruti Khoete Maseru, Lesotho Ralchase Machaba, Quthing Lesotho, Joseph Khosi Beleme, Mohaleshoek, Lesotho

Plo Napo Nathamel Semoko Quthing Lesotho Velile Kwinana, Quthing Lesotho, Lifa lane Rannane Quthing Lesotho, Molatsa Simon Molatsa Leribe Lesotho

Kadefunwa Govane, Xalanga Transkei, Olehile William Kenosi, Kudumane Bophuthatswana Motima Willem Johnson, Lehurutshe, Bophuthatswana Daniel Hendrick Motswagole, Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana

Malusi David Maphela, Molopo Bophuthatswana, Dinkwana Nkakaie Mompolar Mokopolole, Botswana, Tihaloganyane Kapaletse Kapaletse, Ngwaketse Botswana, Gosiememang Montsho Lefutswe, Ga-Lekota

Botswana William Mzwandile Dano, Alice, Ciskei Andries Belfast Mzima Mapulang Le-

Thompson Dizetla Ngobeni Bolobedu Lebowa, Mokhetl Nathaniel Majoro Leribe Lesotho Ishmael Lesmanyane Mporoane, Mafeteng, Lesotho, Ntsu Samuel Lerata Leribe Lesotho

Mzayivuka Ndude, Tabankulu Transkei, Mhndelwa Mathenjwa, Lusikisiki Transkei Mlungisi Mato Glen Grey Transkei, Motlatsi Paul Ntja Mokhotlong Lesotho

Booi Tyumze Butterworth Transkei, Joseph Timothy Nkosi, Eerstehook Bushbuckridge Ngqewewe Tana, Lusikisiki Transkei Sappo Tshentshine, Lusikisiki Transkei Khoete Ralekhetla, Mohaleshoek, Lesotho and Bulane Pascalis None, Mohaleshoek Lesotho

• See Pages 22, 23.

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A miner is held aloft in symbolic re-enactment of last week's Kinross Gold Mine tragedy at a memorial service for the 177 victims

Picture: JUDA NGWENYA, Reuters

Gencor agrees to NUM day of mourning

By PHILIP VAN NIEKERK

IN the wake of last week's Kinross mining disaster in which 177 workers died, Gencor has agreed to the National Union of Mineworkers' request for a day of mourning next Wednesday, October 1.

And the other mining houses have agreed to grant five minutes of silence throughout the industry on Wednesday for the dead miners.

At a meeting between the NUM and the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg yesterday, the Chamber also offered to submit their deadlocked wage dispute to mediation.

An NUM representative said Gencor's decision to accede to the day of mourning — which meant all the company's mines would close — was "realistic" under the circumstances. He said workers — who were extremely angry at the disaster — would have taken the day anyway.

The NUM central executive committee is to meet this weekend and consider the Chamber's offer of five minutes throughout the industry.

However, NUM president James Motlatsi told a union memorial service for the miners on Wednesday that miners "from Springbok to Messina" would take the day off.

Union sources said it was unlikely



Colleagues of the Kinross victims salute the dead at a memorial service early this week

Picture: WALTER DHLADLA, AFP

that the NUM would accept the Chamber's offer and it was probable that the union would press ahead with a national stoppage in the industry.

The NUM's call for a day of mourning has been supported by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the United Democratic Front and other community groups.

A Cosatu representative said Wednesday was not intended to be a national stayaway but that individual unions, factories and regions would decide how best to support the "day of action".

Meanwhile, the NUM's day of mourning on the mines is likely to be interpreted as a barometer of how much support the union would be able

to muster in the event of a wage strike. The disaster at Kinross has again heated up the dispute which has been simmering since June and could have inclined miners in the industry towards taking industrial action.

The Chamber's offer of mediation yesterday morning came as the NUM was getting ready to launch a strike ballot in preparation for an industry

wide strike and could have cooled the dispute for now.

The Chamber had ruled out either mediation or arbitration when the statutory conciliation board set up to resolve the dispute deadlocked earlier this month.

The Chamber is offering increases of about one percent over and above those implemented on July 1, which were 19 to 22 percent for surface workers in gold and coal, 17 to 20 percent for underground workers in gold and 18 to 21 percent for underground workers in coal.

The NUM is demanding across the board increases of 26 percent income security and June 16 as a paid public holiday. A difference of about four percentage points now separate the NUM and the Chamber.

An NUM representative said yesterday the Chamber would have to move significantly to meet the union's demand.

Last year the industry made unparalleled profits," he said. "They are in a good position to meet our demands."

The Chamber's industrial relations advisor Johan Liebenberg said yesterday he believed there was still room for a settlement.

48/9/86 (56) (1/2/86)

212 veeuw NUM 26/9/86

Lessons from Kinross

FM 26/9/86
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"Until Tuesday we thought we were winning the battle against mine fatalities and the record will show that there were objective grounds supporting that belief. This has been blown away and it's start-again and think-again time in Gencor safety management."

A grim-faced Derek Keys said this last Friday at a press conference where several top Gencor executives answered questions about the Kinross gold mine disaster. Keys told the media: "We owe it to the living to critically re-examine our existing procedures and materials throughout the group with a view to ensuring as far as humanly possible that such a tragic occurrence — on any scale — cannot occur again."

Gencor's new executive chairman could hardly have said anything else about the worst accident in South African gold mining history, which killed 177 miners and injured over 200. Regardless of where blame for the accident is finally placed — and it will be for the official inquiry to determine that — the fact is that, despite a plethora of rules and regulations for ensuring mine safety, something went very wrong at Kinross last Tuesday. This is a sobering consideration not just for Gencor, but for the mining industry as a

The tragedy at Kinross has focused the spotlight on SA's mining safety standards. Commendably, Gencor management has shown extreme sensitivity over the issue, and the industry as a whole has expressed determination that the disaster should never be repeated.

whole

Days after the event, details are still somewhat sketchy. But the general consensus is that the disaster was precipitated when a welding operation in a tunnel on the 15th level of the mine went awry, igniting a 600-metre length of polyurethane foam coating. Noxious fumes from this, and the PVC insulation on a power cable, which the mine's ventilation system helped spread, killed the miners.

Like the fire itself, the incident sparked a chain reaction in the industry. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has made a great deal of capital from the disclosure that Kinross's rating in the International Safety Rating System (ISRS) dropped from five stars to three at the last audit in June.



Raymond Preston

Gencor's Keys ... a time for reappraisal

The union has also called on mineworkers to observe October 1 as a day of mourning. It claims that Gencor has reneged on a public undertaking to allow a group of overseas

experts, invited to SA by NUM, access to the mine. Gencor says it is still talking to NUM about such a visit.

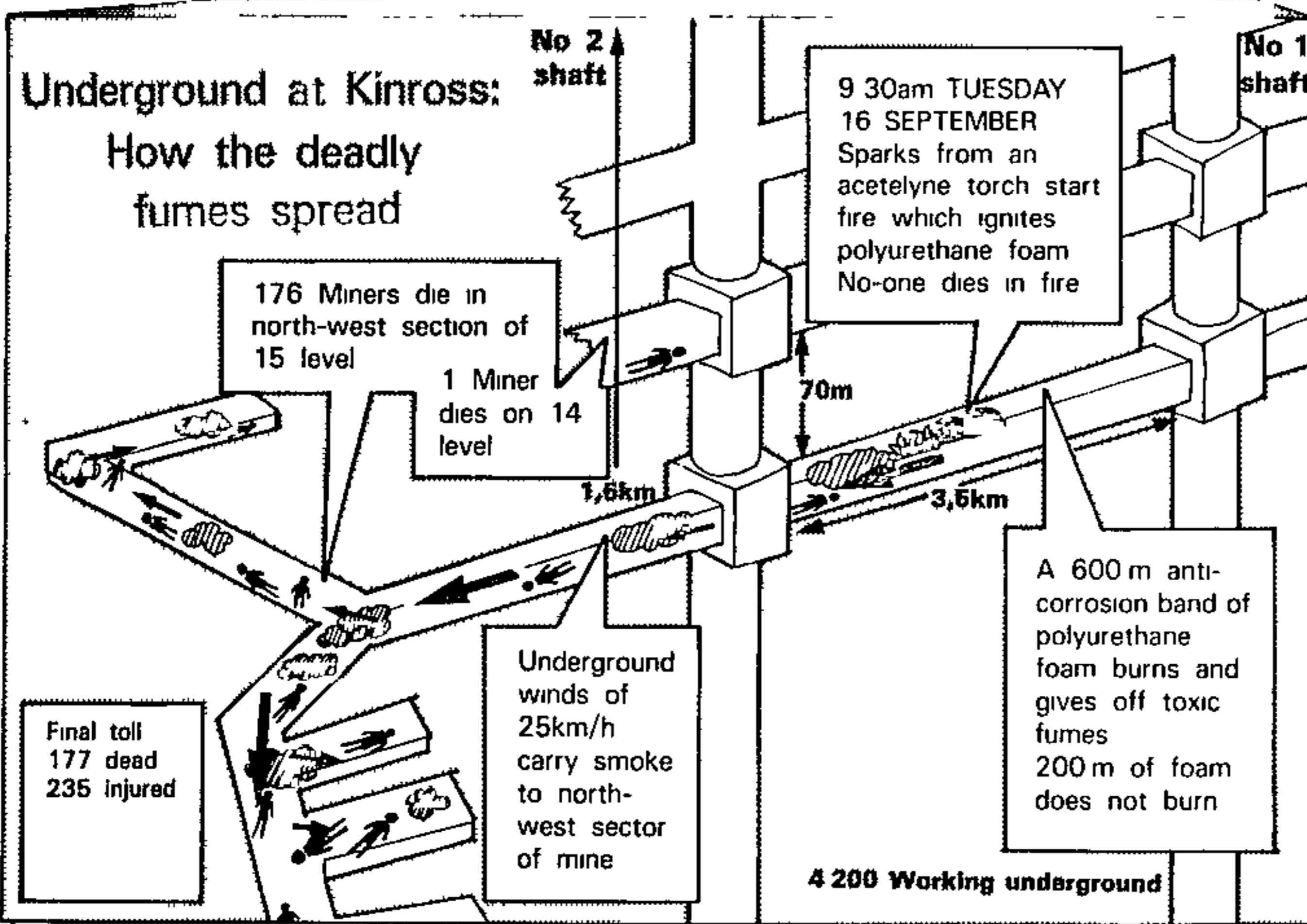
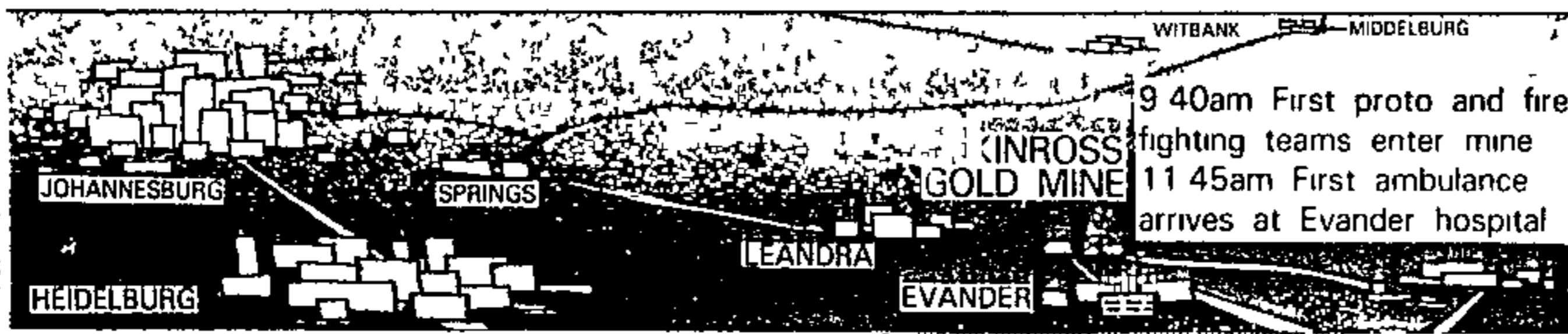
Much controversy about the incident centres on the polyurethane foam coating, which was applied in 1980 to prevent corrosion. Polyurethane is known to be a hazardous substance, and has reportedly been banned by mining authorities in some countries.

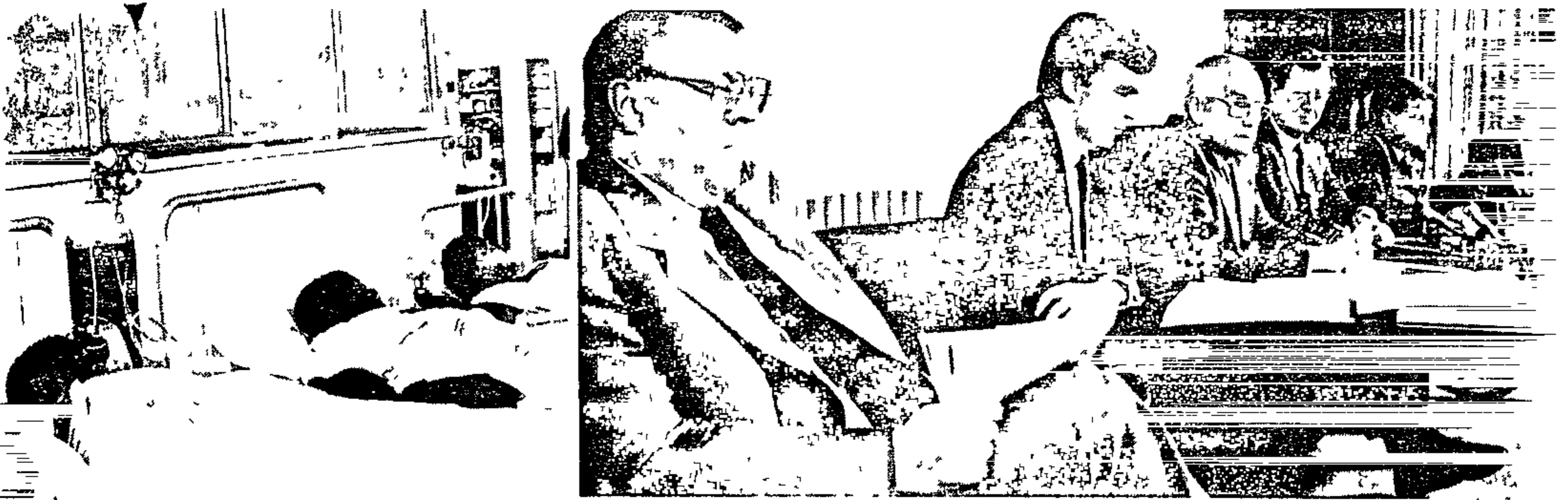
Management says that the compound was used at Kinross on the understanding that it was flameproof. Events, however, showed that it certainly was not fire-resistant. And Gencor has not been able to say whether any tests on the compound were conducted before it was introduced into the mine.

Chamber sources say the mining industry has been aware of the hazards associated with polyurethanes since at least 1981. Gencor, according to Con Fauconnier, head of its mining, metallurgical and medical services, has not used the compound for general application since that year.

But polyurethanes are still used for chilled water pipe insulation, for ventilation control, and for sealing off areas during fire-fighting. It is not at all clear how much polyurethane material there is in South African mines. Clearly, as the chamber said last week, the Kinross disaster has thrown "a huge question mark" over its con-

The anatomy of a mine disaster





Hospitalised workers, and Gencor press conference ... industrywide concern

tinued usage

The Kinross disaster happened days after the chamber triumphantly released figures for the first six months of 1986 showing that mining fatalities and reportable accidents had dropped to record lows. For the first time fatalities on gold mines dropped to 0,88 per thousand people employed, prompting Colin Fenton, chairman of the mine safety division, to proclaim "We have now achieved one of our major goals — to bring the gold mine rate below the psychologically important level of one per thousand"

The accident has altered that picture dramatically, rekindling a long-standing debate over the merits of the ISRS. The ISRS, which has been specifically adapted for South African mines, enables managements to determine the effectiveness of loss control programmes by measuring certain criteria. Critics claim that the ISRS is fatally flawed. The chamber, however, stoutly defends it.

Questions have also been raised about whether the miners would have had stood a greater chance of survival had they been equipped with self-rescuers, portable "aqualungs" providing individual air supplies to miners in an emergency. They were not, and now there are recriminations.

The *FM* understands that on the recommendation of the chamber's collieries committee, the Chamber Research Organisation has since 1983 been engaged in investigation into the desirability of introducing self-rescuers on the mines.

A year later, in the wake of the Hlobane colliery disaster, the

Government Mining Engineer (GME) signalled that he intended amending the Mines and Works Act to make it compulsory for all persons working underground to carry self-rescuers capable of supplying air for half an hour, an advance on existing self-rescuer technology. Initially, the GME set the end of 1985 as a target date for collieries to be equipped, the end of this year as the target date for gold mines, and the end of next year for other mines.

According to the chamber's technical adviser, David Gaynor, the GME subsequently dropped the deadlines when it became apparent that sufficient quantities of approved self-rescuers would not be available in time, saying instead they would be introduced to

specific mines and works when he deemed fit.

In point of fact, says Gaynor, only two manufacturers have come up with suitable units so far. He expects that with some minor modifications, the models will be approved for use soon.

The incident has also aroused international concern — not all of which has been appreciated by government. Foreign Minister Pik Botha appeared quite put out by the telegram of condolence sent by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which suggested that German experts might be able to make some constructive suggestions. Botha's response was to invite Genscher himself to visit SA, saying

Genscher was apparently not aware of the high standards of safety in the mining industry.

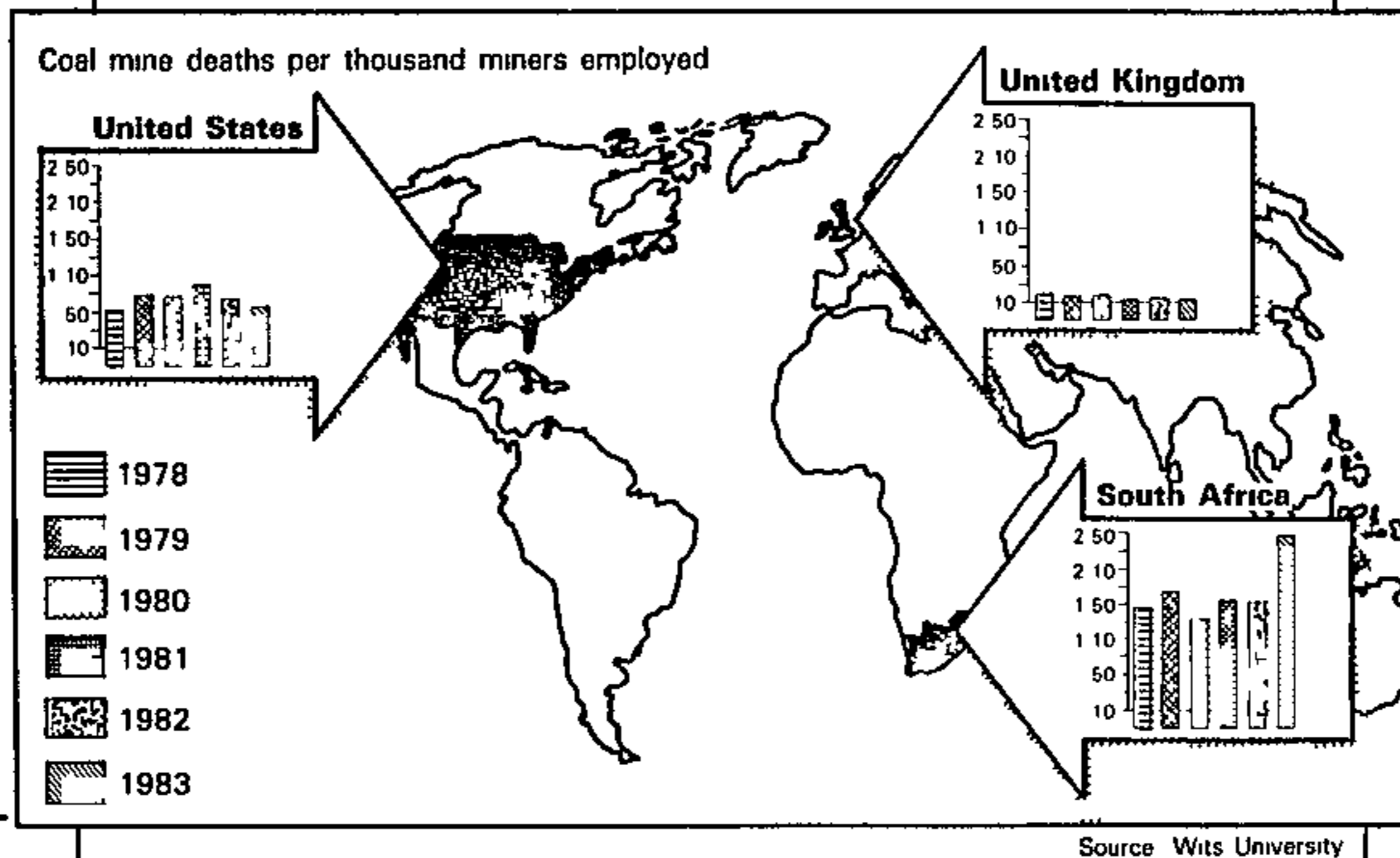
Industry sources expect that it could take as long as a year for the inquiry into the accident to come out with its findings. That will do little to furnish answers to the questions the accident has raised, or to improve relations between NUM and Gencor.

Against this background, government would do well to consider speeding up the process

— a delay of 12 months will not be in anybody's interest.

□ Reported accidents in SA are more serious than cold statistics suggest. An accident only becomes "reportable" (included in statistics) if it prevents a man from returning to work in 14 days. In the US, by contrast, it becomes reportable if it prevents the man from doing his next shift, while in Britain the period is three days. ■

How we rate against the US and the UK



Source: Wits University

MONITORING MINE SAFETY

Death and reportable injury rates per 1 000 employees pa

Year	Death rates per 1 000 pa				Reportable injury rates per 1 000 pa			
	Gold	Coal	Other mines	All members	Gold	Coal	Other mines	All members
1976	1,38	1,06	0,82	1,27	51,89	22,72	21,65	44,29
1977	1,41	1,32	0,73	1,32	47,56	23,59	21,19	41,04
1978	1,48	1,08	0,56	1,32	47,47	21,64	20,28	40,80
1979	1,25	1,11	0,67	1,16	42,66	14,98	17,62	35,94
1980	1,32	0,94	0,47	1,17	37,66	12,46	12,80	31,39
1981	1,26	1,05	0,60	1,16	32,42	11,61	11,54	27,21
1982	1,25	0,99	0,65	1,15	32,00	8,66	8,33	26,22
1983	1,30	1,49	0,37	1,24	29,93	8,97	9,79	25,37
1984	1,18	0,67	0,38	1,04	27,06	7,81	9,32	22,81
1985	1,03	0,42	0,38	0,89	25,08	7,06	10,75	21,56

Source: Chamber of Mines

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By LEN MASEKO

Miners remember the

THE Kinross Gold Mine disaster, which claimed 177 lives, has spawned what appears to be the biggest showdown between mine employers and black miners in the industry's history.

This came out loud and clear at the Kinross memorial service held at Secunda's Embalenhle township when about 10 000 people — including miners — converged on the Eastern Transvaal township to pay homage to the dead Kinross mineworkers.

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, addressing the service, said time had come for black workers to take control of the South African mines and their properties because "we, as workers, will ensure that no-one is befallen by incidents such as the one at Kinross".

The NUM boss had a clear message for the Chamber of Mines.

● That mines, "from Namaqualand to Messina", will be closed on October 1 as the country's black workforce observe a day of mourning in honour of the Kinross dead.

● That, henceforth, the union would not tolerate "any more mine accidents".

● That the Chamber should ban the use, at the mines, of the polyurethane, a highly toxic substance reported to have started the fire which led to the death of 177 miners and the injuring of hundreds of others.

NUM had enlisted the help of medical and legal experts in its investigations into the incident. Mr Ramaphosa told the service NUM's medical advisors have also told the union that the survivors of the incident could suffer from health problems as a result of the toxic fumes they inhaled, he said.

The union received messages of sympathy from — among others — prime ministers of Australia and Sweden, from the exiled South African Congress of Trade Unions, Zimbabwe, Argentina and Britain's Trade Union Council.

Feelings ran high at the meeting when Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Mr Nelson Mandela, was introduced as a guest speaker.

"I bring messages of deep sympathy from the township mothers, who themselves have witnessed the killing of pensioners in White City, Jabavu," Mrs Mandela told the service.

She had also brought a message of sympathy from her husband, "once a miner himself at Crown Mines in the '40s". The black miners held "the golden key to freedom", she said.

Freedom would only be achieved when black miners "stopped digging their (whites) gold and diamonds", Mrs Mandela said.

Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo told the meeting that the federation demanded health and safety at the mines to be under workers' control and safety stewards be appointed.

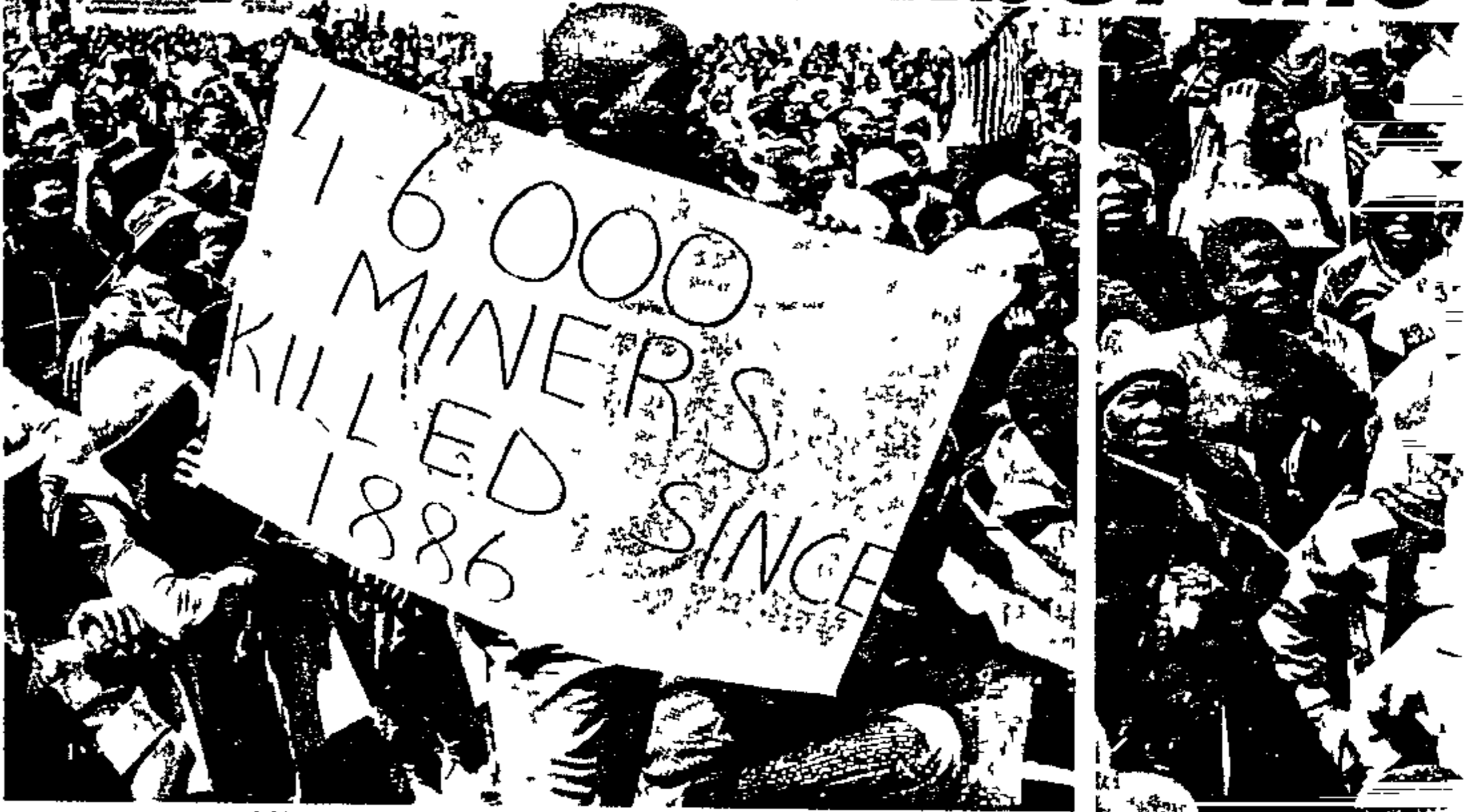
Miners had already "filled 46 000 graves", said NUM president Mr James Motlatsi. "Are we prepared to fill up more graves with our bodies?"

The Chamber of Mines was warned not to dismiss mineworkers observing the mourning day next Wednesday, "as nobody will take our jobs when we are dismissed, nobody will be bussed back to the so-called homelands".

● Mr Martin Nicol of the Cape Town-based Labour Research Services, told the *Sowetan* in an interview that it was difficult to work out mines' production losses in monetary terms that will result from Wednesday's day of mourning.

However, he said, in the gold mining sector this could be calculated against the R5,7 billion working profit attained by these mines last year.

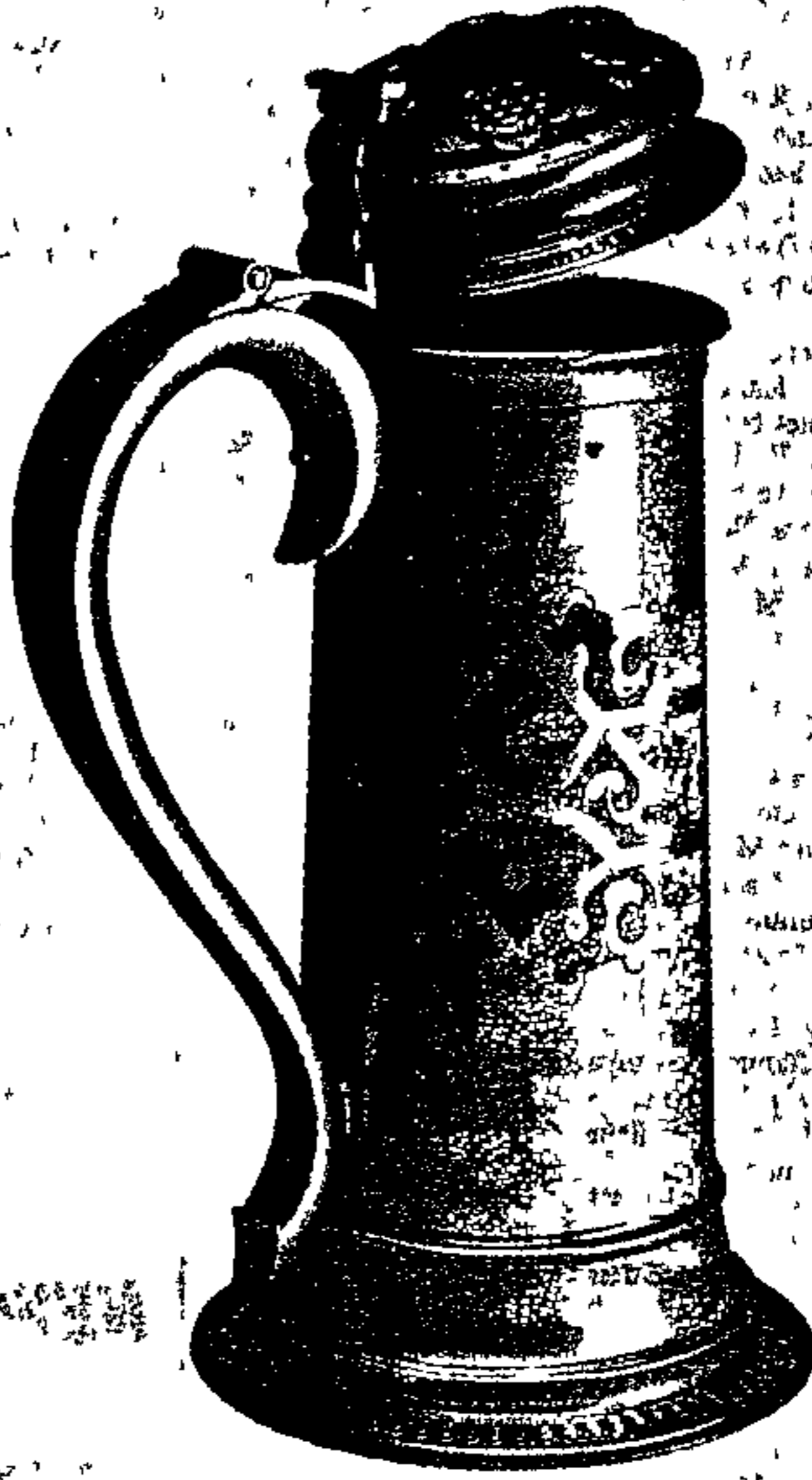
The Chamber has kept mum on "the day of mourning" issue.



A MINER holds a placard showing the mines casualty toll



A MINER'S daughter listens intently to the speeches. PICS. MBUZENI ZULU



Charles I silver and gilt handmade tankard. With hinged lid. Maker's mark 'WM'. Created in 1637. Sold in London recently for £21,600.

eir fallen comrades



PART of the crowd which attended the memorial service at Secunda



THE general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa (right), listens to speeches during the service



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Mrs WINNIE Mandela was one of the speakers.

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Disaster mine's owners to review safety practices

ARGUS 26/9/86 (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Gencor, owner of the Kinross mine where 177 were killed last week in an underground fire, was fully aware of the potential dangers of polyurethane foam which was applied to a 600m stretch of haulage in the mine

The polyurethane foam is believed to have emitted poisonous gases which played a significant role in the tragedy

The Chamber of Mines' technical adviser disclosed this week that several circulars concerning the dangers of polyurethane foam materials had

been circulated to chamber members over the last 18 years

The chamber also said that in May 1977 information concerning a fire at Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine was distributed after the flammable materials underground were identified as polystyrene and polyurethane

No substitutes

Asked if Gencor had received the chamber's circulars, a Gencor spokesman said "Yes, Gencor was aware that these were potentially dangerous materials. In all mines, a large number of potentially dangerous materials have to be used because there are no adequate substitutes. These include timber, paints, dieselene, conveyor belts, rubber hoses and tyres"

Asked if Gencor took any steps as regards the use of polyurethane materials on its mines and whether, after the Buffelsfontein fire in 1977, the company acted in any way on the information circulated about the two flammable materials, the spokesman said "Yes. As with other potentially dangerous materials their use was restricted to specialised applications and precautions were taken to manage the risk"

Inadequate

"At Kinross, for reasons that still have to be established, these proved tragically inadequate and this has prompted Gencor to re-assess its safety practices and procedures with regard to flammable materials completely"

● The Chamber of Mines announced today the mining industry would observe five minutes silence from noon on October 1 to mourn the deaths of the victims of the Kinross mine disaster

More than 600 000 mining men and women will cease their activities for five minutes as a mark of respect. — The Argus Correspondent and Sapa

600 000 to pay respects

GENCOR, owners of the Kinross gold mine where 177 men died in last week's disaster, has decided to permit all employees who wish to do so to take a day's leave on October 1 to mourn their colleagues

The Chamber of Mines has said that all 99 of its member mines will observe a five-minute silence from noon on the same day

This comes after a call by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) for October 1 to be declared a day of mourning on which mining operations should cease

The chamber says that at noon on October 1 "more than 600 000 mining men and women will cease their activi-

● To Page 2



600 000 to pay their respects

ties for five minutes to pay their respects to their colleagues.

"Chamber members support the call that the 177 men who died be mourned"

Gencor employees' leave will be taken from the leave standing to their credit

The arrangements were conveyed to NUM representatives at a meeting yesterday. Union spokesman Marcel Golding said the matter would be discussed by the NUM's national executive committee today

He said the NUM was disappointed the chamber had only partially met its call. In an attempt to break the deadlock in their annual wage negotiations, the

chamber and NUM have agreed to refer the dispute to mediation

They are to ask Independent Mediation Services of SA (Immsa) to supply a mediator

Deadlock was reached last Friday with the chamber offering wage increases from 18% to 22% in response to the NUM's 26% across-the-board demand. Also in dispute is the NUM's demand for a paid holiday on June 16 and details of income security for miners injured in accidents

● From Page

BUS DAY

KINROSS - US UNION GIVES HAND

25/9/86

SOWETAN

2/2

WASHINGTON — An American miners' union is raising funds for families of victims of the Kinross gold mine disaster, and union leaders are offering their help in improving safety in South African mines.

A spokesman for the union, the

United Mine Workers of America, said there appeared to be enthusiastic response to the appeal — much of it coming from coal mining communities in West Virginia.

He declined to say how much had been raised so far, but noted that money had been sent in the past by the UMWA to the S A Miners Aid Fund

The new appeal for funds was an extension of that effort

Union leaders said the tragedy underscored the urgent need for sanctions against South Africa

It was only when black SA mineworkers were free to choose their own government that full, necessary protection for them would be instituted

Tragedy

UMWA president Mr Richard Trumka said

"This tragedy clearly demonstrates the unacceptable working conditions to which SA mine workers are exposed on a daily basis, and the blatant disregard the mining companies and the SA Government have for the health and safety of these workers

The UMWA fully supports the call by the National Union of Mine Workers of SA for a

SOWETAN Foreign Service

comprehensive commission of inquiry into this disaster and the working conditions of South Africa's mines in general

Changes

"Clearly, dramatic changes must be made in designing and enforcing proper safety standards that will protect the miners in that industry"

Mr Trumka said the UMWA offered whatever assistance it could to the National Union of Mine Workers of S A, including its expertise in mine safety and health

DD 25.9/86 (25) (212)

Mine victims named

JOHANNESBURG — The names of 168 miners killed in the Kinross mining disaster were released yesterday

Among them are 44 from Transkei, four from Ciskei and four from the Eastern Cape. A mine spokesman said the names of another two Transkeians were being withheld until confirmation was received that their next of kin had been informed.

About 5 000 miners braved heat and clouds of dust near Kinross

yesterday to hear union and community leaders pay tribute to the disaster victims — and berate the mining industry for low safety levels and unequal pay.

The service was organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

The speakers included the NUM president, Mr James Motlatse, the NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, and anti-apartheid activist Mrs Winnie Mandela.

— Sapa
Victims' names P21

Commemoration service for Kinross dead passes quietly

25/1/86 SPAC

Workers demand more control of mine safety

By Mike Siluma and Mudini Maivha

Speakers at yesterday's commemoration service for the 177 miners who died in last week's Kinross disaster demanded increased worker control of safety matters on the mines

The service was organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and held at Embalehle township, near Secunda

The speakers repeatedly expressed the workers' determination to stop work next Wednesday to mourn the Kinross dead

NUM leader Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said We will not allow a single miner to die because we care about each other Our message to the Chamber of Mines is that, from today, we will not allow workers to be killed as they were at Kinross

Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who was mobbed by chanting workers, reminded them that next week's proposed stoppage was just the beginning of the long battle against the "racists" in Pretoria

'Only five were whites'

"The gas that killed our brothers in that tragedy was not used by two countries who are Pretoria's closest allies — Britain and the United States Pretoria used that gas because it does not care about workers' lives Out of 177 dead only five were whites," she said

Pretoria's actions had shown the time for talking was over

"We accept the challenge," said Mrs Mandela

Money derived from gold and diamonds dug up by workers was used by the State to buy guns, bullets and uniforms and freedom would only come the day miners stopped digging gold

Workers at the service chanted slogans such as "Down with Le Grange's dogs" and sang songs praising Mr Ramaphosa and ANC leaders Mr Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela



Miners in the crowd at the Embalehle Stadium, near Secunda, yesterday raised placards at the memorial service for the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mine disaster last week

The service went without incident despite the attendance of thousands of miners and many police Police in helicopters circled the stadium and, towards the end of the service, gave dispersing workers five minutes to leave

Miners escorted at gunpoint

HUNDREDS of Kinross miners were prevented "at gunpoint" from attending a memorial service in honour of their 177 dead colleagues, a National Union of Mine-workers official told a gathering yesterday.

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa told the memorial service, held at Secunda's Embalenhle Stadium, most of the Kinross miners could not attend the service because they were "escorted at gunpoint to resume duty underground"

The NUM official told about 10 000 people — mostly miners — attending the service that the time had come for black workers to take control of the mining industry.

• Gencor spokesman, Mr Harry Hill, responding to the "gun incident", said miners had been told they were free to return to work

"However, a number of workers negotiated with management to provide a safety escort to accompany them underground in fear of being prevented from resuming duty," he said

(212) ~~PHOTO~~

Cape Times, Thursday, September 25 1986 3



Mrs Winnie Mandela is greeted by miners as she arrives at a stadium near Secunda yesterday

Kinross miners mob Winnie Mandela

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Mrs Winnie Mandela was mobbed by Kinross miners as she arrived to address them at an Eastern Transvaal township stadium yesterday

Mrs Mandela said at the meeting "It is the gold you dig that buys the Caspers, uniforms and guns"

The Embalenhle stadium meeting, attended by some 3 000 miners, was called by the National Union of Mineworkers to commemorate the deaths of the 177 victims of last week's disaster

The NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, alleged that some Kinross miners had been prevented from attending the meeting. He claimed they had been forced to work at gunpoint yesterday. Gencor denied this. He said "The time has come to en-

sure no more miners fall victim to accidents"

Mr Ramaphosa said messages of sympathy and support had been received from the UDF, the South African Congress of Trade Unions in Lusaka, union organizations in the UK, Ghana, Chile, Zimbabwe, Zambia and West Germany, and from the prime ministers of Sweden and Australia

Gencor has denied Kinross miners were forced to work yesterday. A spokesman said that all Gencor employees wishing to attend the meeting were permitted to do so

A large police contingent kept watch outside the stadium. As people began leaving at the end of the meeting they were warned to disperse by police in a helicopter. The police addressed the crowd through the helicopter's loudspeaker

FROM now on any miner asked to work in an area he believes to be dangerous should refuse to do so, as was his right, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) regional chairman Eric Vela told about

3 000 Eastern Transvaal miners in the eMbalenhle township near Kinross yesterday

The meeting was called by the NUM to commemorate the deaths of the 177 victims of last week's disaster

Feelings at the meeting ran high. A large police contingent in about 20 vehicles kept a low profile outside the stadium. And a police helicopter flew over a few times earlier in the day

Miners told to

refuse to work

ALAN FINE

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa alleged that some Kinross miners had been prevented from attending the meeting. He said they had been forced to work at gunpoint yesterday.

He said "The time has come to take

● To Page 2 →

NUM urges miners to down tools

control of the mines so as to ensure no more miners fall victim to accidents"

And he demanded that polyurethane foam, thought to be responsible for many of the Kinross deaths, be removed immediately from all mines

Ramaphosa said union-appointed medical experts would be examining survivors of the accident. And NUM would ensure that those whose health had been affected by the inhalation of fumes would be compensated

Messages of sympathy and support had been received from the United Democratic Front (UDF), the SA Congress of Trade Unions in Lusaka, union organisations in the UK, Ghana, Chile, Zimbabwe, Zambia and West Germany, and from the Prime Ministers of Sweden and Australia

Winnie Mandela, the only non-union speaker at the meeting, was mobbed as she arrived at the stadium by car. Man-

dela said she felt the pain of SA's rural mining communities

She referred to the NUM call on miners to refuse to work on October 1, saying they might one day be called upon to make a greater sacrifice. She said "It is the gold you dig that buys the Casspirs, uniforms and guns"

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) general secretary Jay Naidoo said the mines should be nationalised "because bosses are more interested in profits than in saving our lives"

Gencor has denied Kinross miners were forced to work yesterday. A spokesman said that all Gencor employees wishing to attend the meeting were permitted to do so

← ● From Page 1

25/9/86 BUNDAY

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NATIONAL

46 000 gold miners killed in accidents this century

A thousand ways to die

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Since 1982 mine safety has ceased to be an issue exclusively debated by the mining houses and high-powered academics

It has become a top priority of the biggest trade union in the country, the National Union of Mineworkers which has launched a national safety campaign

Forty-six thousand workers have died in accidents in the gold mines in South Africa this century according to a safety booklet launched by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

The booklet is entitled "A thousand ways to die — *The struggle for safety in the gold mines*". It was released on Friday, just four days after the Kinross gold mine disaster claimed 177 lives

The publication, to be circulated among mineworkers is part of the NUM's national mine safety and training campaign

It is based on information gathered in interviews with 90 long-serving team leaders and drillers who work at the rock face on four gold mines

workers stop because the working place is not safe, they may be warned, charged and sometimes even fired. The fear of punishment makes workers take more chances in the stopes

In 1983, 17 workers were fired at the West Dreifontein gold mine because they refused to work in dangerous conditions

The NUM went to the Industrial Court and got their jobs back

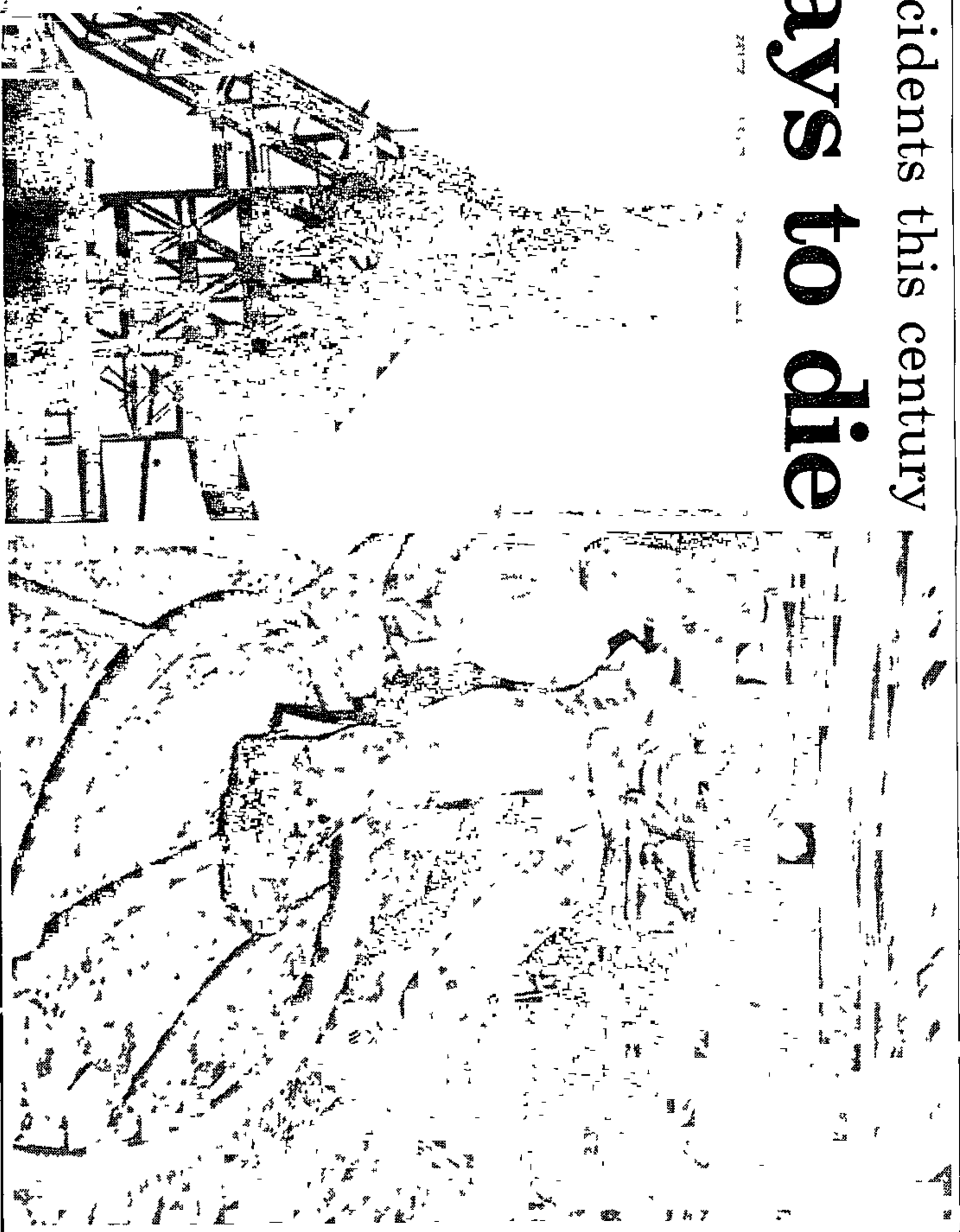
The bonus is not a big part of black workers wages but it is a big part of the white miner's pay packet. White miners often double their wages in bonuses

"A white miner chasing a bonus is one of the biggest reasons for accidents," the booklet said

Noise underground results in noise deafness and is a serious danger underground. Workers cannot hear warnings from fellow workers and they cannot hear the sound of moving rock

"Because workers need to listen for danger, hearing protection like ear plugs is not the answer. The answer is quieter working places and machines, even if this costs more money"

Workers are unhappy with the



'Every death is one too many'

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The safety booklet launched by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) contains interviews with NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and NUM president, Mr James Motlatsi.

Apart from the 46 000 workers who had died in the gold mines the NUM said: "Nobody knows how many hundreds of thousands of workers have been crippled and hurt. Nobody knows how many have died young from all kinds of diseases."

In the period 1973 to 1984 over 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines, according to the International Labour Organisation.

Latest Chamber of Mines figures show that in the first six months of this year accident rates fell to record lows. The latest fatality rate for every 1 000 underground workers is 0,88

"Since Johannesburg was born, thousands of workers have been killed in the gold mines," says Mr Ramaphosa.

"For many people Johannesburg means struggle and trouble and hardship

"These people have not got rich.

"Johannesburg has not been kind to the ones who really built her

"We will not rest as long as our people are dying underground. For us, every death is one too many."

He urged "All workers must remember that safety comes first. Safety must be our daily song."

accidents is having to work in working places that are not safe. Many accidents should not happen and do not need to happen.

White miners spend little time in the stopes these days. In many instances they do not do what the law requires, they do not make safe or carry out inspections, no longer mark off drill holes and remove misfires and don't work with explosives.

Black team leaders are doing the work of white miners without the necessary training for the jobs. Team leaders do not have the same authority as white miners and cannot tell their teams to leave the working place if it is dangerous.

The government has said the laws will change in 1987 but the NUM is concerned about training for team leaders and their authority.

In terms of the Mines and Works Act, white miners are supposed to make safe dangerous conditions. Team leaders seldom call in the white miner in charge because they "know he will not come and if he does, he will say 'Work now, complain later'".

The mines use threats and punishment to make the work go faster. If

hats fall off easily in dangerous conditions. Workers say they need stronger boots with steel toe caps and foot guards.

Miners in Britain are all issued with steel-capped boots and failing to wear them is a firing offence.

Most workers say training for new workers is not good enough. Mineworkers believe the bosses are in a hurry to send them underground. Most cannot speak Fanagalo properly when they go underground.

Bill of rights

The NUM has drawn up a bill of rights which includes the right to

- Elect safety stewards and safety committees
- Refuse dangerous work
- Call and go with inspectors on all inspections without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- All information on health and safety
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights
- A say in the running of the mine and all future plans

US miners raise funds for Kinross

The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON — An American miners' union is raising funds for families of victims of the Kinross gold mine disaster, and union leaders are offering their help in improving safety in SA mines.

A spokesman for the union, the United Mine Workers of America, said there appeared to be enthusiastic response to the appeal — much of it coming from coal mining communities in West Virginia.

UMWA president Mr Richard Trumka said "This tragedy clearly demonstrates the unacceptable working conditions to which SA mine workers are exposed on a daily basis.

"The UMWA fully supports the call by the National Union of Mine Workers of SA for a comprehensive commission of inquiry into this disaster and the working conditions of South Africa's mines in general.

"Clearly, dramatic changes must be made in designing and enforcing proper safety standards that will protect the miners in that industry."

Mr Trumka said the union offered whatever assistance it could to the National Union of Mine Workers of SA, including its expertise in mine safety and health.

Substance 'banned on British mines'

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — It was "inconceivable" that South African mines should not know about the danger of polyurethane, the substance that is considered responsible for causing the death of scores of miners in the Kinross gold mine fire last week, a British fire and explosives expert said.

Dr Herbert Eisner — who worked at the Explosion Flame Laboratory of the British Health and Safety executive, one of the biggest such laboratories in Europe, before his retirement in 1981 — said "they should have known about it, even without any official notification."

Polyurethane was outlawed in British mines in 1968, he said.

Dr Eisner was speaking at a Press conference this week. He came to South Africa at the request of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), but has so far been refused access to the site of the Kinross mine disaster.

Dr Eisner is due to be joined by two more experts, from Sweden and Germany — but the South African Department of Home Affairs "apparently does not want to give a visa" to the Swede, Dr Peter Westerholm, said Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, NUM general secretary.

Payout for bereaved

The Star's Africa News Service 212

MBABANE — The families of the 14 Swazi miners killed in the Kinross disaster are to receive the financial equivalent of two years' pay.

The Employment Bureau for Africa (Teba) representative in Mbabane, Mr John Olivier, said yesterday that, in the case of victims who had large families, this payment might be increased.

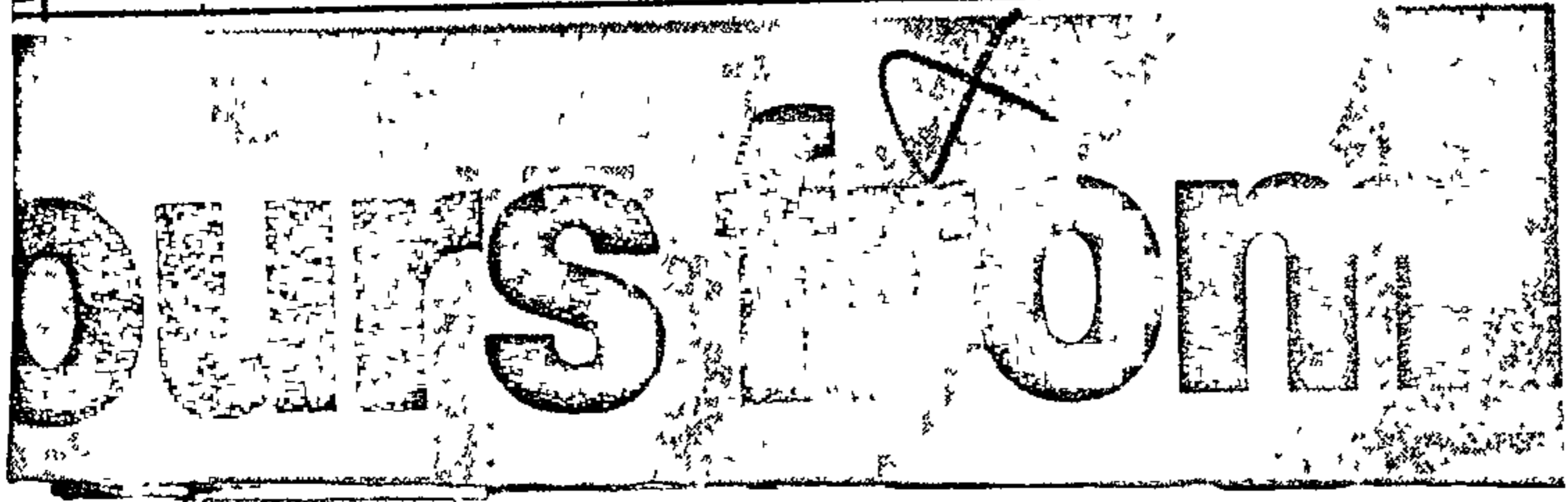
He said relatives had been informed of the deaths but the official list of all 177 killed in the disaster would be released in a general list by Gencor.

NUM shaft steward arrested at Kinross

A senior shaft steward of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at the Kinross Mine has been arrested after an incident at the mine.

"We understand there was an alleged assault on the Kinross mine on Monday afternoon after which an employee was hospitalised. The employee has laid a charge of assault against another employee. This is a matter between two employees," a spokesman for Gencor said.

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46 000 miners have died, claims NUM

Forty-six thousand workers have died in accidents in the gold mines in South Africa this century, according to a safety booklet issued by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

The booklet is entitled "A Thousand Ways to Die — the Struggle for Safety in the Gold Mines" It was released on Friday, four days after the Kinross gold mine disaster had claimed 177 lives

The publication, to be circulated among mine-workers, is part of the NUM's national mine safety and training campaign It is based on information gathered in interviews with 90 long-serving team leaders and drillers who work at the rock face on four gold mines

Apart from the 46 000 workers who died, the NUM said, "nobody knows how many hundreds of thousands of workers have been crippled and hurt or have died young from various diseases"

In the period 1973 to 1984 more than 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines, according to the International Labour Organisation

In recent years, the mining industry has boasted of dramatic declines in fatality and injury rates

Latest Chamber of Mines figures show that, in the first six months of this year, accident rates fell to record lows The latest fatality rate for every 1 000 underground workers is 0,88, an improvement of nearly 15 percent over the previous figure of 1,03 per 1 000 and a 40 percent improvement in the past decade

Nevertheless, the NUM believes more can be done about safety on the mines

"Since the NUM started in 1982, the struggle for safety has been on the top of its list," says the union's booklet

In it workers talk about pressure bursts and rock falls and other dangers, including noise, alleged poor training and the production bonus which, they say, spurs those in charge to sacrifice safety for production

'Trouble and hardship'

The booklet contains interviews with NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and NUM president Mr James Motlatsi

"Since Johannesburg was born, more than 50 000 workers have been killed in the gold mines," says Mr Ramaphosa "For thousands of people, Johannesburg means struggle and trouble and hardship"

"We will not rest as long as our people are dying underground For us, every death is one too many"

Mr Motlatsi, who comes from Lesotho, has worked on the mines since 1970 He was trapped underground after a rock burst at Western Deep Levels gold mine in 1974 and suffered a fractured skull

In his interview he said the mining companies did not spend enough money on safety because "they want big profits"

He said "When I visited Sweden, I saw they don't use wooden props — they use special hydraulic props In Germany, they support all the haulages with steel and cement Our haulages are not supported unless the place is very dangerous The mines must also spend more money on ventilation Workers get dizzy and sick from bad ventilation — and then they have accidents"

"The bosses give each other stars for safety A mine with four stars sounds like a good, safe mine But this is not so For example, the ERPM gold mine near Boksburg has four stars In 1985, 53 workers were killed in the mine In 1984, 52 workers were killed"

He wished to see the mine owners agree to full-time union safety stewards and safety committees

Mr Motlatsi said the Chamber of Mines, funded by the mining houses, spent some of its money trying to find ways to make the mines safer each year

"But the chamber spends a lot more time and money finding ways to get more gold out of the ground and how to make more money"

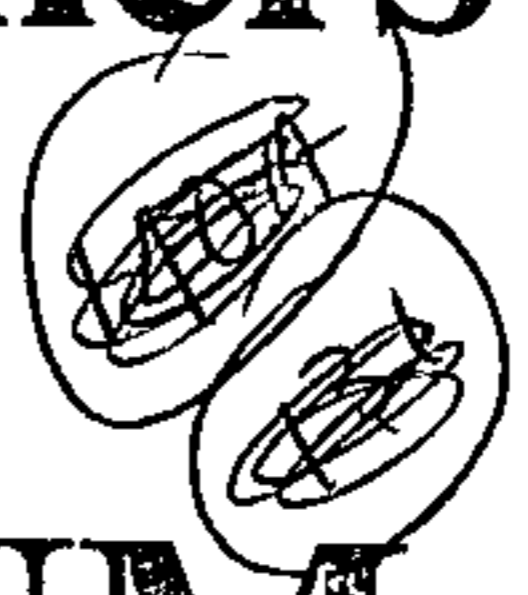
He accused the Chamber of "keeping secrets"

"They do not share what they know with other people The NUM asked to see 42 of their safety reports to help with our own report The chamber refused"

Since 1982, mine safety has ceased to be an issue exclusively debated by the mining houses and high-powered academics It has become a top priority of the biggest trade union in the country, the National Union of Mineworkers, which has launched a national safety campaign SHERYL RAINE reports.

Star 24/9/86

212



Payout for bereaved

STP The Star's Africa News Service 212

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The Employment Bureau for Africa (Teba) representative in Mbabane, Mr John Olivier, said yesterday that, in the case of victims who had large families, this payment might be increased.

He said relatives had been informed of the deaths but the official list of all 177 killed in the disaster would be released in a general list by Gencor.

1012 Day *MEM* *7.31*

Cwiu still waiting for mine inquiry

WITH all parties anxiously awaiting the inquiry into the Kinross mine disaster, another mine accident inquiry has yet to be finalised more than a year after the event

On August 12 last year, 30 miners died in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery near Secunda. The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (Cwiu), which represents most of the mine's 8 700 workers, said yesterday it was contemplating legal action

212 ALAN FINE *24/9/88*

However, Government Mining Engineer Badie Badenhorst said his department submitted information to the AG of the Transvaal soon after the accident

A spokesman for the AG's office said he received the documentation only about a week ago from the Occupational Safety Court prosecutor. A decision should be taken within two weeks

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has accused Gencor of obstructing attempts by a British health and safety expert to visit the Kinross gold mine, scene of last week's disaster

Safety expert is blocked claim

24/9/86
BUD DAY
212
1404

ALAN FINE

The expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, arrived in SA yesterday on an expected one-week visit.

NUM legal representative Clive Thompson told a Press conference last night that, after an initial blunt refusal, Gencor had now agreed in principle to Eisner's investigation. But the company has refused to specify a time and date.

Eisner previously assisted the NUM in the inquiry into the Hlobane colliery disaster in 1983.

Eisner said that in visits to several mines during an earlier trip, he had seen nothing to suggest SA mines were any less safe than their American and European counterparts. The same applies to rules and regulations for local mines.

But, he added, it is a question of "accident experience". SA gold mining conditions are not comparable with mines anywhere else in the world.

Polyurethane foam, thought to be responsible for many of the Kinross deaths, had been banned from British mines since the late '60s, he said. "All other

combustibles" are also banned

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said the NUM has also invited a Swedish expert, Dr Peter Westerholm, to assist in investigations. A German expert is expected to complete the team.

Ramaphosa told the Press conference that two top NUM officials had been detained near Kinross yesterday. One had been released after being questioned about arrangements for today's planned commemoration meeting. Ramaphosa expects that most of the 25 000 workers from five mines in the vicinity will attend.

Late last night Gencor denied it was hedging on the question of the visit by Eisner to the mine. "We have asked the union to wait until the memorial services are over. We are busy formulating an invitation to a number of overseas experts, including the NUM's. And we have agreed with the union that we will talk further about the matter," said spokesman Harry Hill.

'Mines must know of danger'

JOHANNESBURG — A British fire and explosives expert, who has so far been refused access to the site of the Kinross mine disaster, said it was "inconceivable" that South African mines were unaware of the dangers of polyurethane.

The substance was outlawed in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, Dr Herbert Eisner, here at the request of the National Union of Mines (NUM), said at a Press conference in Johannesburg last night.

"South Africa regularly attends a biannual world mining conference. There is much collaboration between the mining bodies and the recommendations are taken up by other countries," he said.

The general secretary of NUM, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said the Foreign Minister, Mr P W Botha, the State President, Mr P W Botha, and the Chamber of Mines had invited "any international expert in mines to conduct an inspection" of the mine, where 177 miners were killed in a fire last week.

"Now Gencor says they are not prepared to allow anyone to visit the underground works of the place of the accident," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Dr Eisner will be joined by two more experts from Sweden and Germany. The Swede, Dr Peter Westerholm, has not yet been granted a visa to SA.

NUM attorney Mr Clive Thompson said he was still negotiating with Gencor attorneys for the team to go underground.

Mr Ramaphosa said legal action would follow the inquiry and investigations were under way to track down a United States firm, Mobay, which the union believed was a parent company of a local subsidiary who supplied polyurethane to the mine. The company could be held responsible for the deaths of the miners, he said.

● At Secunda today a large portion of the crowd of several thousand people attending a memorial service for the 177 dead miners, rose and cheered as Mrs Winnie Mandela arrived at the stadium — Sapa

Union gives long list of safety shortcomings

You tell me about danger!
Not about my bonus?
Look 'n plan, man!



An illustration from the NUM booklet "A thousand ways to die".

Various safety shortcomings are alleged by the NUM in the safety booklet

The main reason given for accidents is having to work in places which are unsafe.

It is claimed that white miners spend little time in the stopes these days and often do not do what the law requires. They are accused of not carrying out inspections, not marking off drill holes, not removing misfires and not working with explosives

The booklet says black team leaders are doing the work of white miners without the training. But team leaders do not have the authority of white miners and cannot tell teams to leave the workplace if it is dangerous.

White miners are supposed to make dangerous conditions safe. Yet, the NUM alleges, team leaders seldom call in the white miner because he rarely responds and has a "work now, complain later" attitude. White miners

are only called in if conditions are extremely dangerous

The booklet also says the mines use threats and punishment to make work go faster. If workers stop because the working place is not safe, they may be warned, charged and sometimes sacked. Fear of punishment makes workers take chances

WAGES DROPPED BY HALF

When charged, a worker must stand before a mine manager's "court". One team leader claimed he was charged after failing to finish the work allocated for a day. He was demoted to a team member for nine months and his wages dropped by half.

In 1983, 17 workers were fired at West Driefontein gold mine after refusing to work in dangerous conditions. The NUM went to the Industrial Court and got their jobs back

The bonus is not a big part of black workers' wages, but forms a big part of white pay. Workers claim mine bosses pay white miners bonuses to "chase production".

"A white miner chasing a bonus is one of the biggest reasons for accidents," the booklet says.

Noise underground results in noise deafness and is a serious danger. Workers cannot hear warnings nor the sound of moving rock.

The booklet adds: "Because workers need to listen for danger, ear plugs are not the answer. The answer is quieter working places and machines, even if this costs more money."

Workers claim the hard hats they are issued with fall off easily in dangerous conditions. They also want stronger boots.

The NUM has drawn up a bill of rights which includes the right to:

- Elect safety stewards and committees
- Refuse dangerous work
- Call and go with inspectors on all inspections without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- See all information on health and safety
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights
- A say in running the mine and planning

The NUM says the bonus system must be changed to ensure safer working conditions.

It believes the Mines and Works Act, due to be de-racialised next year, must not only be changed, but steps taken to ensure black mineworkers who take on jobs previously held by whites do not behave in the same way over safety matters.

Better training is called for and more money demanded to find out why accidents happen and how to stop them.

Kinross rips out polyurethane

Lethal foam warnings not fully heeded

23/9/86
BUDDY
212

THE Kinross mine disaster — in which 177 men died — might have been avoided had the mine management fully heeded repeated warnings from the Chamber of Mines on the hazards of polyurethane foam.

The Chamber of Mines has for 18 years repeatedly highlighted the perils and potential toxicity of polyurethane foam when used underground.

Most mining houses have reduced its use to limited sealing applications only.

Kinross used the foam over a 600m area of No 2 Shaft's 15 level

Gencor spokesman Harry Hill pointed out that Kinross had a shaft area of about 350km, so its application could well be considered limited

Polyurethane foam is used by gold mines for sealing chilled water columns, sealing off small fires temporarily and filling cracks in ventilation doors

The chamber distributed information on the substance's hazards in 1968, 1969 and 1982. In 1970 an article, "The dangers of polyurethane foam", was circulated, says chamber technical adviser David Gaynor.

He added that subsequent discussions

CHERYLYN IRETON

on the use of polyurethane and the fire dangers of the foam were held with the safety, environmental and ventilation subcommittees of the chamber

Gaynor said that, while the chamber had kept the industry informed of the perils of the foam, responsibility for its use must rest with mine managers and not the industry.

Since the disaster at Kinross, Rand Mines has ordered the foam be removed from its mines

Gencor, Goldfields, Anglo American and Anglovaal are assessing the extent to which the substance has been applied underground and will probably also insist it be stripped from their mines.

Last night Anglo American Corporation said the mines it administered used a polyurethane mixture which reduced the flammability of the foam and risk of generating carbon monoxide

Gencor spokesman Con Fauconnier said the substance was being removed from the Kinross mine. Other mines in the Gencor stable are examining old locations to determine where the substance had been used.

Kinross ignored chamber's warning

23/9/86



JOHANNESBURG — The Kinross mine disaster — in which 177 men died — might have been avoided had the mine management fully heeded repeated warnings from the Chamber of Mines.

It has for 18 years repeatedly highlighted the perils and potential toxicity of polyurethane foam when used underground

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Mr Gaynor said that, while the chamber had kept the industry informed of the perils of the foam, responsibility for its use must rest with mine managers

● The chamber said today it would not discuss safety at the Kinross Mine with the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) as it is "dealing with the

National Union of Mineworkers on that issue," a spokesman said

He said the chamber was also dealing with the NUM on a memorial service for the dead

The NUM has called for a national day of mourning for the dead on October 1, and the spokesman said today the chamber had "so far not made any decision" concerning the call

Following the mine disaster, the United Democratic Front (UDF) said it joined the NUM and Cosatu in holding the owners of the Kinross gold mine — Gencor — responsible for the deaths. The UDF also pledged its support to the NUM in "whatever call it makes to mourn and pay homage to those gallant miners who died"

● Rand Mines has ordered its mines to remove all polyurethane foam materials. — Sapa

CAI 7/1/86 23/9/86

Protection for mine welder?

Own Correspondent ~~212~~ 212

JOHANNESBURG — The miner whose welding started the underground fire that resulted in 177 deaths at the Kinross gold mine is "alive and well" and may be under police protection

It is understood the man, who has not been identified, is being protected against possible retribution

A senior Gencor spokesman, Mr Dawie de Beer, said: "I can confirm that the man is alive and well. He may be under police protection but I am not aware of it — not as a result of our request"

Sapa reports that about 2 000 black miners at the Kinross mine held a short service and meeting yesterday after their refusal to participate in a company-organized memorial service for the miners who died in last Tuesday's underground blaze

Meanwhile, it has emerged that the mine disaster might have been avoided had the mine management fully heeded repeated warnings from the Chamber of Mines on the hazards of polyurethane foam

The chamber has for 18 years repeatedly highlighted the perils and potential toxicity of the foam when used underground

Since the disaster at Kinross, Rand Mines has ordered the foam to be removed from its mines and other mining companies are expected to follow suit

D10 23/1/36 (S) (W)

Miners boycott Kinross service

EVANDER — Thousands of workers at the Kinross mine held a short service and meeting yesterday after boycotting a company-organised memorial service for the 177 miners who died in an underground blaze last week

At the start of the service, about 400 miners, chanting and ululating, circled the area marked out for the proceedings

When the Reverend J Nell started reading the lesson, all the miners in stands facing the makeshift pulpit left and joined the chanting crowd

About 2000 miners stood to one side chanting they would not "pray with whites" as they had never done so before

During the commotion, the service went on for the benefit of a handful of mostly white dignitaries

The dissident miners then converged on two refreshment tents and ransacked them, despite entreaties by National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) officials

A few minor incidents of stone-throwing occurred before the miners, who were joined by about 1500 other workers, regrouped at the site set aside for the service — with their backs to the damaged make-shift pulpit

They were addressed by NUM officials and, after a short tribute to those who died in the country's worst gold mine accident, were told a memorial service organised by the union would take place in Secunda tomorrow

The miners were told to ask management how the dead were going to

be buried and what transport arrangements had been made for the funerals

They were also told all those who were involved in last week's fire should not think they were safe from danger and should report for medical examinations

Before the meeting ended, the NUM officials asked the men to put what sticks they were carrying down and not to interfere with any mine property as "the world is watching"

Meanwhile, another major mining house has ordered its mines to remove all polyurethane foam underground and review fire-control procedures

A spokesman for Rand Mines confirmed yesterday all standing fire-protection instructions were being reviewed and investigations were underway to find an alternative material to replace polyurethane foam

"Rand Mines has standing instructions on a groupwide basis on fire prevention," a company spokesman said "These are reviewed on an on-going basis"

"The particular polyurethane material referred to in the Kinross accident is used on the mines on quite a limited scale in the sense that it is used as lagging for cooled-water columns and is also used in sealing off ventilation systems in the event of fire

"In the light of what happened at Kinross an instruction has gone out that the limited amounts of this material have to be removed. Alternative materials are being investigated" — Sapa

See also page 13.

UDF slams 'special' police

STAL
23/9/86
Political Reporter
The United Democratic Front says the plan to send 1 000 "half-baked policemen" into the townships "deserves condemnation from all right-thinking South Africans"

"This is nothing more than an act of desperation on the part of a Government that has resolved that brute force is the only way out of its dilemma," said a statement released by the UDF.

"The Government must be warned that this highly provocative move can never contribute towards peace in this country. Instead it will serve to convince more and more of our youth that the only way to defend themselves will be to arm themselves as well."

"In the end, the Government will have to carry full responsibility for any escalation in violence that this foolish move will encourage," the statement added.

Mines to consider closure call

STAL
23/9/86
The Chamber of Mines is today expected to consider the call by the National Union of Mineworkers for a closure of the chamber's mines to mourn the Kinross mine disaster victims.

The NUM, declaring October 1 a national day of mourning, has called on members not to go to work on that day and for the chamber to close its mines. A chamber spokesman said it would probably discuss the NUM call today.

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa warned that should the chamber reject the union's request, workers would observe the day anyway.

Yesterday, the UDF said it pledged its support to the NUM in whatever call it made "to mourn and pay homage to those gallant miners who died in Kinross".

The NUM is to hold a memorial service for the Kinross victims at Secunda tomorrow.

US award for Jo'burg association

By Michael Chester

The radical moves launched several months ago by the Johannesburg Central Business District Association to make the city an open trade zone have won world acclaim.

In the United States last night, honours were showered on the association for its efforts to remove apartheid from city trade when it was awarded a special citation by the International Downtown Association at its annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

The citation was in recognition of its "sustained efforts to open trade, industry and commerce in Johannesburg's CBD to entrepreneurs of all races".

Its leadership role had in turn also benefited other CBDs and South Africa as a whole, the IDA added.

The Johannesburg CBDA emerged as one of only eight organisations in the world to win special honours.

Woman's skull found in Sandton

Crime Staff

A woman's skull was found in a Limbro Park, Sandton, tree plantation on June 10, close to the spot where the body of Airman Hendrik van Zyl, of the South African Air Force, was found last week.

Police said the two discoveries were not linked. The skull was discovered by a horse-rider. Government pathologists said it was that of a woman aged between 18 and 20 years. She has not been identified.

She died of a bullet wound in the head, after which she was apparently decapitated.

A search of the area revealed no trace of the body, leading police to believe she was murdered elsewhere, probably about two years ago.

Anyone who can help the police investigation should telephone Detective Warrant Officer Olivier of the Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad at (011) 839-3322.



A huge crowd of singing, chanting miners disrupted yesterday's official Kinross memorial service for the 177 men killed in last week's mine disaster, before convening their own meeting

Miners disrupt service for Kinross dead

By Jo-Anne Richards

"We have never prayed with minutes, and we don't intend to start today," a Kinross miner told workers

He spoke through a hand-held loudspeaker to a huge crowd of miners gathered some distance from the mine's snubbed memorial service

Yesterday's official service at shaft No 2 was intended to mourn the 177 killed in last week's disaster. Gencor and mine management attended, but no National Union of Mine-workers office-bearers were present

The NUM say they were not invited, but Mr Harry Hill, spokesman for Gencor, said the union "was verbally invited"

FANAKALO

The prayer service began in Afrikaans "Speak fanakalo", called one or two voices from the crowd

Shortly afterwards, a vast moving column of men waving branches and hard hats moved into the small arena. The praying voice of the Rev DS Nell disappeared altogether as hundreds of stamping feet and singing male voices passed by

Various church ministers ignored the increasing commotion and continued the service. The crowd continued several times around the arena. Seated miners joined them on each round

Gathering finally at the foot of a sandy embankment, they held their own meeting

While the memorial service

ground to a finish before rows of empty chairs — a line of management and small numbers of scattered miners remained — the thousands-strong chanting crowd was momentarily without direction

In the following lull, crowds of men broke away and swarmed over the refreshment tables, grabbing food and drink

"Comrades, what are you doing? Please, comrades, you

are not to do this," yelled a union shaft steward into his loudspeaker as the men moved away from the trampled sandwiches

Within minutes of the prayer meeting ending, mine management disappeared. The crowd toppled the pulpit and its flower-covered backdrop as they filled the arena

The newly-arrived NUM Safety Officer, Mr Hazy Sibanyoni,

addressed them on matters affecting them following the tragedy and reprimanded them for their behaviour

All shifts would work today, he said, but a union memorial service would be held tomorrow when no-one would go underground

He added "Those were our brothers who died underground. You shouldn't do things as though you don't care"

Chamber of Mines knew of polyurethane foam danger

The Chamber of Mines has now admitted that several circulars warning of the dangers of using polyurethane foams underground were circulated from 1968 onwards

At first the Chamber told *The Star* polyurethane had — until the Kinross disaster — been regarded as safe

Immediately after the Kinross mining accident, *The Star* requested from the Chamber information on polyurethane foam and its uses underground

After 24 hours of investigation a Chamber spokesman replied

"The polyurethane and other products used in mines have until now been regarded by mines as safe. But the Kinross tragedy clearly puts a huge question mark over this, which the Chamber of Mines research organisation will be investigating once their role in the events at Kinross is known"

Asked how widely the products were used on mines in South Africa the spokesman replied "It would be fair to say these substances are in general use in mines

here and overseas"

Since then it has been established that the products have been banned in British coal mines since the early 60s and in the United States since 1980

Asked whether in view of the disaster the Chamber would examine these products or check up on members who may have used the chemical sealers, he said "It is a matter of priority"

Asked whether the Chamber had ever carried out any tests on the substances in their laboratories the spokesman said "No". He also said the Chamber did not have the address of the local manufacturer of the product

Now the Chamber's technical adviser, Mr David Gaynor, says that for the past 18 years the Chamber repeatedly warned about the potential toxicity of polyurethane foam underground

Mr Gaynor said *The Star's* initial questions had not been put to him. He also said the Chamber had sufficient knowledge of the products to identify their hazards

He said the polyurethane substances were used by gold mines for sealing chilled water columns and also to seal ventilation systems in the event of fire

Mr Gaynor revealed that information on polyurethane hazards was circulated in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1982 and discussions about the substance, and dangers during fire, were held with the Chamber's safety, environmental and ventilation subcommittees

After a fire at Gencor's biggest gold mine Buffelsfontein, in May 1977, polystyrene and polyurethane were identified as inflammable materials

**Kinross mine
welder alive** 212

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

THE miner whose welding started the underground fire which resulted in 177 deaths at the Kinross gold mine is "alive and well", and may be under police protection.

It is understood the man, who has not been identified by mining officials, is being protected against possible retribution, but mine officials and police could not confirm this yesterday

Gencor Corporate Communications GM Dawie de Beer said: "I can confirm that the man is alive and well. He may be under police protection, but I am not aware of it."

A National Mineworker's Union source in the area said he was aware the man was not injured in the disaster.

He said: "All I know is that we are concerned that he should be safe. I don't know whether he has police protection but he may have sought his own form of protection on his own initiative."

SA's mines are open for inspection

WALSLEY

BRUSSELS — President P W Botha has said SA would welcome inspection of its mines, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) says

Botha sent a telex to the Brussels-based union organisation after last week's disaster at Kinross gold mine in which 177 miners died.

It said "Responsible representatives of all foreign governments and mining industries are welcome to visit our min-



● BOTHA

ing industry and ascertain for themselves what our safety standards, precautions and mechanisms entail."

ICFTU said Botha's telex to ICFTU general secretary John Vanderveken was in response to ICFTU's demand for an independent inquiry into the incident

Botha's telex accused ICFTU of making a "cynical and insensitive attempt to lay the blame for the incident at the doors of (its) choice", the spokesman said

ARGUS 23/9/86 212

Foam danger in mines highlighted

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The Chamber of Mines has admitted that several circulars warning of the dangers of using polyurethane foam underground were circulated from 1968

The chamber had originally told The Argus that polyurethane was regarded as safe until the Kinross disaster

Immediately after the accident — which last week claimed 177 lives — The Argus asked the chamber for information on polyurethane foam and its use underground

After 24 hours of investigation, a chamber spokesman issued a statement which read "The polyurethane and other products used in mines have

until now been regarded by mines as safe

"But the Kinross tragedy clearly puts a huge question mark over this the Chamber of Mines research organisation will be investigating once their role in the events at Kinross is known"

Asked how widely the products were used on mines in South Africa, the spokesman replied "It would be fair to say these substances are in general use in mines here and overseas"

Since then it has been established that the products have been banned in British coal mines since the early 1960s and in the United States since 1980 South African mining houses now insist the use of these products is "limited"

Asked whether, in view of the disaster at Kinross, the chamber intended to examine these products or check members who might have used these chemical sealers, the spokesman said "It is a matter of priority"

Now the chamber's technical adviser, Mr David Gaynor, says that for the past 18 years the chamber repeatedly warned about the danger of using polyurethane foam underground

He said the polyurethane substances were used by gold mines for sealing chilled water columns

Mr Gaynor said information on polyurethane hazards was circulated in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1982 and discussed extensively within the chamber

Kinross mine disaster

CALL FOR MOURNING

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a work stoppage on October 1 on all mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines in memory of workers who died in the Kinross mine disaster.

At a Press conference, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said an emergency national executive meeting of the union had decided to call on members to observe the day.

The union's request to the chamber was due to be conveyed by telex.

"We expect them to agree to our request, but if they do not our members will observe it," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Other unions belonging to the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), to which the NUM is affiliated, would be approached on the October 1 call.



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

Reacting to the establishment of a fund to supplement compensation for the families of the dead workers, Mr Ramaphosa said the NUM had not been approached on that either, but would be willing to discuss participation if invited.

The union had long been fighting for the improvement of compensation for the miners, he pointed out.

MORE lives could be lost in the mining industry unless mineworkers "are able to exercise their right to determine that the work conditions they are exposed to are safe," the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union has warned.

Bamcwu, which has members in the industry, said in a statement it had gathered information showing the Kinross gold mine disaster — which claimed 177 lives — could have been averted "had it not been for the carelessness of the local management and its safety officers".

The union is to decide on its role in a commission of inquiry into the disaster, publicity secretary Mr Motsumi Mokheane said.

Service

"As the union has stated before, more lives could be lost unless workers are able to exercise their right to decide on whether the conditions they are exposed to are safe," the unionist said.

The union held a

Miners must have right to decide — union

memorial service in honour of the Kinross victims at the weekend.

The Canadian Embassy in Pretoria has sent a message of condolence to the National Union of Mineworkers.

The Azanian National Youth Unity has also expressed sympathy with families of the dead miners. "The entombment of workers in the mine is a clear manifestation of the cruel effect

of a system of capitalism," the organisation said.

Meanwhile, a relief fund has been established by Specialised Exhibitions for the disaster victims. The company last week hosted a mining trade show at the National Exhibition Centre at Crown Mines.

More than R20 000 has already been donated to the fund, launched a day after the accident. Specialised Exhibitions have approached the Chamber of Mines to administer the fund.



Mine to a team of experts, due here on Monday to help during investigations.

Sapa reports that Gencor management denied that the NUM approached them to have the union's experts conduct an inspection at the Kinross Mine.

The NUM also claimed management was forcing workers at the Kinross mine to return to work, despite fears that the affected No 2 shaft was unsafe.

NUM safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said workers who refused to go down the shaft were being threatened with docking of pay and disciplinary action.

Gencor has denied that Kinross workers were being forced to return to work.

Accidents on South African gold mines have killed more than 46 000 workers and seriously injured more than 1 million since the beginning of the century, according to a study released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. The study, commissioned by the NUM, said the fatality rate on the country's gold mines was among the highest in the world.

CIT/1125 (2) (2)

NUM miners may strike in protest

21/9/88 (21a) 11

THE National Union of Mineworkers executive held an urgent meeting late yesterday to discuss worker action in response to the Kinross catastrophe

NUM sources said a work stoppage by the union's 250 000 members was one of the options being considered

"It is clear there is mass dissatisfaction among mineworkers at working conditions," one source said.

"NUM has repeatedly called for improved safety, and incidents like Kinross only highlight the need for revisions."

The source pointed out that NUM organised a 30-minute work stoppage after

the Hlobane disaster, in which 68 miners died

A NUM spokesman confirmed that the exec met yesterday to discuss "appropriate action"

● Earlier this week NUM general-secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said NUM members were "very angry at the terrible disaster".

Ramaphosa said it was "anybody's guess" what action might be taken by the union

● Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn - who went underground with a government mine engineer and mine inspectors to assess the damage - announced on Thursday that a judicial inquiry into the disaster will be held

FISTS OF FURY FOR THE MINES MINISTER



Angry Kinross miners let their feelings show about this week's mine disaster when Mines Minister Danie Steyn arrived to see the damage

Pic

R20
Star
Sun

By

A DISASTER help families the Kinross week
Specialised holding the at the N- has donated R
The fund Mining Relief
"We were ter," said Sp- executive
"We will - donations,"
The C- asked to -
Specialised Aaron Ngema made a - public can
"Whatever gratefully a need all the said

WITS academic Duncan called for a full inquiry conditions on the mines
The commission should tal access to all mines and says and shouldn't be r mining experts
"It needs represent... community organisations following like trade union and academic spec... told City Press
He said the inct...

THE SMELL OF DEATH

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

THE SMELL of death is something Komuti Mereke will never forget

First he smelt the noxious fumes which swept through level 15 of Kinross Gold Mine early on Tuesday morning

Then, as he and his colleagues tried to escape to level 14, he smelt death - a man fell next to him and died

"We were engulfed in smoke. We closed our noses and mouths with our hands and tried to rush through the central guard. Only about seven of us managed to reach the exit

Tears streamed down Gilbert Mphahle's cheeks as he described the incident

"I saw people with burn marks, some the skin was peeling off and some were just

lying there unconscious. It was a very painful experience for me

For 23 years Elias Mashaba worked in the mines but it only dawned on him this week that his job was the most dangerous as he saw the dead and injured being removed from level 15

"At about 10am I was at work at level 16 when gas fumes came through the tunnel. We rushed to the hoist lift and we were evacuated to safety

"Those working at level 15 tried to evacuate the area but the gas was too strong for them," said Mashaba

Tolosa Thangane, 33 said he was working at level 17 when they smelt gas fumes and decided to run to safety

"When we reached the sur-

face I saw a lot of people, some whom I knew were either dead or injured and others had difficulty in breathing

I counted about 12 bodies and rescue teams were bringing out more," said Thangane

Hundreds of relatives of the dead and injured who had converged at the mine were transported in big trucks to the hospital and the mortuary at the Winklaak Mines

Mine security kept the Press away from the disaster area and refused entry into the hospital to see the injured

The death toll of 182 and 235 injured - is the highest on a gold mine in SA and second highest mining disaster toll

It is surpassed only by the 1960 tragedy on the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook when 435 died when the mine

collapsed burying the miners

Coalbrook and Kinross are owned by Gencor which owned Hlobane Colliery until just three months before a disaster there in 1983 in which 68 miners were killed. It sold the mine to Iscor

Yesterday mine management said the five white miners killed were Christoffel Dorling, Raymond John Smith, Stephanus Christoffel Aden, Dorff Stephen Anthony Jatchford and Frederick Johannes Prinsloo

Names of the dead black miners will be released after their next of kin have been notified

Gencor spokesman JE Olivier said they estimated that production at shaft 2 will be interrupted for a week at

though the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are absolutely safe again

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn visited the area yesterday and said a thorough judicial inquiry will be conducted

The (government mining) engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that union (NUM) representatives have been assisted as far as possible by the mine management to investigate the incident

"The engineer will have discussions with the Justice Department on procedures which could be followed in order to finalise the inquiry as quickly as possible," said Steyn

COALBROOK: THE WORST TRAGEDY EVER

The worst disaster ever in SA mining history happened on January 21, 1960, when 291 ha of the Coalbrook coalmine collapsed - trapping 435 men

Though desperate efforts were made to rescue them, no-one survived

Five bore-holes, including one big enough to haul up a man, were sunk but at last the trapped miners were given up for dead. Mine bosses said they must have died instantaneously

The disaster led to an intensive investigation by the coal mining industry into the stability of mine workings and the imposition of stricter control measures.

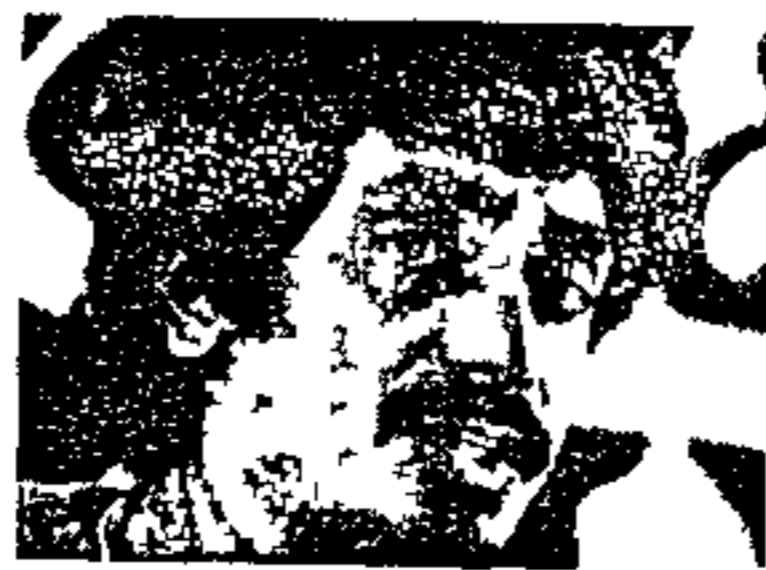
Lest we forget

PROGRESSIVE Federal Party leader Colin Eglin has backed calls for a mining inquiry

He said incidents like the Kinross catastrophe "make us mindful of the debt we owe to those thousands of fellow citizens who go down, deep underground daily to

bring to the surface the gold on which the economic prosperity of our nation is so dependent"

Eglin said he hoped a thorough probe would be made into the causes of the tragedy, and extended his condolences to the families - Sapa



Cosatu's Jay Naidoo

'The price of super-profits'

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions says the Kinross catastrophe is a national disaster and a telling example of the price miners are expected to pay for the gold industry's super profits

Like the National Union of Mineworkers Cosatu

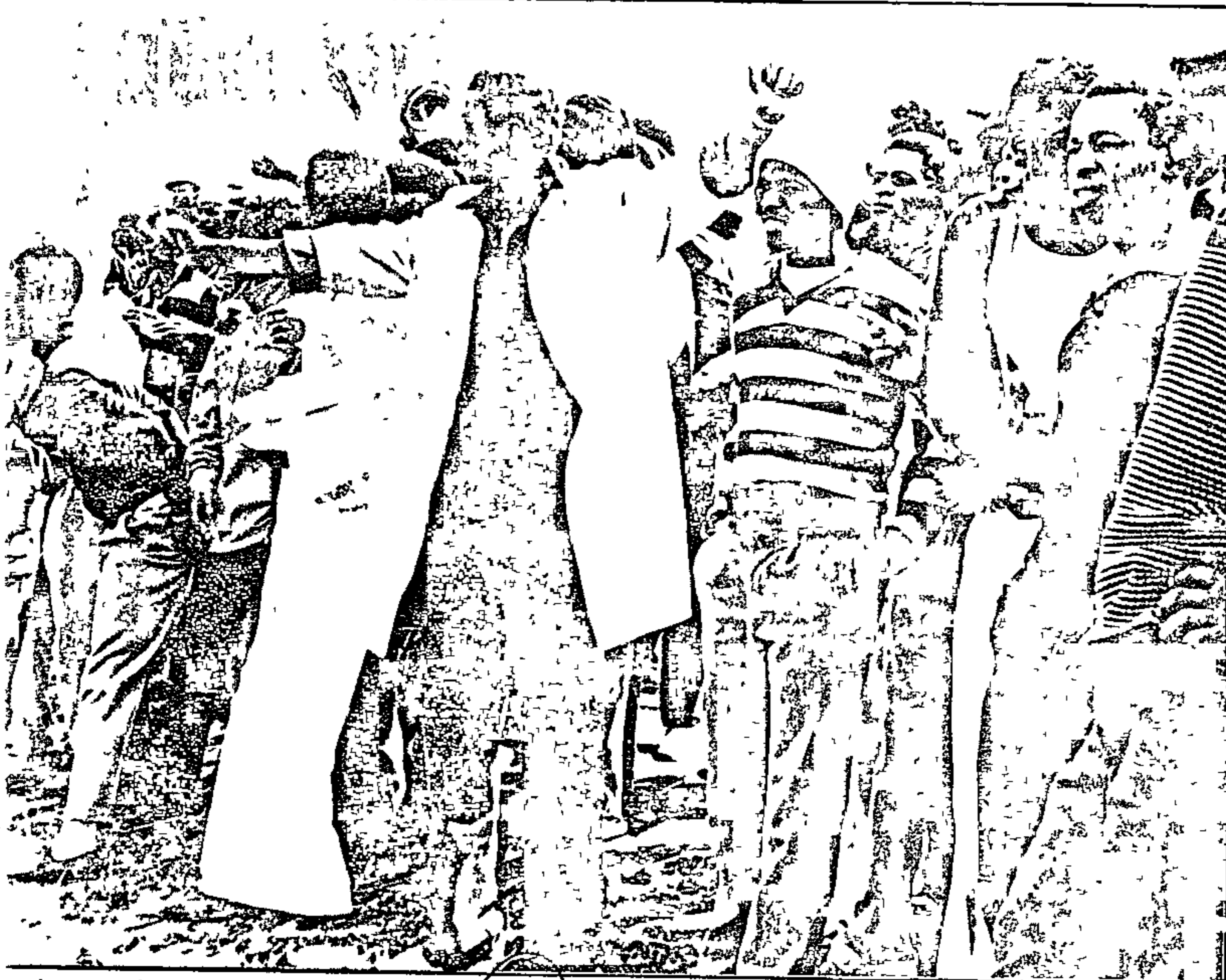
called for an in-depth inquiry into mining safety

Cosatu asked: Are the mine bosses too busy trying to fend off workers demands for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?

Cosatu says there is a

continuing tragedy in the mining industry - black miners are paying with their lives for profits they never see

All the bosses are concerned with is maximising production," it said in a statement



Week's mine disaster when Mines Minister Danie Steyn arrived to see the damage

Pic EVANS MBOWENI

HLOBANE: NUM JOINS THE FIGHT FOR MINE SAFETY

CP Reporter

WHEN 68 miners died in a methane gas explosion at the Hlobane coalmine in September 1983 - almost exactly three years before this week's horror disaster at the Kinross Gold Mine - the National Union of Mineworkers emerged strongly as a guardian of miners' safety.

From the start, the inquest and inquiry assumed an added importance with NUM's direct involvement.

NUM then a year old and already a formidable force in the mining industry, targeted mine safety as an area of priority interest. Acting on behalf of the families of the dead men, the union brought in a skilled legal team to hold a watching brief at the inquiry.

During the first three days of the inquest, evidence pointed to gross negligence. Breaches of regulations, faulty machinery, lax management and inadequate measures to detect and prevent the accumulation of methane gas were highlighted in court.

● Ironically, the Iscor-owned Hlobane mine had been regarded by mining officials as a very good mine. As far as machine safety went, it had a four star safety rating from the Chamber of Mines.

The mine had twice won the Chamber of Mines Million Shift competition for going a million shifts without an accident. The target was reached for a second time weeks before the disaster.

But at the inquest several shocking facts emerged.

● A week before the explosion the miner in charge of Section 5, J Bezuidenhout, filed a report of 4 percent methane gas being present. This was scored out of the report and the Inspector of Mines was not called in to investigate.

● Two days before the explosion the ventilation system - used to clear gas and supply air to the working faces of a mine - was short-circuited when a miner holed through into a return air passage. The hoing was not stopped up and there was a drop in ventilation leading to an accumulation of gas.

● The coal scoop, identified as the source of the spark which ignited the gas, was not flameproof.

● After the blast another 14 pieces of mine equipment were found not to comply with regulations. All could have resulted in explosions.

● There were not enough flame safety lamps in the section. Only one out of the four found after the explosion was fitted with a gas probe - essential when testing for gas in elevated areas such as Section 5.

● Bratticing used to regulate the air flow in a coal mine was of inferior quality.

In his findings, Vryheid Chief Magistrate NJ Reynders said that if Bezuidenhout had not tested for gas on the fatal morning, it was the last link in a chain of negligence.

The general impression gleaned from the findings was that on the face of it Hlobane was a safety-conscious mine with many safety programs and meetings on safety measures.

But the practices employed below ground, and the scant notice paid to Mines and Works Act regulations, belied this image and ultimately contributed to a disaster which could not be cast into the category of fatal accidents attributable to an act of God.

At least 98 percent of fatal mining accidents in South Africa currently fall within this casual sphere.

● Since the disaster NUM has attended many inquiries into accidents in coal and gold mines and has tackled the industry as a whole on the issue of safety.

It raised the central question whether mining accidents are 'acts of God' or whether, with more expenditure on better equipment, training and safety methods and receptiveness to advances in safety overseas, many accidents could be avoided and many lives saved each year.

MELLO OF DEATH

unconscious. It was experience for Elias Mashaba the mines, but it only this week that the most dangerous saw the dead and removed from

10am I was at level 16 when gas through the tunnel to the hoist lift evacuated to safe-

working at level 15, vacate the area, but too strong for Mashaba Thangane; 33, said smelt gas fumes and run to safety" we reached the sur-

face, I saw a lot of people, some whom I knew were either dead or injured, and others had difficulty in breathing.

"I counted about 12 bodies and rescue teams were bringing out more," said Thangane.

Hundreds of relatives of the dead and injured who had converged at the mine were transported in big trucks to the hospital and the mortuary at the Winklaak Mines.

Mine security kept the Press away from the disaster area and refused entry into the hospital to see the injured.

The death toll of 182 - and 235 injured - is the highest on a gold mine in SA and second highest mining disaster toll.

It is surpassed only by the 1960 tragedy on the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook when 435 died when the mine

collapsed burying the miners.

Coalbrook and Kinross are owned by Gencor which owned Hlobane Colliery until just three months before a disaster there in 1983 in which 68 miners were killed. It sold the mine to Iscor.

Yesterday mine management said the five white miners killed were Christoffel Dorfling, Raymond John Smith, Stephanus Christoffel Adendorff, Stephen Anthony Latchford and Frederick Johannes Prinsloo.

Names of the dead black miners will be released after their next of kin have been notified.

Gencor spokesman JE Olivier said they estimated that production at shaft 2 will be interrupted for a week, al-

though the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are absolutely safe again.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn visited the area yesterday and said a thorough judicial inquiry will be conducted.

The (government mining) engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that union (NUM) representatives have been assisted as far as possible by the mine management to investigate the incident.

The engineer will have discussions with the Justice Department on procedures which could be followed in order to finalise the inquiry as quickly as possible, said Steyn.

R20 000 START FOR FUND

By BELLO SERIPE

A DISASTER fund has been set up to help families of the miners killed in the Kinross goldmine disaster this week.

Specialised Exhibition currently holding the Electra Mining exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre - has donated R20 000 to start the fund.

The fund will be known as Electra Mining Relief Fund.

"We were appalled by the disaster," said Specialised Exhibition chief executive Howard Bell.

"We will ask all our exhibitors for donations," Bell said.

The Chamber of Mines has been asked to administer the fund.

Specialised Exhibition Press officer Aaron Ngema said an address will be made available next week where the public can send donations.

Whatever people can spare will be gratefully accepted - the families need all the help they can get, he said.

'The price of super-profits'

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions says the Kinross catastrophe is a "national disaster" and "a telling example of the price miners are expected to pay for the gold industry's super profits".

Like the National Union of Mineworkers, Cosatu

called for an in-depth inquiry into mining safety.

Cosatu asked "Are the mine bosses too busy trying to fend off workers' demands for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?"

Cosatu says there is a

continuing tragedy in the mining industry - black miners are paying with their lives for profits they never see.

"All the bosses are concerned with is maximising production," it said in a statement.

WITS academic Duncan Innes has called for a full inquiry into safety conditions on the mines.

The commission should have total access to all mines and shafts, he says and shouldn't be restricted to mining experts.

It needs representatives of community organisations with a mass following like trade unions, lawyers and academic specialists, Innes told City Press.

He said the International Labour

'Get unions on commission'

Organisation recently found South Africa has the highest death rate on its mines to which the Chamber of Mines replied that its mines are among the safest in the world. The disaster at Kinross Mine showed the ILO was right - and the chamber wrong, he said.



Dr Herbert Eisner, a British expert on mine disasters, with Mr Cyril Ramaphosa of the National Union of Mineworkers

Gencor bars UK expert from killer Kinross mine

Miners' union wants to sue polyurethane supplier

The National Union of Mineworkers is on the trail of an American company believed to have supplied polyurethane to the Kinross mine, the union's general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday

Mr Ramaphosa said legal action would follow the inquiry into the disaster and investigations were being made about the American firm, Mobay

The union hoped to bring a lawsuit against Mobay if it was involved in supplying the foam

"We believe Mobay came to South Africa several years ago and may have a subsidiary here," Mr Ramaphosa said

Under American law the company could be held responsible for the deaths of the miners, he said

It was inconceivable that South African mines did not know about the danger of polyurethane, a British fire and explosives expert said at a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday

The substance claimed the lives of scores of miners in the Kinross disaster last week

Dr Herbert Eisner, who was with the Explosion Flame Laboratory of the British Health and Safety executive, one of the biggest such laboratories in Europe, before his retirement in 1981, said

"The mines would have known about it, even without any official notification"

Polyurethane has been outlawed in British mines since 1968, he said

Dr Eisner, in South Africa at the request of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), has been refused access to the site of the Kinross disaster

This negates the mine management agreement, NUM's attorney Mr Clive Thompson said at the conference

Refusal

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha, State President Mr P W Botha and the Chamber of Mines had invited any international expert in mines to conduct an inspection of the mine where 177 men were killed in a fire last week

"Dr Eisner arrived today and Gencor said they were not prepared to allow anyone to visit the underground works of the place of the accident," Mr Ramaphosa said

Their refusal indicates they have something to hide"

Dr Eisner is to be joined by two more experts from Sweden and Germany

But the department of Home Affairs "apparently does not want to give a visa" to the Swede, Dr Peter Westerholm, said Mr Ramaphosa

Mr Thompson said he was still negotiating with Gencor attorneys for the men to visit the site of the disaster

Dr Eisner will be in South Africa for a week, he said

'Figures misleading'

South Africa's much vaunted mine-safety figures paled when the statistics were examined more closely, British mine disaster expert Dr Herbert Eisner said yesterday

The claim that South Africa's mines were among the world's safest was usually based on a blanket fatality rate that included all mine personnel — even people like hostel managers

When the figure was broken down into surface and underground workers a different picture emerged, he said

Eight times as many workers died underground in South African coal mines than in those in the United Kingdom, it was revealed from figures released a few years ago

Dr Eisner, who conducted an investigation of the Hlobane coal mine disaster in 1983, pointed out that the gold mine fatality rate was significantly higher than the coal mine rate "although we have nothing similar in the UK with which to compare"

21/9/86 CITY PRESS

THE KINROSS DISASTER

212 1986

AS thousands of miners were battling for their lives 1 600m underground at Kinross on Tuesday a book highly critical of mine safety was being printed in Johannesburg

A thousand ways to die, published by the National Union of Mineworkers, is due to be launched at NUM's Cosatu House headquarters this afternoon.

The booklet, produced for NUM by Learn & Teach Publishers for the union's 250 000 rank-and file membership - almost half the country's 600 000 miners - is based on an extensive report on mine safety by Wits University sociologist Jean Leger

It includes NUM's "Bill of Rights" - or Miners' Charter - which demands for miners the right to

- Elect safety stewards and safety committees
- Refuse to do dangerous work
- Call inspections and accompany inspectors on all inspections - without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- All information on safety on their mines
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights - among them the right to refuse dangerous work.
- To a say in the running of their mines, and to participate in planning

Both *A thousand ways to die* and Leger's *Towards safer underground mining* are highly critical of existing mining safety regulations, and of other regulations they say seriously affect miners' safety

High on this list, they say, is the system of racial segregation on the mines - which puts black "team leaders" in charge of underground safety but does not give them the authority to ensure it is carried out

The booklet argues that white miners - who no longer share their black colleagues' immediate danger at the stopes - have been given the authority to ensure safety measures are carried out

But white miners have effectively been encouraged by mine bosses to ignore safety requirements they say, by a system of highly-lucrative bonuses - not paid at the same rate to black miners - linked to productivity. If production halts to enable miners to "make safe", the bonuses shrink. Black miners are forced, they told researcher Leger, to "work now, complain later"

"When you complain before the job (because the area is not safe), they say you make a strike, you don't want to work," one of the 90 miners interviewed told Leger. "The bad thing is I have to complain at the end of the shift. Either I leave or I die"

1 000 WAYS TO DIE

CP Reporter

Quoting from other research, Leger indicates that mine bosses also believe that "safety regulations are ignored in pursuit of bonuses"

According to the Chamber of Mines' own Technical Advisory Committee "The miner, in order to secure maximum face advance which will guarantee high earnings, is under pressure to organise and motivate his workforce. His aim may not necessarily coincide with those of the mine. Scant respect is often paid to regulations"

And Leger points out that changes in the colour bar restrictions imposed by the Mines and Works Acts - which until two weeks ago banned black miners from becoming "scheduled persons" able to get blasting licences - could put black "team leaders" in the same position

as white miners. They would have the authority to ensure the safety of their team members, but income linked to productivity may make them less interested in doing so

And pressure to do so is backed by an internal mines "legal system", under which miners can be charged if they do not complete their work

With two out of every 1 000 miners dying every year - 64 000 since the year 1900 - and more than four miners out of every 100 involved in some sort of accident, the fear of working in unsafe conditions is a real one. The title of the book is taken from a quote from a miner: "There are a thousand ways to die on a gold mine"

More than half the workers involved in accidents believe they were avoidable - but occurred because safety regulations weren't followed

Miners interviewed say high noise levels and inadequate ear protection do not only damage their ears - they make it impossible to hear the sound of rock movements, or shouts of warning from colleagues

Another problem is the generalised use of *Fanakalo* - miners interviewed said new miners did not always understand the "language", and therefore did not respond to warnings

The publications are also critical of clothing given to miners. With one out of every four miners killed underground dying from a head injury, miners are obviously concerned about helmets

The biggest complaint is about how easily they fall off

"Many of the standard hard hats do not have brims - so even a small rock can cause an injury, like cutting your ear"

Mine issue boots also come in for criticism. According to *A thousand ways to die* boots with steel toe-caps cost just R2 more than the R15 mine bosses pay, for normal boots - but most miners don't get them

Other improvements were also mentioned such as foot guards - workers call them crash helmets for feet - and non-slip soles. About 60 miners a year die after slipping on the stopes

Mine's safety rating downgraded in 1985

KINROSS gold mine's safety procedures are all ready under heavy fire

- It has been revealed that the mine's star safety rating was drastically downgraded last year
- Mine bosses were unaware that a foam used in the mine was able to burn - or that it caused poisonous gas when it did burn
- There was allegedly no fire extinguisher at hand to help put out the fire once it started

Mine manager Kous Olivier admitted late yesterday that Kinross had lost two of its five safety rating stars in June 1985 - and conceded that this was "a major event" for a mine

He said the safety rating was downgraded because of "lesser elements"

in the list of features used to grant stars

"It was certainly not because of materials or work methods" he said

Asked to give details, he said he could not recall them

Later, he said the matter was confidential

Olivier would not comment on National Union of Mineworkers allegations that there was no fire extinguisher near the welding equipment responsible for the fire

He said the accident was being investigated by the government mining inspector and there was a possibility of legal action

Olivier said samples had been taken of all material that burned during the fire, and these had been sent for testing

He said it had been found that an anti-corrosive sealant originally thought to have created the fumes that killed the miners, was not in the mine

The substance was, in fact, a polyurethane foam - and the mine had not known before Tuesday that this substance was inflammable

He did not know if the polyurethane emitted toxic gas when it burnt he said and the mine hadn't felt there was a need to check on this when the polyurethane was installed

He said the fire was caused by a gas bottle which caught fire. There had been no explosion, he said



MATRIC WITH TURRET CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE

Register now with the People's College

By Mike Siluma, Sheryl Raine and Colleen Ryan

Facts are being revealed about the Kinross gold mine tragedy which are causing shock throughout the industry. They have raised serious questions about safety standards.

The owners of the mine admitted that they did not know whether polyurethane sealing foam suspected to have caused Tuesday's disaster — in which 177 workers were killed by toxic fumes — had been tested for safety.

Heads of the General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor), which owns Kinross mine, told a Press conference that they were not aware of any tests on polyurethane used in the shaft where the accident occurred, according to Sapa

They said the company tended to rely on tests conducted by overseas chemicals manufacturers

Unprecedented admission

In an unprecedented admission, Gencor — South Africa's second largest mining group and owners of the mine where the worst accident in gold mining history occurred — said a major rethink on safety was necessary

The victims are believed to have died as a result of inhaling fatally poisonous fumes from burning sealants

The Chamber of Mines has admitted that these substances have been used extensively in South Africa's mines.

Gencor chairman Mr Derek Keys said yesterday at the Press conference that confidence about reducing deaths on his company's mines had "been blown away"

"It's start again and think again time in Gencor safety management," he said

Vital issues raised yesterday included:

● The chief suspect product in the Kinross disaster — a polyurethane insulating foam — had not been tested by the South African mining industry before being used underground, but was now being ripped out at the mine

The insulating foam has been banned in Britain for years, and an alternative insulator with a non-flammable base has been developed

Gencor has refused to give the product's trade name, claiming it has not yet established the name.

(From the first intimation of the tragedy a brand name has been common knowledge, but the Press has withheld publication until an inquiry is held.)

● Despite a recommended deadline by the Government Engineer for the introduction of life-saving, self-rescue masks on gold mines by this year, and coal mines by last year, Chamber of Mines research is still in the "testing" stage

A top mining engineer told *The Star* that these masks, which give miners a 30-minute oxygen supply, could have averted the loss of so many lives at Kinross.

In reply, Gencor's head of mining, metallurgical and medical services, Dr Con Fauconnier, said conditions unique to mining in South Africa required a special adaption of the masks used overseas and extensive research

● An independent Government inspector had visited Kinross the day before the accident.

'No extinguisher'

● Although permission has to be granted for operations such as welding underground, and a full inspection carried out by the welder concerned, the Kinross fire has been attributed to a "welding accident"

Gencor officials at the Press conference refused to answer questions on any aspect relating to the welding incident, saying that it was under investi-

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) claimed there was no fire extinguisher at the scene of the accident

But Gencor officials refused to comment, saying this was part of on-going investigations

Mr Keys said "We owe it to the living to critically re-examine our existing procedures and materials throughout the group with a view to ensuring, as far as humanly possible, that such a tragic occurrence — on any scale — cannot occur again" ● See Page 2.

miners

(212) 2019186



Big safety shake-up needed in the gold

After Kinross tragedy, management admits ...

NUM calls for day of mourning for mine victims

By Mike Siluma

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a work stoppage on October 1 on all mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines in memory of workers who died in the Kinross mine disaster.

At a Press conference yesterday, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said an emergency national executive meeting of the union had decided to call on members to observe the day

The union's request to the chamber was due to be conveyed by telex.

"We expect them to agree to our request, but if they do not our members will observe it," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Other unions belonging to the Congress of SA

Trade Unions (Cosatu), to which the NUM is affiliated, would be approached on the October 1 call.

The chamber could not be reached for comment

The NUM will hold a memorial service for the dead workers at Secunda on Wednesday

Mr Ramaphosa said the union had not been invited to a management service for the Kinross victims, but would "obviously consider it"

Reacting to the establishment of a fund to supplement compensation for the families of the dead workers, Mr Ramaphosa said the NUM had not been approached on that either, but would be willing to discuss participation if invited

The union had long been fighting for the improvement of compensation for the mineworkers, he pointed out

Union members are to decide on a course of action regarding the access to Kinross Mine to a team of experts, due here on Monday to help during investigations

Sapa reports that Gencor management denied that the NUM approached them to have the union's experts conduct an inspection at the Kinross Mine.

The NUM also claimed management was forcing workers at the Kinross mine to return to work, despite fears that the affected No 2 shaft was unsafe.

NUM safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said workers who refused to go down the shaft were being threatened with docking of pay and disciplinary action.

Gencor has denied that Kinross workers were being forced to return to work

● Accidents on South African gold mines have killed more than 46 000 workers and seriously injured more than 1 million since the beginning of the century, according to a study released yesterday by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. The study, commissioned by the NUM, said the fatality rate on the country's gold mines was among the highest in the world — Sapa-Reuter.



Inquest into mine rockfall deaths

By Sheryl Raine

A rockfall which killed 17 people at the ERPM gold mine near Boksburg last November will have a sequel this week in the Boksburg Magistrate's Court where an inquest into the deaths will be held

In addition to those killed, 22 people were injured

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has briefed lawyers to attend the inquest and represent some of the families affected by the accident

At the time of the accident Rand Mines, which

owns ERPM, expressed concern about the declining safety record of the mine. The accident brought the death toll at ERPM from January 1985 to November to 53

Press files showed that only 37 of the total number of ERPM deaths had been made public by Rand Mines since December 1984

Deputy chairman of Rand Mines gold division, Mr J R Forbes explained that the company did not believe it had an obligation to make public all deaths on the mine but that the company did re-

spond to Press queries

ERPM, which holds a four-star rating in terms of the Five Star International Safety Rating Scheme, recorded 52 dead in 1984, 35 dead in 1983, in 1982 there were 24 killed, in 1981 40 people died and in 1980 there were 39

The mine is one of the deepest in world

Mr Forbes said Rand Mines was extremely concerned about fatalities and the safety record of the mine

Everything was being done to improve safety, he said

In recent years mine security control, particularly in riot and strike situations, has received much publicity. SHERYL RAINE spoke to the manager of one of the country's largest mining security concerns about the image of his business.

10/2/86 STAR
2/2

Ensuring security on the mines in SA

As the new manager of Gold Fields Security, Mr Ian Pullar (45) has many tasks, one of which is keeping the public image of the mines' security systems in perspective

Although the main focus of the company's attention is on theft and fraud and their prevention, it also has the infrequent task of riot control which gets the most publicity.

Since the birth of the National Union of Mineworkers and the advent of wage strikes on the mines, riot control has received considerable media attention — most of it negative

Gold Fields Security is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gold Fields South Africa Limited, which employs about 5 000 people responsible for all facets of security on mines as far apart as Zululand and Okiep

The company secures everything from asbestos to zinc, but does not secure diamonds nor does it handle security for JCI or Anglo American

STAFF OFFICER

Mr Pullar has a police and military background and was until recently an operational staff officer of the SA Defence Force in Natal

"Our principal aim is cost-effective protection of the assets of the mines at all times against unrest, theft, fraud or any activity that causes loss of production

"Our biggest problem is controlling theft and fraud. We have a big investigation branch employing retired police officers whose considerable experience is put to good use"

These shrewd investigators who've seen virtually every trick in the book are drawn mainly from the Commercial Branch and the Gold Squad

On any particular mine the metallurgical department knows what the ore should yield. If the mine finds it is producing less than

expected, it means that someone is stealing

That's when Gold Fields comes in to investigate, make recommendations, advise on security and to circulate valuable findings to other mines

At the company's headquarters at the old Lupaardsvlei mine, near Krugersdorp, security personnel are trained and briefed.

Every conceivable local and international security publication is filed in an impressive library to ensure that Gold Fields remains plugged in to the very latest in security methods — including crime prevention and detection as well as riot control

There are some changes on the cards for riot control on the mines

"The emphasis has always been on effective riot control with minimum injury to people and damage to property," says Mr Pullar

GENERALLY HARMLESS

Teargas and water cannon are the methods he prefers because they are generally harmless but effective. Investigations are under way to manufacture a proper water cannon instead of the improvised versions used to date

"We don't use ball ammunition under any circumstances to restore order during riot situations

"At the moment the company is looking at new improved types of multi-purpose armour-plated vehicles which can be used for general security purposes as well as the transporting of payrolls and other valuable materials. They can also be used to protect security personnel during unrest and riots

"We have been using converted commercial vehicles with limited armour-plating and bulletproof windows. We don't like the Casspir for our purposes. We have one or two on the mines which were purchased by the mines themselves. I feel they are too military. They are expensive and can be used for only one purpose on a few days of the year

RIOT VEHICLES

"They were bought because unrest bursts into riots very quickly and the police are not always able to provide immediate support

"We prefer to deal with situations domestically but when life and property are threatened the mine manager may decide that the police are necessary

"We are looking at some sophisticated locally produced riot vehicles which can be used for transporting people and which would have a psychological effect on troublemakers. People know that if there are anti-riot personnel inside the vehicle there will be action taken against rioters"

Mine officials contravened safety rules, says inquiry

26/2/80

By Sheryl Maine



Seven mining officials employed at Rand Mines Riet spruit colliery near Bethal contravened various regulations in the Mines and Works Act, according to the findings of a recent inquiry into a fatal accident at the opencast mine.

The accident on November 11 last year resulted in the deaths of two black mineworkers who were members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

NUM safety officer Mr Howard Gabriels said that the two were killed during blasting operations.

Those found to have contravened mining regulations included the acting general manager of the mine, the acting assistant manager, the acting mine overseer, acting production manager, two white miners and a shift boss.

A Rand Mines spokesman said the findings to which the NUM was referring followed an inquiry by the inspector of mines.

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The report of the findings was being studied by management at Riet spruit.

In terms of the Mines and Works Act the report would be submitted to the Government mining engineer and then to the Attorney-General of the Transvaal for further action if deemed necessary.

The mine noted that no charges had yet been laid against anyone.

"An internal disciplinary inquiry has already been held on the mine," the spokesman said.

He said the findings of the inquiry were a domestic matter and would not be made public.

The NUM has instructed its attorneys to proceed with claims for increased compensation for the relatives of the dead men

The attorneys are also waiting for a decision from the Attorney-General's office concerning possible charges against the mining officials.

The regulations contravened were:

● Regulation 8.10.32 in that the miners failed to satisfy themselves that no person remained where they

might be exposed to danger from the firing of charges.

● Regulation 2.10.5 in that the senior management and mine overseer failed to cause all plant material and other things necessary for compliance with the requirements of these regulations to be provided and maintained in good order.

● Regulation 2.15.4 in that the shiftboss failed to take all reasonable precaution to ensure proper observance of the regulations and compliance with any lawful order given in the interests of safety and health by every person employed in his section.

"This finding is an indictment of Riet spruit's claim to adequate safety measures," said Mr Gabriels.

"The losses to the families and the NUM are incalculable. Had Riet spruit taken elementary precautions associated with reasonable safety standards this disaster could have been prevented.

"The NUM will continue its campaign to improve health and safety on the mines."

New mine safety campaign

By Sven Lunsche

The Chamber of Mines launched a new safety campaign on coal mines at a function in Ermelo on Friday

Introducing the CONCA (Concentration on critical areas) campaign, Mr Colin Fenton, chairman of the mines safety division, said that the intention is to concentrate on areas where the potential for loss of human life is the greatest

"CONCA is a move away from the more generalised programmes of the past, but the correct identification of those high risk areas provides us with the opportunity of reducing the hazards and minimising the risks", he said

The first critical area that has been identified, is transport within the collieries. A package has been made available, comprising videos, and fact sheets for middle management, team-leaders and operators, which covers safety aspects of coal-cutting,

loading, shuttle car and tip operations

Another area the Chamber will focus on will be rock falls. Campaigns on such critical areas as machinery, slipping and falling, electrical equipment, explosives and off-the-job safety will follow

Mr Mike Hawarden, chairman of the collieries division of the Chamber of Mines, said that in 1985 the fatality rate of 0,42 per thousand in 1985 was the lowest ever for Chamber associated collieries and is a 37 percent decrease on the 1984 figure of 0,67. This represents a decrease of 16

people killed in mine accidents from 56 in 1984 to 40 last year

For the South African coal mining industry as a whole, however, the picture still looks gloomy with a fatality rate of 0,77 per thousand. This was mainly the result of a serious methane explosion at a SASOL colliery

The reportable injury rate has also been reduced. The figure for 1985 for Chamber collieries was 7,06, down on the 1984 figure of 7,81

Both the fatality and injury rates have been reduced by about 66 percent over the past 10 years

Mines accident rate figures reach new lows

STAR

By Sheryl Raine

8/3/86
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The fatality and reportable injury rates for gold, coal and all mines belonging to the Chamber of Mines reached new lows last year.

This is the second year in a row that new safety records have been set in the mining industry

According to the Chamber of Mines an important milestone was reached last year with the reduction of the average fatality rate for all chamber mines to below one death for every 1 000 employees a year for the first time over a full year

The overall average fatality rate for all mines was 0,89 deaths for every 1 000 workers which represents a 14 percent improvement compared with the 1984 figure of 1,04 fatalities for every 1 000.

A breakdown of the statistics shows that the fatality rate for gold mines was reduced by 12,7 percent to 1,03 fatalities for every 1 000 employees

BIGGEST IMPROVEMENT

The biggest improvement was that achieved in the fatality rate for coal mines which recorded 0,42 deaths for every 1 000 workers and constitutes a 37 percent improvement over the 1984 figure of 0,67

The reportable injury rate for all chamber mines, which has been more than halved during the past 10 years, was reduced by a further 5,5 percent last year to 21,56 injuries for every 1 000 workers.

The injury rate on gold mines last year was 25,08 injuries for every 1 000 workers compared with 27,06 for 1984. On coal mines the injury rate last year was 7,06 injuries for every 1 000 workers compared with 7,81 the previous year

Commenting on the figures the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Clive Knobbs, said "The substantial reduction in the fatality rate to below one per 1 000 is particularly encouraging. The overall safety improvement can be attributed to the firm commitment on the part of the mines, the mining groups and the chamber to reduce accidents to an absolute minimum"

MINING

ARLWIS - 11/3/86 (212)

Mining accidents at lowest ever

JOHANNESBURG — For the second year running, Chamber of Mines companies have achieved record safety performances

Accident statistics for 1985 released by the chamber show the fatality and reportable injury rates for gold, coal and all mines reached new lows last year

A notable milestone was the reduction of the fatality rate for all mines to below 1 for 1000 employees a year for the first time over a full year

The actual figure of 0,89 for 1000 represents a 14,4 percent improvement over the 1984 figure of 1,04 a 1000

The biggest percentage improvement was achieved in the fatality rate for coal mines, which at 0,42 a 1000 was 37,3 percent lower than the figure of

0,67 for 1984

The fatality rate for gold mines was reduced by 12,7 per cent to 1,03 a 1000, while that for "other mines" was unchanged at 0,38 per 1000

The reportable injury rate for all mines, which has been more than halved over the past 10 years, was reduced by a further 5,5 percent last year

The injury rates for gold and coal mines were reduced by 7,3 and 9,6 percent respectively

But major contributory factors were undoubtedly improved technology as a result of continuing research and development and the widespread adoption of loss control management techniques as embodied in the international safety rating system, says the chamber — Sapa,

quantities have they been imported and (b) where have these substances been stored or disposed of,

(3) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND TOURISM.

- (1) (a) No
- (b) No

(2) and (3) Fall away

HANSARD
454 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower.

(a) How many applications for the (i) establishment of conciliation boards in terms of section 35, and (ii) appointment of a mediator in terms of section 44, of the Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, were (aa) made and (bb) approved in 1985 and (b) in respect of what percentage of the approved applications were the disputes settled, in each case?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

- (a) (i) (aa) 514
(bb) 101
- (ii) (aa) Nil
(bb) Nil

(b) Conciliation Boards—27.7 per cent

HANSARD
455 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in 1982 and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State, (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) assurance companies.

(2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, No 30 of 1941, and (b) what was the total amount paid out in compensation in this year;

(3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

- (1) (a) 289 052.
- (b) (i) R 8 019 485.
- (ii) R68 155 338.
- (iii) R37 722 912.

(2) (a) (i) 296 714.

(ii) 289 052.

(b) R124 500 952

(3) 3 475 627 man days

HANSARD
458 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower.

(1) How many registered trade unions confined their membership to (a) White, (b) Coloured/Asian and (c) Black persons as at the latest specified date for which figures are available,

(2) (a) how many racially mixed registered trade unions were there at that date and (b) how many (i) White, (ii) Coloured and Asian and (iii) Black persons are members of trade unions?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(1) (a) 46.

(b) 24

(c) 26

(2) (a) 100

(b) (i) 458 110

(ii) 295 987

(iii) 511 171

Note: The figures are as at 31 December 1985

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The Bosal hydraulic jack being installed in a gold mine.

Now a blast-proof mining jack

By Stan Kennedy

Bosal Afrika has launched a blast-proof hydraulic jack which, it claims, will save the mining industry millions of rands a year in timber and man-hours.

In 1984, 22 million sq m were stoped in the country's gold mines, with the national timber bill for that year being more than R163 million.

Before drilling and blasting can take place at the stopes, the hanging wall has to be shored up with temporary supports — a job that takes many hours.

The traditional method uses timber poles, hand-wedged into position. In blasting, about 90 percent of the poles are blown out of position and destroyed

and the oncoming shift has to repeat the shoring process before going into the stope.

"The Bosal hydraulic mine jack will change all this," said Mr Doug Renecke, managing director of Bosal's Jacks, Garage Equipment and Tools Division, during a tour of its Pretoria factory last week.

GREATER PROTECTION

"As well as offering greater security for miners, it will drastically cut the timber bill. The ease by which it can be installed will greatly reduce man-hours."

Using the new jack, two men can shore up a 25-m stope face in 30 minutes, compared with the traditional method which takes up to four hours.

Tested by the Chamber of

Mines and the Head Rock Mechanics Department, the jack is said to give greater protection than the hand-wedged props as it can withstand pressures of up to 20 tons both vertically and horizontally.

Bosal is the sole manufacturer of hydraulic jacks in Africa and about 50 percent of all cars have its jacks as original equipment.

Mr Renecke also said that the company had taken over Applied Power SA, a distributor and service centre for high-pressure hydraulic equipment and collision repair equipment for its American parent company. Bosal had a licensing agreement which would enable it to manufacture a selected range of these products.

Self-rescue equipment on way for all miners

By Sven Lunsche

Gencor specialist mining supplies company Conway Johnson has finalised a sole distributor arrangement for marketing the safety product range of Kawasaki Safety Service Industries (KSS), a subsidiary of the giant Kawasaki Heavy Industries Limited of Japan.

First product from KSS to be marketed in South Africa is a compressed oxygen self-rescue unit for underground mining, to meet standards set by the Government Mining Engineer (GME)

In terms of safety legislation expected to be introduced soon, coal, gold and base metal mineral mines are to equip all underground workers with emergency breathing apparatus over the next three years.

According to Mr Kobus de Jonge, MD of Conway Johnson, the self-rescuer market in South Africa is expected to be worth about R500 million over the next

three years. The Conway-Kawasaki rescuer goes on sale this week, but the product has not been finalised in all its aspects.

"While the preliminary requirements of the GME have been met, we still have to meet their final standards and those of the Chamber of Mines. We hope that these standards will be met within four to six months by new developments and improvements," Mr de Jonge said.

The safety requirements will be introduced in three phases - the coal mining industry will have to satisfy the safety standards this year, followed by the gold mining industry in the following year and the base metal mines will have to fulfil the safety requirements by the end of 1988. Conway-Johnson hopes to improve the design of self-rescue units with the introduction of each phase.

When the regulations are formally introduced every miner will be required to wear a self-rescuer underground.

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STAT

24/3/86

Announcements

Deaths

DOIG
Robby, died suddenly Thursday, 27th March. Dearly loved grandpa of Tracy and Roy. God bless grandpa

DOIG
Robby, died suddenly Thursday, 27th March. Father of Graham, Sheelagh and grandpa of Sara and Gregory. So dearly loved and so sadly missed.

ERASMUS
Kay - dearest Nanny, lovingly remembered. Andrew and Didie.

ERASMUS
Kay our dear Nanny and Ouma. Lovingly remembered. Joe, Lucie, Ryan and Terri.

ERASMUS
Kay - our dear Nanny and Ouma. We will miss you Sharon, Willie, Lauren, Brett.

ERASMUS
Kay dearest Mommy too dearly loved to be forgotten. Thelma and Ian

ETZINGER
Albert Loving father of Muriel and George, grandfather of Darryl, Mervyn, Kim, Mark and Peter and great grandfather of Dean. Sadly missed by all.

FREIMAN
Infant son of John and Judy, died suddenly Sydney on 2nd April 1986. Mourned by his parents Edith and Isaac Freiman

GODDARD
erry, husband of Lisa, father of Lisa and Steven, died suddenly and peacefully in sleep on April 2. Deeply mourned his family who will always remember this special man with love. Funeral 2:30 pm April 4 1986

GODDARD
Our dearest Roy Vinderine. Deeply mourned.

GODDARD
Deeply missed and mourned by Fred and Lydia

GODDARD
Deeply missed and remembered by fellow Directors. Never Accepted.

HAYNES
Passed away suddenly April 1st. Dearly loved mother of Glyn, Ian, and granny of Paul. Rest in Peace.

HENZEN
passed away April 1 1986. Mourned by Louis and family.

HENZ
Passed away April 3 1986. Mourned by loved and loving family.

HENZ
Passed away April 3 1986. Mourned by brother, sister-in-law, nieces and R.I.P.

HENZ
Our beloved passed away April 3. Deeply missed and sadly mourned by family.

HENZ
beloved cousin. Passed away peacefully. Ever loved.

HENZ
Passed away 3rd April 1986. Mourned by family and children.

Deaths

MER
Morris - Our dear friend, a gentle man, will always be remembered by Jeff and Rica Miller

ROE
Stan Passed away 2nd of April 1986. I will always remember and miss you. Your loving sister Irene.

ROE
Stan Passed away 2nd of April 1986. Will be missed and remembered by sister in law Gladys, niece Faye, Keith, Kevin, Colleen and Glynn. Our sympathy to Mavis, Bradley and Sean

SINCLAIR
Graeme Russell - Beloved Son of Murielle and Harold and Brother to Colin and Robert. Passed away suddenly in Zimbabwe. Forever in our thoughts. Rest in Peace

SNEAG
Brenda - Passed away tragically Thursday 3 April. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her Loving Mother, Rae and Gary, Stan, Denise, Michael and Wayne. Prayers. Sunday 6pm 152 - 9th Avenue, Highlands North

TAUROG
Jane - My special friend, I will miss you always. Love Elizabeth

VOSS
Jean Edyth, Beloved Daughter in Law of Bob and Kathy Coats and Sister in Law of Digger. Remembered with Great Love

VOSS
Jean Edyth, Will be loved Always by Auntie Jean, Elizabeth, Barbara and Alexandra. Love Knows no Boundaries.

VOSS
Jean Edyth, passed away peacefully on Wednesday April 2nd, 1986. Remembered with Deep love and affection by her husband Trevor and children Sheena, John, Bev, Sean, Bruce, Fiona and Trevor. Grandchildren Bronwynn and Shaun. There is no separation in Love.

WATKINS
Wally - Our dearest Uncle and Brother-in-law will be sadly missed. Rest in Peace. Sheila, Elaine and family

WATKINS
Wally - Lovingly remembered and sadly missed. Jenny, Peter, Heather, Pat and family.

WITTEKIND
Mina Passed away 2nd April 1986. Deeply mourned by Harold and Iris, Doug and Jacqui Yudelowitz and their children and Janie Yudelowitz

WOLPERT
Ben passed away Thursday 3 April. Sadly missed and will always be remembered with affection by his sister Freda and brother-in-law Aaron Sweldan, nieces Maureen, Marion and Lea-Lee and nephews Dennis, Harry and Allan.

Funeral Notices

BURGER
The Memorial Service of the late Donald Rowan Steven Burger of Witbank will take place on Monday, 7/4/86 at 14h00 from the St Margaret's Church, Haig Ave, Witbank. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research, P.O. Box 2000, Job, 2000. SAFFAS FUNERALS Tel 6-1441.

Rockfall warning ignored

miner

East Rand Bureau

A Boksburg inquest court was told yesterday a rockfall, before the rockburst resulting in the death of 17 miners last year, was ignored. Mr Enoch Ncityana, a driller at the East Rand Proprietary Mine at the time of the rockburst in November last year, was giving evidence before Mr M van As.

Mr Ncityana said he and another man were working at the end of the tunnel when the rockburst occurred. "I felt the footwall (floor) move and then large rocks fell on me and I was trapped."

"Another man opposite me was also trapped. He screamed for about 20 minutes and then died. I was rescued two hours later," he said.

Mr Ncityana could not say with certainty when exactly the previous rockfall had taken place but he told the court it took three day shifts to clean up the tunnel. Mr B Bornman, acting on behalf of ERPM, said no such rockfall had been recorded.

INJURIES

Mr Mihaly Szalai, a developer who headed the team at the time, said he could not recall any incidents of rockfalls in the West level before the fatal one.

Mr R Nugent, representing two of the deceased, for the National Union of Mineworkers, said ERPM not only had a history of being first with introducing stabilizing pillars and hydraulic props as safety features, but also tops the list for the highest number of injuries per thousand workers.

He said although the risk at that level was not great, the mine should have realised it could result in a catastrophe if the tunnel was not supported properly.

The case has been postponed to May 23 for finding.

107 died
in work
accidents

Medical Report

There were 105 deaths — 68 immediately fatal — in working accidents among black workers on Rand Mines gold mines in 1984 — a mortality rate of 1,6 per 1 000.

The mortality rate among black workers through working accidents in 1984 on Rand Mines coal mines was 0,3 per 1 000 — or two dead.

On the group's gold mines, 7 486 blacks were injured in accidents connected with work, an incidence of 115,5 per 1 000, and 3 980 were injured in accidents unconnected with work. Of the latter, 105 died.

These figures are contained in the Rand Mines annual medical report released last week.

\$23/4/18
212
S-1812

Three killed underground

Three black mineworkers were killed in two separate accidents at Rand Mines ERPM gold mine at Boksburg early yesterday.

One of the men died at 2 30 am in a fall of ground 2 700 m below surface at the mine's L-incline section.

The other two were killed in a pressure burst 3 200 m underground on the 75th level of the south-eastern section of the mine at 3.30 am

The names of the dead are being withheld until their families have been notified

ights
The
ry to
Park
it to

By Janine Simon

Help them



plain
spaghetti
500 g

Fatti's & Mo
ready-cut
plain
macaroni
500 g

Prices valid
until 10/5/86

500 cm³

torque and power
11 and 14 % more fuel-
m³ packs more punch,
d being from Toyota,
ou low maintenance,

The new T-U-V
Tougher and more depend-
Van chuckles at hills even
straight sides give full cover
padding is improved, better
and chassis treated against

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ab handle for easy
ing Interior
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etter designed
wearing vinyl trim

The new T-U-V
Still the lowest priced half-ton
money The surprisingly large
optional canopy Bodywork and
against corrosion Seating's
designed Trimmed with new
And improved radial tyres
and handling

keeps going right



Accidents claim 3 lives at gold mine

SOWETAN 24/4/86
21/2
21/2

THREE black miners were killed in two separate accidents at ERPM in Boksburg yesterday.

One of the men died in a fall of ground 2 700 metres below the surface at the mine, according to ERPM management. The other two were killed in a pressure burst 3 200 metres underground.

The names of the dead are being withheld until next-of-kin have been notified.

• An organiser of the SA Allied Workers' Union (Saawu), Mr Mongezi Sihlahla (25), appeared in the Queens-

By LEN MASEKO

town Magistrate's Court yesterday with four others on charges of murder.

They are charged with the murder of a former community councillor and former member of the Mlungisi Residents' Association, Mrs Blanche Mdudu, and a policeman.

Charged with Mr Sihlahla are Mr Phelelo Gono, Mr Mpumelelo Nogemane, Mr Welcome Pikauri and Mr Phumzile Rawula.

They were not asked to plead and no evidence was led. They

were remanded in custody to May 6.

About 100 workers at Paxit Pipekor in Cape Town went on strike yesterday after a worker was arrested on allegations of theft, according to a spokesman for the Plastics and Allied Workers' Union (Pawu).

A company spokesman said the worker had been cleared of the theft allegation at an internal hearing, but police acting on earlier information had arrested him. He said the company

was satisfied the man was innocent and wanted a speedy end to the incident.

• The Johannesburg Scooter Drivers' Association is to hold a general meeting in Soweto on Sunday.

The meeting will be held at 879 Zola 3, and starts at 10am.

• The strike at Barlow Rand subsidiary, Adcock Ingram, has not yet been resolved. The 350 members of the SA Chemical Workers' Union, who have been on strike since early last month, are campaigning for a boycott of Adcock Ingram products.

8 coal miners hurt in methane gas fire

By Craig Kotze

Eight miners were injured in a methane gas fire at Sasol's Middelbult coal mine near Secunda yesterday

A Secunda Collieries spokesman, Mr Stan Booth, said today the eight injured were admitted to the mine hospital and were in a stable condition. Their names have not yet been released.

Last August 30 miners died and 29 were injured in a methane gas explosion at the Middelbult mine.

But Mr Booth stressed the latest incident was not an explosion but a fire.

He said "If it had been an explosion it would have caused

massive damage and many deaths. But only 19 miners were in the area when the fire broke out."

After last year's blast, Sasol said it had been awarded five stars for safety standards under the International Institute of Loss Control's monitoring scheme.

Mr Booth said "Our safety record is as good as any and we are intensively concerned with safety."

But Ms Chris Bonner, Transvaal branch secretary of the Chemical Worker's Industrial Union, said the union was appalled at the second accident and seriously questioned Sasol's safety standards.

11/6/80
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[unclear] [unclear]

Two burnt in platinum mine blast

By Sue Dobson
and Craig Kotze

Two electricians were badly burnt yesterday in what was apparently an accidental blast at the Rustenburg Platinum Mine in the Western Transvaal

Mr M Oosthuizen (43) and Mr M Bornmann (46) were injured while working on an electrical transformer.

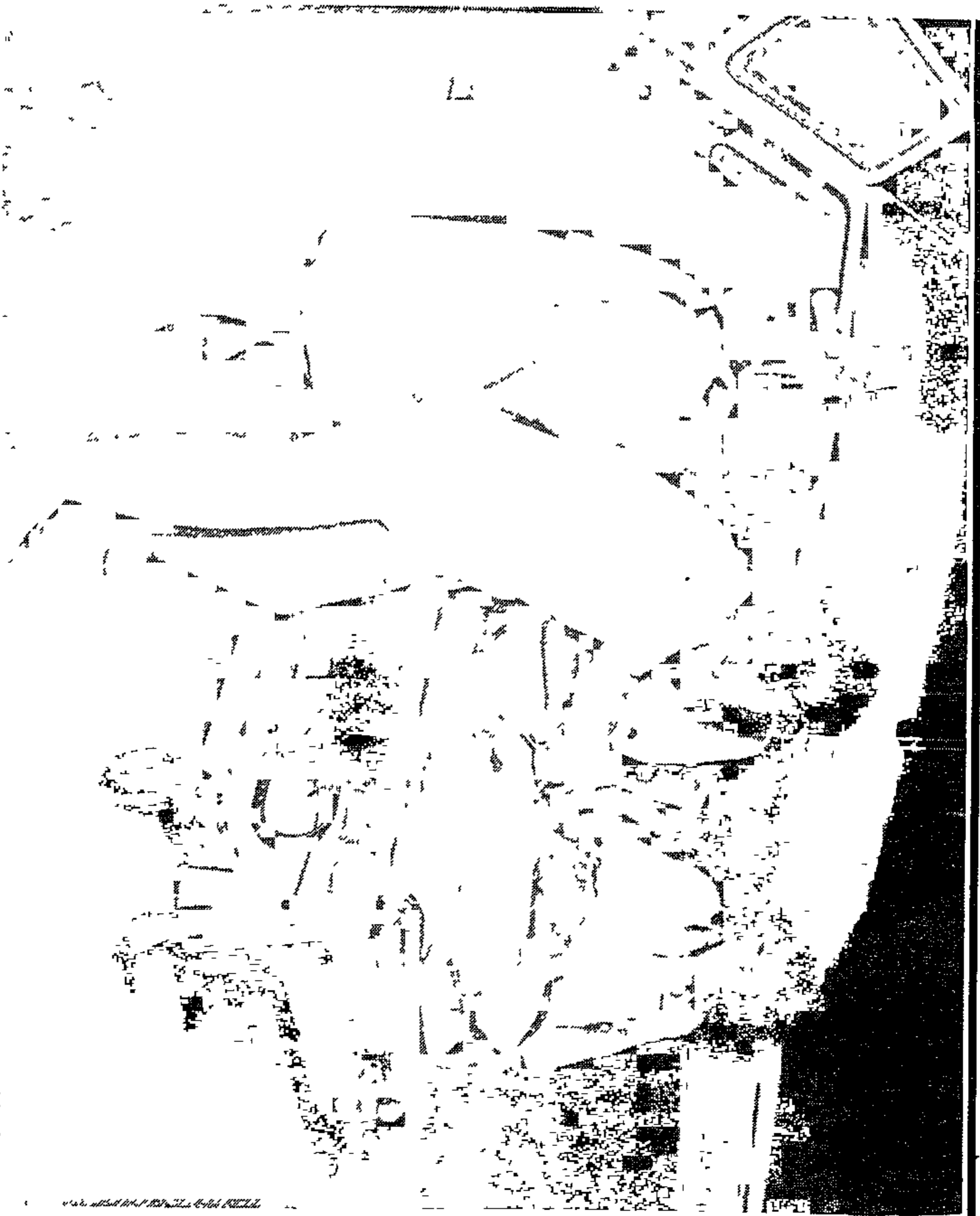
Both men were admitted to the Rustenburg hospital but were airlifted by emergency helicopter to the Johannesburg Hospital last night.

A mine spokesman said the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had launched an investigation

Mr Oosthuizen sustained burns over 11 percent of his body, while Mr Bornmann suffered 90 percent burns. A hospital spokesman said Mr Bornmann's condition was critical.

Mrs Susie Oosthuizen said last night her husband had told her the blast had been caused by the power being turned on while they had been working on the transformer

The mine spokesman said it was thought that the men had been injured when transformer oil caught alight.



The victims of the blast at the Rustenburg Platinum Mine arrive at the Johannesburg Hospital by helicopter last night.

Nine killed in mine explosion

NINE workers died and 15 were injured yesterday in an underground explosion at Deelkraal gold mine, Goldfields said in a statement released in Johannesburg.

The condition of three of the injured is serious but not critical. The

injured are all being treated at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital near Carletonville, the statement said.

The cause of the explosion, which occurred about 12.15pm yesterday in a development area and at a depth of 2 000 m, is still being investigated, the statement added without elaborating.

(212) Sawefan 7/8/86

Cook's Times 7/18/26
**9 miners
killed *(212)*
in blast**

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Nine miners were killed and 15 injured in an underground explosion at Deelkraal Mine near Carletonville yesterday, the management of Gold Fields, which owns the mine, announced.

According to a spokesman, the explosion occurred about 12 15pm 2 000m underground.

Late yesterday afternoon senior mine officials went underground to investigate the cause of the explosion, a Gold Fields spokesman said.

He was not yet sure what the cause was, but thought explosives used in normal mining might have exploded accidentally.

All the injured miners are being treated at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital near Carletonville.

The mine could not disclose the names of the dead as their families had not yet been informed, the spokesman said.

According to the Leslie Williams senior medical officer, Dr S S Booyse, four of the injured mine workers have been admitted to the intensive-care unit.

"One is critical and three others with fractured skulls are in a stable condition," said Dr Booyse.

He also confirmed that a number of others had been admitted to other sections of the hospital and will remain for a "a few days".

Five 'fool's gold' miners
killed, others trapped

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Five people have been killed and an unknown number are trapped in a tunnel on the banks of the Insuse River near Kranskop in northern Natal, following a rush of Zulu prospectors mining "fool's gold"

Brigadier A J M Laas, Commissioner of Police for KwaZulu, said last night that KwaZulu police would work through the night to rescue the trapped miners.

Mining engineers had been called in to offer technical advice, but bulldozers and other heavy machinery were expected to reach the scene only early this morning because of the rugged terrain

The brigadier, who flew to the scene by helicopter yesterday, said the site was highly dangerous for any more prospecting and those who went there under present circumstances were "asking for trouble"

Thousands of Zulus have flocked to the site in the past two weeks to seek their fortunes, but gemmologists and

geologists have confirmed that what the prospectors are mining is only iron pyrites or "fool's gold"

Brigadier Laas said there was a deeply-held conviction among the people that the wealth at the site represented an ancestral fortune associated with the legendary King Shaka

However, he said last night that the frenetic mood of the people had changed since the tragedy and many were now leaving the scene

An ambulance and doctors were sent to the accident site yesterday by the authorities at Nkandla Hospital. Five bodies had been recovered by late last night and a seriously injured victim was taken to the hospital

A spokesman for the hospital said many more people were feared either dead or seriously injured

Before yesterday's accident, two were killed and four injured in their fruitless search for gold

Hundreds of women and children have been sleeping in the veld while their husbands mine the bank.

Wall-Down

JOHANNESBURG — About 200 workers are feared to have died in one of South Africa's worst ever mining disasters.

The official death toll in a fire at the Kinross gold mine rose to 28 early this morning and a mine spokesman said 180 people were still missing in tunnels between the mine's number one and number two shafts

Earlier, Mr Kobus Olivier, general manager of the Eastern Transvaal mine, said there was only a slight chance of survival for the miners still missing about a kilometre underground.

Mr Olivier told reporters 13 bodies had been brought to the surface by rescue teams and 183 miners had been admitted to hospital

He said 12 proto teams were still in the mine searching for the missing men, more than 12 hours after the fire was sparked by a welding accident, but that "time was running out" for them

The deaths and injuries were believed to have been caused by toxic gases that spread through the mine, generated by the fire

The fire started when a gas cylinder exploded in a crosscut between the first and second shafts of the mine, Mr Olivier said. Poisonous gases then spread rapidly through the 15, 16, 17 and 18 levels

The first rescue team was sent into the shafts within an hour of the explosion. Proto teams from the surrounding mines joined in the rescue operation and more than 2 140 miners were rescued

Mr Olivier said they were saved by "bubbles of oxygen" in the areas of the mine where rescuers found them.

worked throughout the night in rescue operations

But by 11pm neither the rescue teams nor mine officials had had word from any of the miners trapped underground

Mr Olivier said workers had means of communication with ground level officials but "we haven't heard anything yet"

"People are going down physically searching every working place. Initially rescue teams went down using breathing apparatus," he said

Mr Olivier said no walls had fallen underground as far as he was aware and there had been no underground rockfalls

The entire operation at Shaft 2 will be shut down today and possibly longer if necessary, officials said

Most of those who are dead or injured are migrant workers from South Africa and neighbouring states, Mr Olivier said

The fire was the worst mining accident since the Hlobane colliery disaster which killed 65 workers in September 1983, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said

He told Sapa his union regarded the accident "in a serious light" and had sent a team of officials to investigate it

Last night the mining communities of Kinross, Evander, and Secunda waited anxiously as hope diminished for husbands, friends and relatives. + DDC-Sapa

200 feared dead in mine disaster

Wednesday, September 17, 1986

Founded 1872

Price 36c Excluding

1000 men were initially evacuated from the mine, situated some 100 km east of Johannesburg. A further 200 were later brought to the surface.

Prospects for the survival of the men trapped in the workings which cover two square kilometres were described as grim and deteriorating rapidly

The fire quickly spread to "cables and other materials", according to Gencor

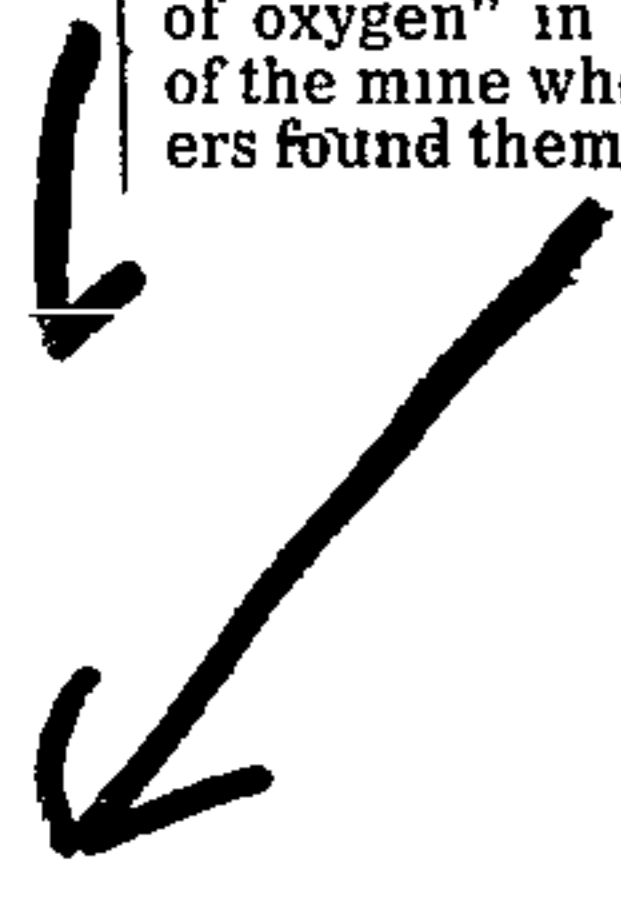
Spokesmen said about 2 200 miners were in the affected area at the time of the accident. Most had been evacuated immediately and many were under observation for the effects of toxic gas poisoning in nearby hospitals

A further 3 000 workers in unaffected areas had been evacuated as a precautionary measure, said a spokesman, Mr D J Ackerman

Dr W F de Water acting medical superintendent for Evander Hospital, said 52 white miners had been admitted from 3pm all suffering from toxic gas poisoning

"All but two are satisfied and even the two who are more serious should be all right by tomorrow," he said

Scores of ambulances were seen travelling to Shaft 2 until late last night where ten teams involving 140 people



272

DD

HOPE

Hope fades for missing 14 after Kinross blaze

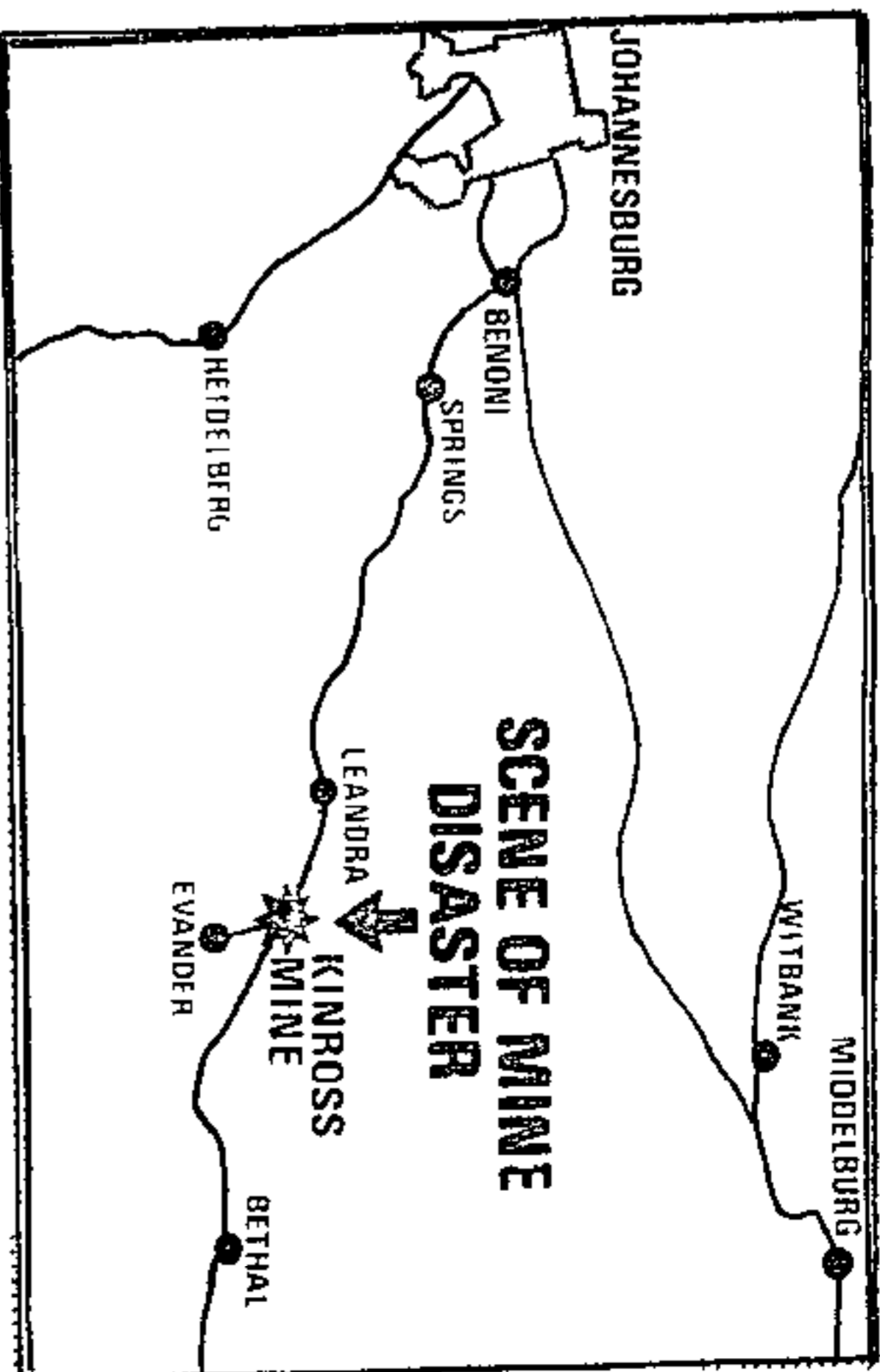
170 dead, 235 hurt IN mine disaster

171918

SPARK

214

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Probe under way

An investigation into cause of the underground fire at the Kinross gold mine was launched by the Government Mining Engineer last night

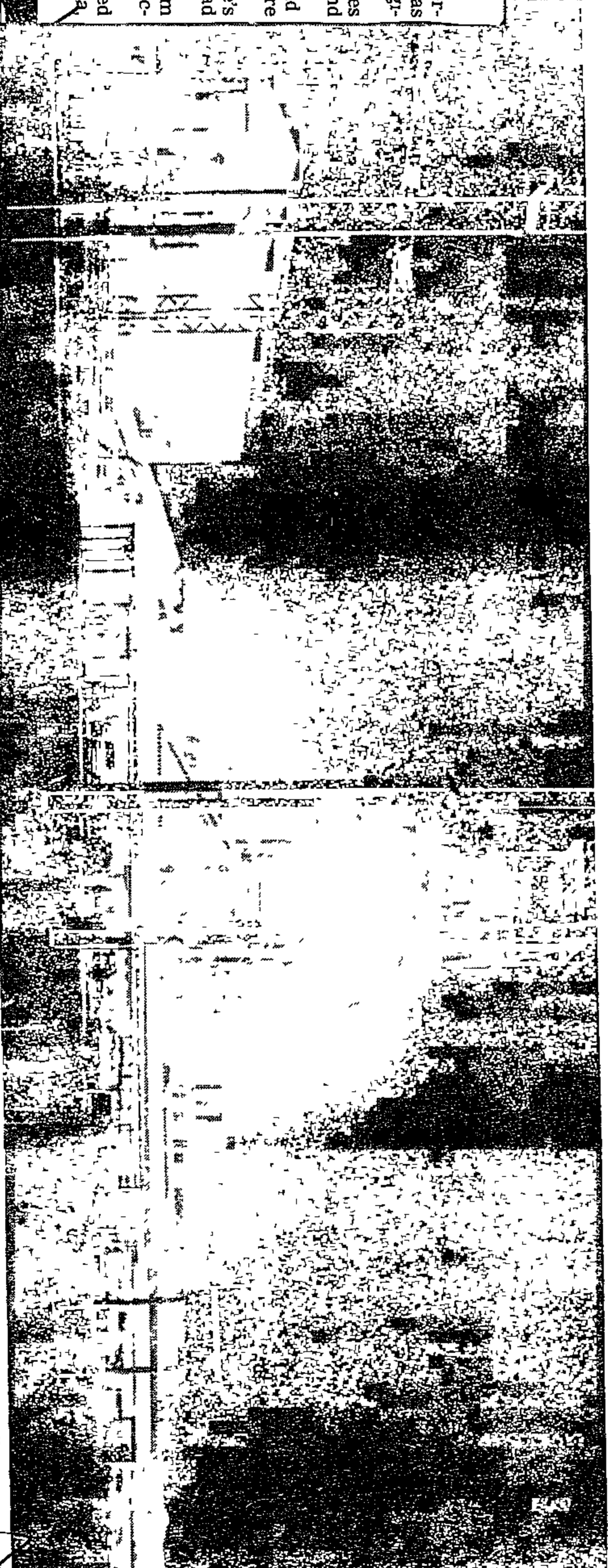
This was in accordance with the Mines and Works Act, said Gencor's East Rand mine manager, Mr Kobus Olivier

Speaking at a Press conference, he said "At this stage I cannot say whether there was any negligence involved"

This was the first accident in the mine's 20 years of operation in which a fire had cost the lives of mining employees

Mr Olivier said that only a post-mortem would reveal the cause of death of the victims

Many of the deceased had been recruited from as far afield as Lesotho and Botswana, he added



Beneath the headgear of the Kinross Gold Mine 170 workers died as toxic fumes swept through the underground complex. Fourteen are still missing.

HOPE FADES FOR 14 AFTER
KINROSS BLAZE.
170 DEAD 235 HURT IN
MINE DISASTER

Biggest mining tragedy since '60s



Staff Reporters

The death toll in the Kinross Gold Mine disaster in the Eastern Transvaal has risen to 170.

Fourteen workers are still missing underground. Hopes for their survival are fading. There are 235 men in hospital.

The catastrophe is the worst gold mine disaster and the second worst mining accident in South Africa's history.

As injured were ferried to the Evander Hospital early today a sobbing woman waiting for news of her husband said "I can't say what I feel. There's nothing to say — just to wait and wait."

Fire and poisonous gases swept through underground chambers in the massive subterranean complex at 9.30 am yesterday.

Toxic fumes from the fire 1.6 km underground spread over a 50 km area.

A spokesman for Gencor, Mr Neil Ackerman, told *The Star* today that 235 survivors were still receiving treatment.

He said 165 of the dead were black migrant workers and the others white.

South Africa's worst mine disaster was at the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook in 1960, when 435 miners died after a massive cave-in.

The general manager of Kinross, Mr Kobus Olivier, said toxic fumes caused the deaths yesterday.

"No one would have died if it weren't for the toxic substances, and no one died in the fire."

"We found the last person alive at 8 pm last night. We are not optimistic about the lives of the 14 others still missing."

In Evander Hospital, 52 whites are being treated, but none has serious injuries. In the nearby Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, 183 black miners are "under observation."

When the fire broke out, 2 400 people were working underground and about 2 200 were evacuated successfully.

Addressing a Press conference at the mine this morning, Mr Olivier explained how the deadly gas swept through the mine.

"At times we have to seal certain areas, and make use of a sealing substance."

It is a liquid which turns into foam and is used to make water and air-tight seals.

"At the time of the accident, it was being sprayed on a tunnel wall to prevent corrosion."

There were flame-cutting operations going on to repair broken underground rail when a gas cylinder is said to have caught alight.

"Cables and other material caught fire."

The workers were overcome by toxic fumes from burning sealing substance.

All the people who were killed were on the 14th and 15th level. The lowest level on the mine is the 18th level, which is 1 900 m underground.

Reporters from *The Star* who were on the scene last

night reported that as the frantic search for survivors continued rescue teams had to cope with toxic gases spread by the fire.

The gases were later cleared so that rescue work could go ahead faster.

Mr Olivier said many of the people rescued owed their lives to pockets of oxygen in the tunnels.

Long after midnight ambulances and mortuary vans were still ferrying the dead and the injured to the two nearby hospitals.

A number of victims of the noxious fumes were treated

214
17/9/86 Star
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131

The fire at Gencor's Kinross gold mine is the biggest mining disaster in South Africa since 435 coal miners were buried alive at the Clydesdale colliery in January 1960.

Ironically, it comes just one week after the Chamber of Mines announced that accident rates had fallen to record lows on gold mines.

The country's worst mining disasters include:

- 1983 Hlobane colliery, 68 dead after a methane gas explosion. An inquest found the owner of the mine, Iscor, criminally responsible for the death of the miners. The National Union of Mineworkers emerged as a safety watchdog in the industry and instituted civil action against Iscor on behalf of the victims' families.
- 1980 Vaal Reefs 31 dead in lift cage fall.
- 1978 Vaal Reefs gold mine 41 dead in underground fire.

- 1977 Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, 32 dead

- 1969 Buffelsfontein gold mine 60 dead

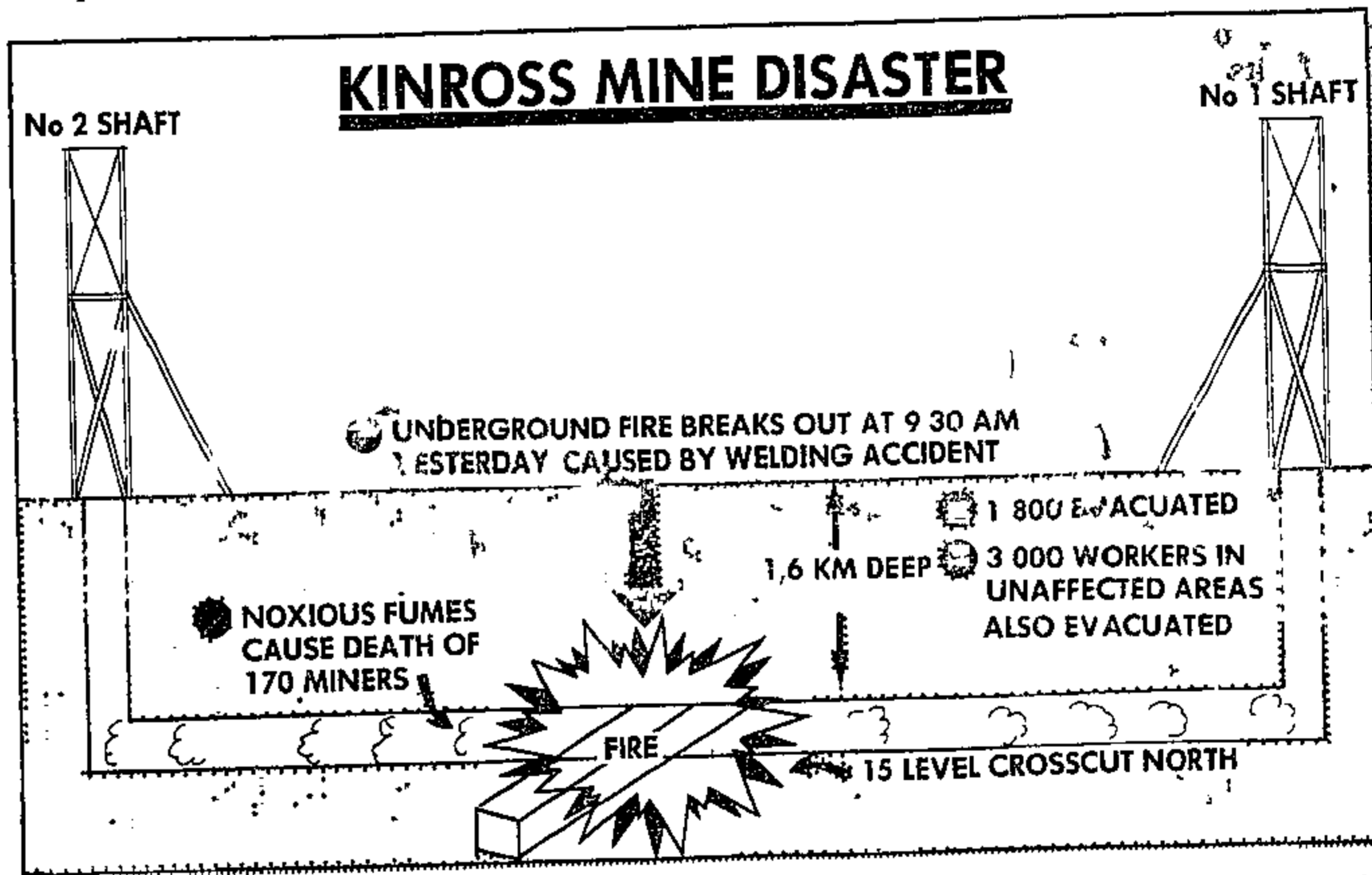
- 1960 Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook, 435 dead when the mine collapsed, burying miners alive. The disaster attracted worldwide attention and remains the greatest mining tragedy in South Africa's history.

Rescue teams battled for two weeks to reach trapped men, sinking boreholes and microphones in vain.

- 1928 ERPM gold mine, over 50 dead

A recent International Labour Organisation report said that despite significant improvements in safety, 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines between 1973 and 1984.

In its defence, the mining industry points out that South African mining conditions are among the most dangerous in the world, one reason being the depths at which ore is mined.



and discharged.

There were no indications of any rock falls as a result of the fire.

A rescue team was sent down within an hour of the explosion, and 10 proto teams, consisting of a leader and five other members, were brought in from neighbouring mines. They were assisted by about 80 mine personnel.

By 9 pm last night the fire had been extinguished and most of the poisonous gas extracted.

A spokesman at Evander Hospital said the first ambulance arrived at the hospital at

11.40 am — about two hours after the first rescue team had been sent down.

A miner who escaped shortly after the fire broke out told *The Star* at Evander Hospital that he could not say what the conditions were like underground.

"Soon after the fire I took my team and we just got out."

Earlier, a witness near the security gate of Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, reached by a rough road, reported that ambulances had already passed him "more than 20 times" — ferrying the dead and the injured.

Mine fire toll rises to 170

2172
Aug 17 1973

EVANDER — The official death toll in the Kinross gold mine fire has risen to 170, with 235 miners in hospital. Hopes are fading for 14 men still trapped underground, says mine management.

A shaft steward, Mr Patrick Njokwana, said the bodies of six of the 14 "missing" men were brought to the surface this morning but a management spokesman was not able to confirm this.

If confirmed, this would bring the death toll to 176. Earlier, the mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, said 235 miners were still in hospital and rescue teams had brought about 2 200 people to the surface.

"We are not really optimistic for the chances of survival of the 14 still trapped. Most of those brought up in the early hours of this morning were brought up dead," Mr Olivier said.

Two of the dead men were part of a proto team helping rescue miners from underground.

They were shift boss Mr Christoffel Johannes Dorling, 27, who was married with two children, and Mr Stefanus Christoffel Adendorff, a surveyor, who had turned 27 yesterday. He had only been married two months.

The National Union of Mineworkers has called for a Commission of Inquiry into safety in the mining industry.

The Kinross accident was the worst since the 1960 cave-in at Coalbrook North Colliery near Sasolburg when 437 miners died.

A mine spokesman said many families were probably still unaware of the accident. Of the original 250 miners unaccounted for, 235 were migrant workers.

Most lived far away and notifying next of kin involved "a long and complicated process", he said.

The fire, which broke out at 9 30am yesterday, was apparently started by a welding accident.

"An acetylene cylinder caught fire and set alight underground cables and pipes," Mr Olivier said.

An anti-corrosive sealing substance was also burnt and caused a toxic reaction contaminating areas between the mine's No 1 and No 2 shafts and went to levels 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Mr Olivier said the fire and subsequent toxic fumes and smoke covered 50% of the mine's area.

"The fire, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide spread quickly underground," he said.

Some of the smoke and gas came to the surface.

Mr Olivier said the sealing substance which melted and exuded the killer fumes would never be used on his mine again.

He said the substance had been used on the mine for

Mine fire
death toll
now more
than 170

From Page 1

six years. It was a liquid which turned into a foam and a created water and air seal in areas where work was going on.

He said it took almost eight hours to extinguish the fire and the last of the gas and smoke had been pumped out of the mine by late last night.

Mr Olivier said many of the men rescued "owed their lives to pockets of oxygen".

About 150 workers, operating in two-hour shifts, had brought 130 miners to the surface since midnight.

The mine, about 150 kilometres east of Johannesburg, was until recently the holder of the National Occupational Safety Institute's (Nosa) five-star rating, but had been down-graded to a three star.

The National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, arrived at Kinross early today and was to be taken on a tour to inspect the damage and to visit injured miners.

The disaster occurred on the same day that Chamber of Mines accident statistics were published, showing that in the first six months of this year the fatality rate for accidents on gold mines dropped below 1% per 1 000 workers for the first time. The figure — 0.88 — was 14.6% better than the previous low set in the first half of last year.

The disaster is bound to highlight a continuing controversy between the mines and the unions.

SA mining companies say their safety precautions are among the most stringent in the world.

Black mining unions have questioned the measures employed.

A recent International Labour Organisation report noted that despite significant improvements in safety, 8 500 miners were killed in SA mines between 1973 and 1984 — Sapa

Horror of Kinross fire described

212 (28)

JOHANNESBURG — The wife of a survivor of the Kinross mine tragedy today gave a chilling description of the horror and panic below ground when toxic gasses swept through the mine.

Mrs Barbara Tarran told how her husband, Billy, had described the scene

"He said there were bodies piled up on the tracks. Men were lying with blood coming out of their mouths

"My husband had to punch his friend in the chest to make him breathe again

"He saw a lot of men fall down the shaft because they panicked when the cage came down and did not pick them up"

A tearful Mr J Oosthuizen said today he had

identified his son-in-law's body at the mortuary

"This is a terrible shock for the whole town — all those people dead"

Mr Isaih Siphoh, an underground worker who saw the accident happen, said "A worker was using the cutting torch, which broke and caused a big explosion

"I only saw smoke and fire. I went as fast as I could down to a lower lev-

el to get away from the smoke

"There I waited until we were taken out"

Mrs E M Le Roux, whose son Hannes is an underground worker on the level where the explosion occurred, said an oxygen cylinder exploded

"Hannes said his first sensation was burning eyes, throat and nose be-

cause of the smoke being drawn into the mine through the fans. He ran away

"When he got home late yesterday he complained of pains in his chest

"We took him to hospital where he spent the night

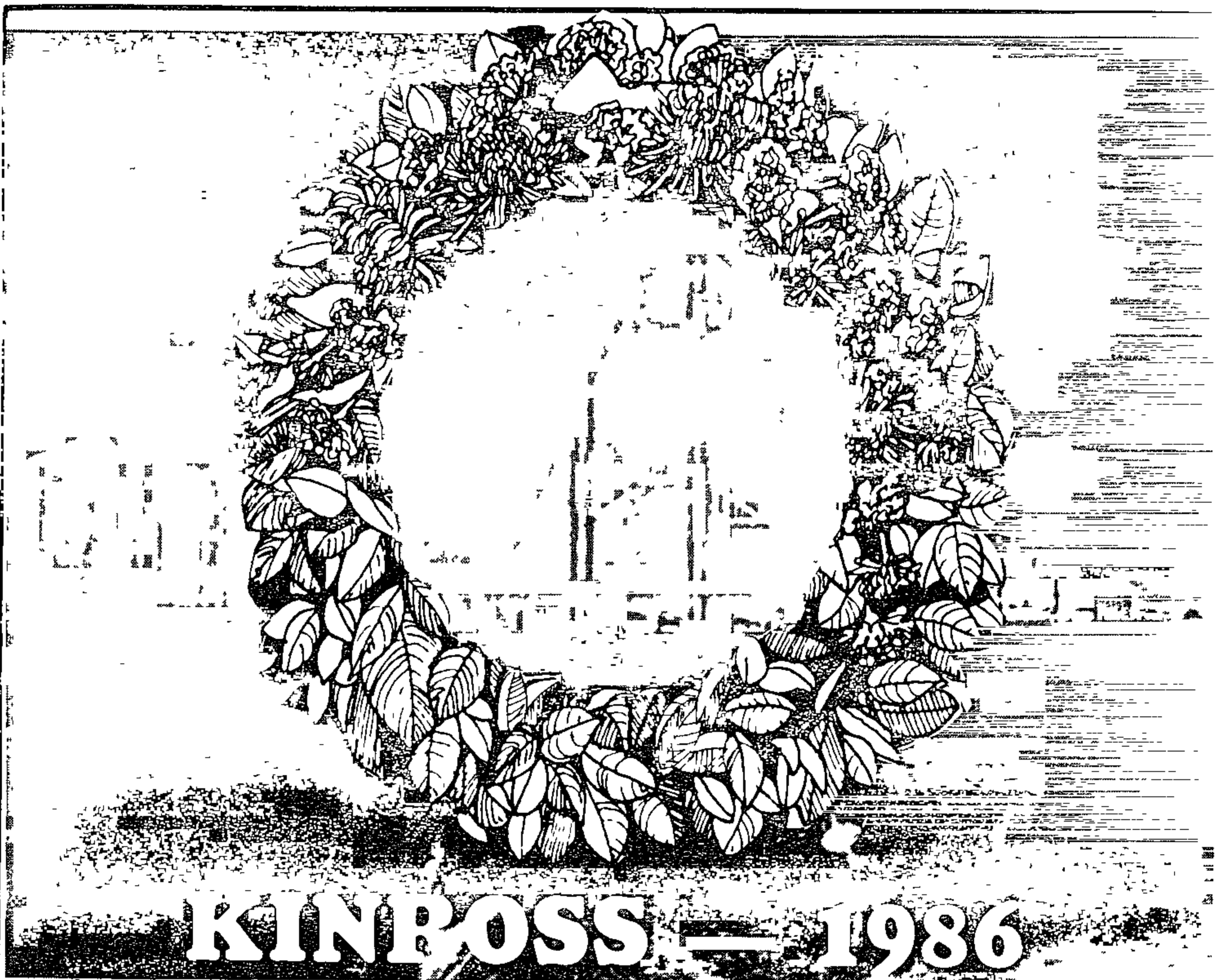
"More than 75 people were admitted to hospital

"Several workers who

were alive when the proto teams reached them underground died on their way to emergency stations"

Mrs S E Venter said she went to the mine to deliver her husband's supper where she heard of the accident

"This is going to be a black day in Evander. It really is a shocking business" — Sapa



Dossier of death

THE fire at Gencor's Kinross gold mine is the biggest mining disaster in South Africa since 435 coal miners were buried alive at the Clydesdale colliery in January 1960.

Ironically, it comes just one week after the Chamber of Mines announced that accident rates had fallen to record lows on gold mines.

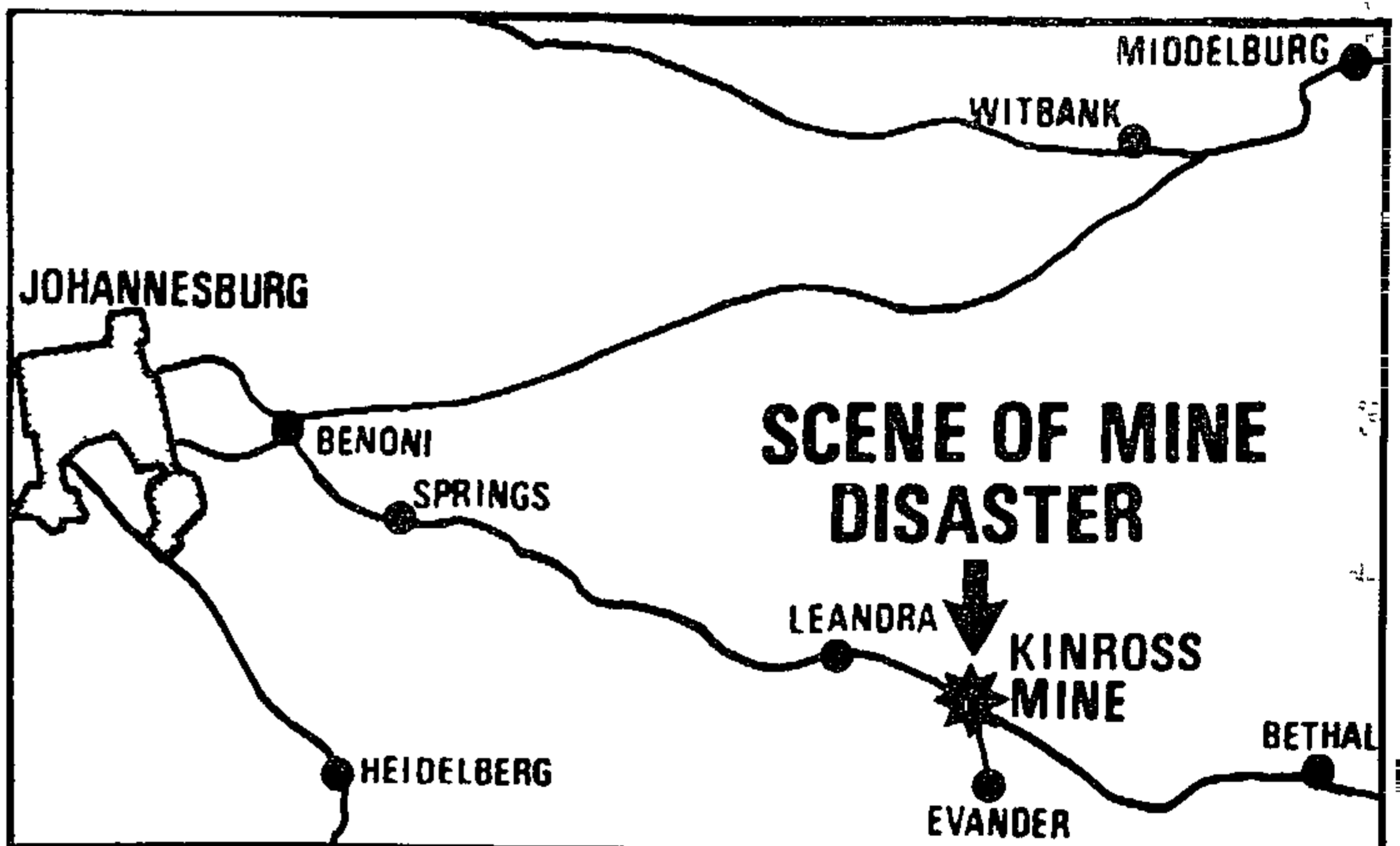
As a country which draws vast wealth from the bowels of the earth, South Africa has recorded its tragic share of mining deaths over the decades.

A recent International Labour Organisation report noted that despite significant improvements in safety, 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines between 1973 and 1984.

In its defence, the mining industry points out that South African mining conditions are among the most dangerous in the world, one of reasons being the depths at which ore is mined. Further, the industry is, one of the biggest in the world, employing over 500 000 people.

"Gold mines which are members of the Chamber have reduced their fatality rate to below one for every 1 000 people employed," said the Chamber last week. The annual fatality rate of 0,88 for every 1 000 workers was a 14 percent improvement on figures for the previous year and a 40 percent improvement over the last decade.

Kinross belongs to the Chamber of Mines



THE country's worst mining disasters include.

- 1983 Hlobane colliery 68 dead after a methane gas explosion. An inquest found the owners of the mine, Iscor, criminally responsible for the death of the miners. The National Union of Mineworkers emerged as a safety watchdog in the industry, and instituted civil action against Iscor on behalf of the victims families.

- 1980 Vaal Reefs. 31 dead in lift cage fall

- 1978 Vaal Reefs. 41 dead in underground fire

- 1977 Blyvooruitzicht gold mine. 32 dead

- 1969 Buffelsfontein gold mine: 60 dead

- 1960 Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook: 435 dead when the mine collapsed, burying miners alive. The disaster attracted worldwide

attention and remains the greatest mining tragedy in South Africa's history. Rescue teams battled for two weeks to reach trapped men, sinking boreholes and microphones in vain.

- 1982 ERPM gold mine. Over 50 dead.

In 1985, the Chamber announced with pride that the fatality rate for coal mines had dropped by 37 percent to 0,42 for every 1 000 workers. Latest figures for coal mines have not yet been announced.

The most serious gold mining catastrophe was recorded in 1900, when 152 workers drowned in a flooded mine.

According to a 1983 survey, mining accidents in the decade since 1973 killed 8 209 people and injured 230 000.

- CHINA still holds the unenviable world's record for the largest number of people

ever killed in a mining disaster.

On April 26 1942, 1 572 people died in a coal dust explosion at the Honkeiko coal mine.

- METHANE EXPLOSION. An explosion of methane gas in a deep Japanese coal mine, Mitsui Muke, near the port of Umuta, Kyushu, killed 452 in 1963.

- In the Senghennydd coal mine accident in south Wales in 1913, 439 men perished.

Other major disasters:

- 1985. A landslide at a mountain gold mine killed 56 in the southern Philippines.

- 1984. Cave-in at the Harsan mine in northern Taiwan trapped and killed 72.

- 1983. Nearly 100 bodies recovered from Turkey's Armutcuk Kandilli coal mine, part of which collapsed after a gas explosion.

Winkelhaak Mine

JOHANNESBURG—At least 100 miners are feared dead and many others trapped in a disastrous fire that started at the Kinross gold mine yesterday.

A witness at the scene of the disaster, who declined to be named, said he had 'personally counted more than 100 bodies'

And a protection services officer said they had been asked to handle a 'massive number of corpses'

About 400 miners were earlier reported unaccounted for and the toll is expected to rise as Proto teams are still apparently searching for bodies and survivors in the Number One and Two Shafts of the mine

But Gencor, owners of the mine, would only say in an official statement that 13 workers had been killed by noxious fumes' as a result of a fire sparked by a welding accident

'Some 60 persons who have been affected by fumes are being treated in hospital,' the statement added

Gencor said that the underground fire broke out at 9.30 a.m. yesterday on a major connection between Number One Shaft and Number Two Shaft

The company said later that the fire had been extinguished by the afternoon

The head of Evander's Protective Services and Civil Defence, Mr Kobus van Zyl, said he was at the scene of the disaster during the day but was also unable to give any details

'The mine management has totally clammed up about the accident. They don't want to speak to us. In fact they don't want to speak to anybody. All I can say is that there has been a very serious disaster,' he said

Evacuated

'We have been asked by the Evander hospital to help with the care of patients who have been sent to hospital and we have been asked to handle a massive number of corpses,' he added

Of about 2 200 miners in the affected area, 1 800 had been evacuated safely, the Gencor statement said

'Eight Proto teams are assisting in the operation. Some 60 people who have been affected by fumes are being treated in hospital. Their condition is satisfactory'

Another 3 000 workers in unaffected areas were also evacuated as a 'precautionary measure', Gencor said

Mr DJ Ackerman, spokesman for Gencor, said he did not know how many of the miners killed were black or white

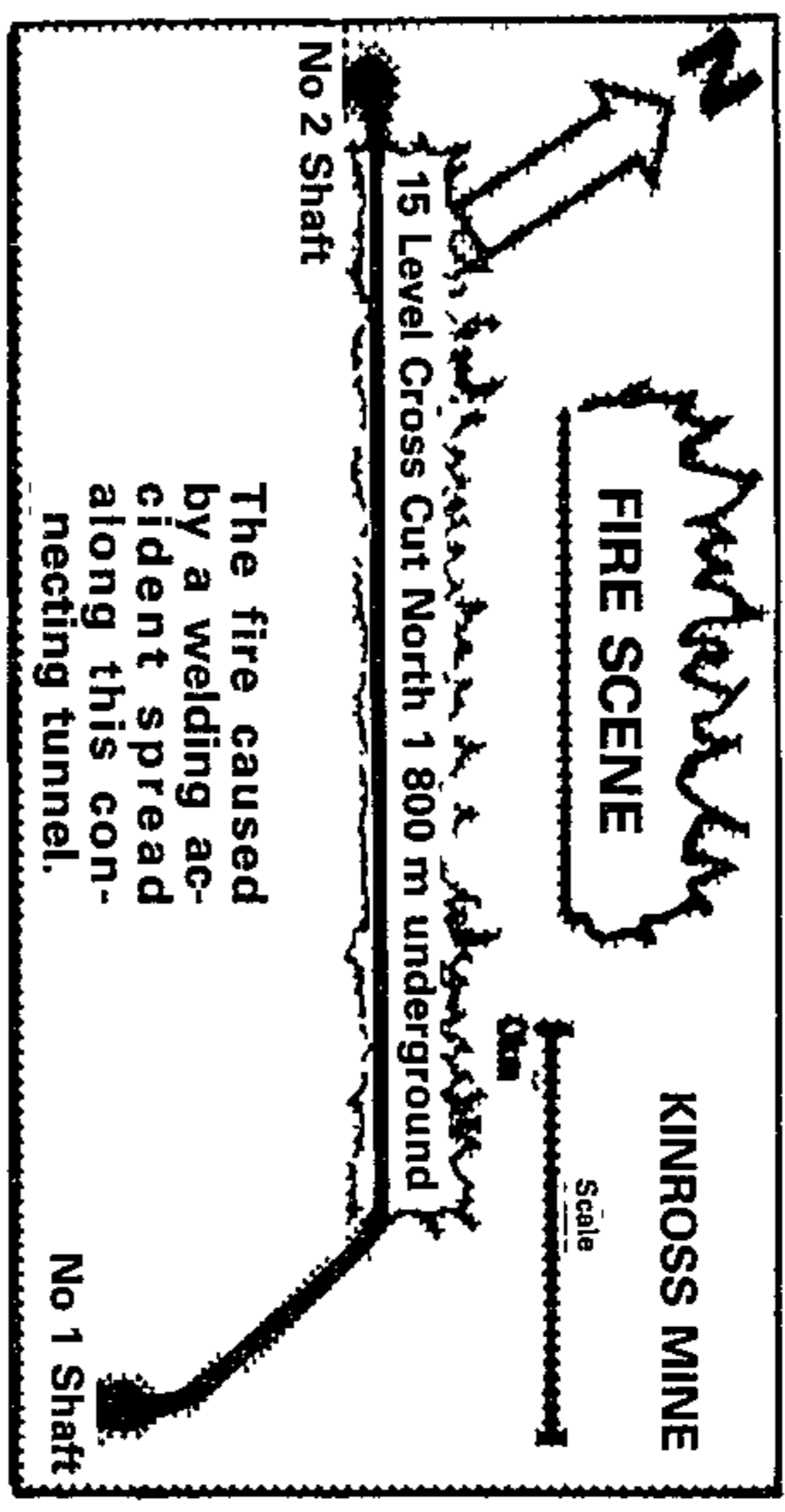
Casualties

A matron at the Evander Provincial Hospital, who did not want to be named, said so far 52 white miners had been admitted suffering from noxious gas poisoning. She was unable to say if any white miners had been killed.

She said Proto teams were still looking for people trapped underground and the hospital was expecting to treat more casualties as victims were evacuated

She said black workers injured in the accident had been sent to a hospital on the Winkelhaak mine, a few kilometres from Kinross

A Winkelhaak spokesman also declined to give any details — (Sapa)



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SOWETAN, Wednesday, September 17, 1986

13 DIED IN MINE FIRE

SAPA

THIRTEEN people died, several were injured and hundreds were still underground following a fire at the Kinross Gold Mine yesterday, the mine's owner, Gencor, said.

The underground fire broke out at 9.30 am on the 15 level Crosscut North, a major connection between number 1 shaft and number 2 shaft at Kinross, a company statement said.

The fire — caused by a welding accident — had been extinguished

Fumes

The blaze "regrettably resulted in the death of 13 workers as a result of noxious fumes, caused by burning cables and other material, entering the 2 shaft workings," the statement said.

Of the approximately 2 200 miners in the affected area, 1 800 had been evacuated safely, the statement added

"Eight proto-teams are assisting in the operation.

"Some 60 persons who have been affected by fumes are being treated in hospital. Their condition is satisfactory."

Another 3 000 workers in unaffected areas were also evacuated as a "precautionary measure," Gencor said — SAPA

(212) (S)

Hopes fade as search continues for 14 still missing underground

170 MINERS DIED

IRGUS 17/9/86 212

PW's message of condolence
PRETORIA — State President P W Botha has sent a message of condolence to the families, friends and colleagues of those killed and injured in the Kinross mine disaster.
The message was sent by Mr Botha to the chief executive director of Gencor, Mr Derrick Keys.
He expressed his, his wife's and the public's condolences — Sapa

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — One hundred and seventy miners have died in the Kinross gold mine disaster in the Eastern Transvaal, while hopes are fading for 14 still missing underground.

Today rescue teams were still searching for survivors, while bodies were being brought to the surface.

Fire and poisonous gases swept through underground chambers at 9.30am yesterday. News of the disaster was broken by mining giant Gencor only late in the afternoon.

Toxic fumes from the fire 1.6km underground spread for 50km. A spokesman for the mine said the fire was extinguished about 9pm and most of the poisonous gas had been extracted.

"Not optimistic"

A spokesman for Gencor, Mr Neil Ackerman, said 235 survivors were still being treated.

He said 165 of the dead were migrant workers.

The general manager of Kinross, Mr Kobus Olivier, said toxic fumes caused the deaths.

"No one would have died without the toxic substances. No one died in the fire.

"We found the last person alive at 8 o'clock last night. We're not optimistic about the 14 still missing."

In Evander Hospital 52 people are being treated, but none has serious injuries. In nearby Winkelhaak Hospital 183 miners are under observation.

At a Press conference Mr Olivier explained how the gas swept through the mine.

"At times we have to seal certain areas and use a sealant — a liquid that turns into foam which forms water and air-tight seals.

"At the time of the accident it was being sprayed on a tunnel wall to prevent corrosion."

Flame-cutting

There were flame-cutting operations going on to repair broken a locomotive track between No 1 and No 2 shafts underground when a gas cylinder apparently caught alight. "Cables and other material then caught fire."

Asked whether the sealant would be used in future, Mr Olivier said "No — presumably not. On my mine it will be used — not in areas that this application was used for."

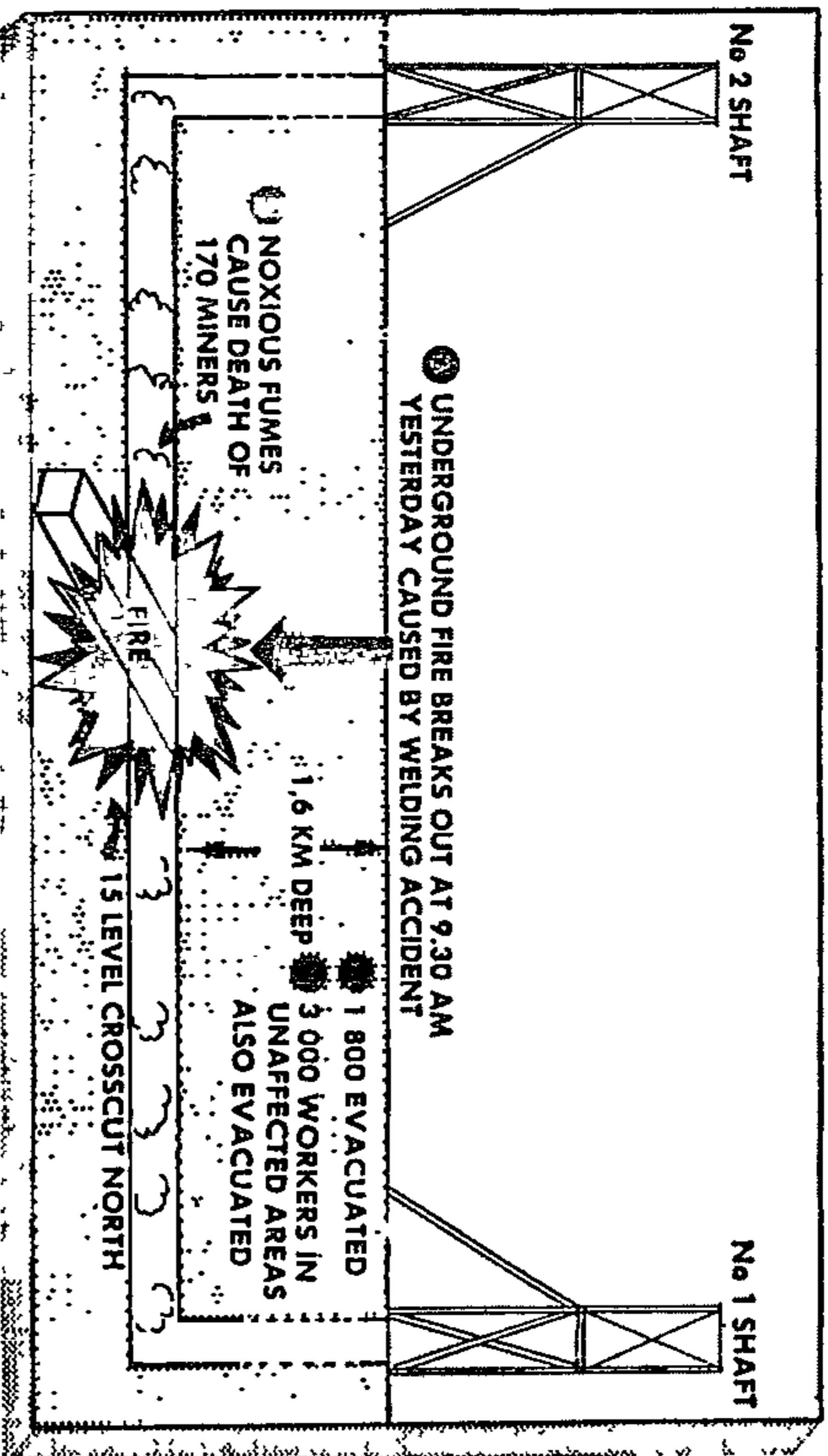
It was not only the sealant, but other substances as well, presumably from cables and piping which caught fire and gave off poisonous gas, he said.

All those killed were on the 14th and 15th levels. The lowest level of the mine is the 18th, at 1 900m.

One mined from No 2 shaft is transported to No 1, from where it is hoisted to the surface.

Earlier reports said rescuers were hampered by thick clouds of toxic smoke from smouldering plastic materials and electric cables.

It is hoisted to the surface as a result of the fire.



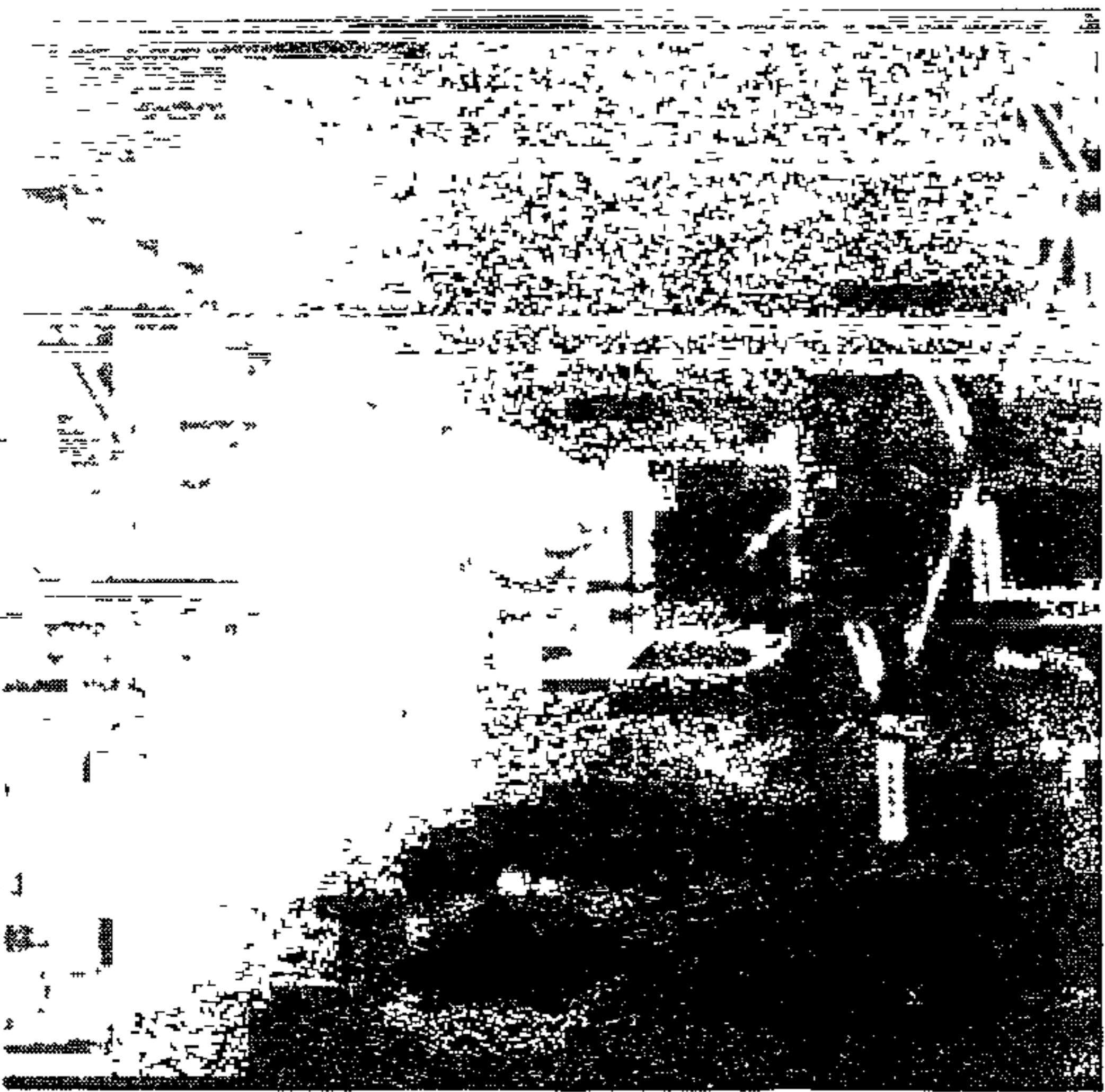
Minister due to visit disaster site today

Political Staff

THE Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, was due to visit the mine today to see for himself the extent of yesterday's disaster.

Mr Steyn said today news of the tragedy had come as a "great shock."

He had been kept informed of the progress of rescue operations throughout the night and was receiving regular reports from the government mining



The scene at Evander hospital . . .

Ambulancemen and assistants discuss the mine tragedy outside Evander hospital last night. Many of the dead and wounded were taken to the hospital and several miners were treated after inhaling toxic fumes.

died. We hope the proto teams will save more of the missing people."

SERIOUS LIGHT

Mr Steyn said he was waiting for the report of a government team which was due to go down the mine for a preliminary investigation today.

"We see all accidents in a very serious light," he said.

In Cape Town the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Colin Eglin, said he was "deeply distressed" by the disaster.

He sent his condolences to families and friends of the victims.

"The disaster shows that in spite of modern technology, underground mining is a dangerous occupation," said Mr Eglin.

"It reminds us of the debt we owe to those thousands of fellow citizens who go down deep underground daily to bring to the surface the gold on which the economic prosperity of our nation depends."

INQUIRY

● An inquiry into the cause of the fire was launched last night by the Government Mining Engineer.

Gencor's East Rand mine manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, said the inquiry was in accordance with the Mines and Works' Act.

"At this stage I cannot say whether negligence caused the disaster," he said — The Argus Correspondent and Sapa.



The head gear above No 2 shaft at Kincross Mine where 170 miners were killed.

Trapped men 'tried to flee from poisonous gas'

JOHANNESBURG — Thirteen of the miners who died in the Kinross disaster probably tried in vain to flee from the poisonous gases.

The men were trapped in a development area — a tunnel being blasted open — and therefore had no chance to escape, according to a member of the first rescue team into the mine.

He said he saw 13 bodies lying together but he and his team mates could not get near them because they were running out of oxygen for their

masks and had to return to the surface.

"I was convinced they were dead," he said. "When we reached the scene — the 15th level of the mine — the fire was not yet out," he said.

The poisonous carbonyl chloride gas released by a burning plastic substance, probably spread in minutes through three levels of the mine.

The ventilation system then distributed the gas.

Proto teams of the Chamber of Mines took turns throughout the night in an effort to bring the trapped workers to the surface — Sapa.

Mr Olivier said last night. There is only a slim chance of rescuing those miners still trapped in pockets between No 1 and No 2 shafts."

He said 2 410 people had been rescued and many owed their lives to pockets of oxygen in the tunnels.

As the injured were ferried to Evander Hospital early today a miner's wife sobbed. "I can't say what I feel. There's nothing to say — I just wait and wait."

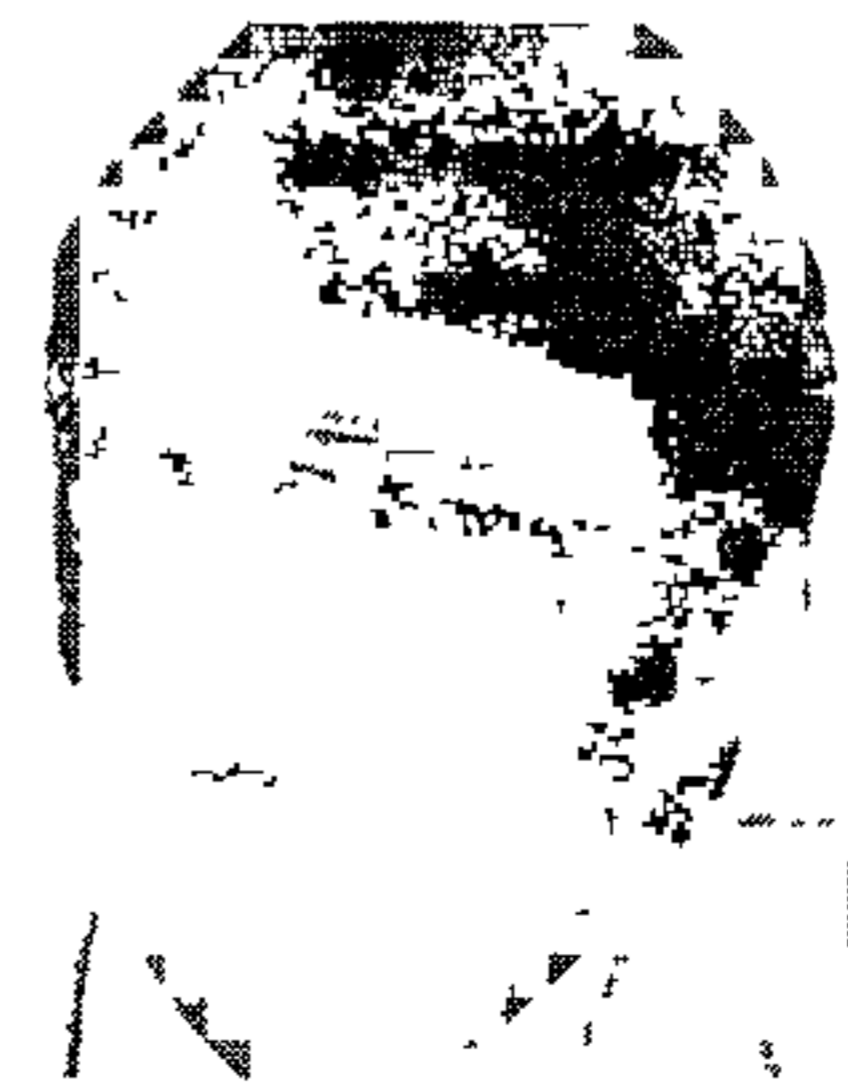
Sixteen proto teams were deployed from neighbouring mines and today four teams were continuing the search.

Mine personnel were also assisting in the rescue, bringing to 150 the number of rescue workers still underground.

It is the second worst accident in South Africa's mining history.

The worst was at Clydesdale colliery, near Coalbrook, in 1960 when 435 miners died.

● Disaster dossier — Page 14.



Mr Kobus Olivier

Pall of death, shock over disaster area

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A pall of death and shock today hangs over Evander where 170 miners lost their lives in the worst mine disaster in 26 years.

Mr Isiah Sipo, an underground worker who witnessed the accident, said "About 9 30am yesterday a worker was using the cutting torch. The torch broke and caused a big explosion.

"I only saw smoke and fire. I went as fast as I could down to a lower level to get away from the smoke. There I waited until about 1pm when we were taken out."

Mrs E M Leroux, whose son Hannes is an underground worker on the level where the explosion occurred, said an oxygen cylinder exploded.

BURNING EYES

"The packed foam, used to reinforce walls, started burning," she said. "Hannes said his first sensation was burning eyes, throat and nose because of the smoke."

"He and a colleague switched on all the fans and ran away. When he got home late yesterday he complained of sharp pains in his chest."

"We took him to hospital where he spent the night. More than 75 people were taken to hospital."

"The building was much too small to accommodate all the injured. Some people had to lie outside."

"HORRIBLE"

"Proto-workers told me the scene last night was horrible. Several workers, who were still alive when the proto teams reached them underground, died on their way to emergency stations."

Mrs S E Venter said she went to the mine to deliver her husband's supper and she heard about the accident.

"This is going to be a black day in Evander. Everyone is shocked."

At the mine today, red-eyed families waited in cars for news about trapped mineworkers.

230 trapped in SA mine horror

CAPE TOWN
17/9/86 (212)

MORE THAN 230 men were still trapped early this morning nearly two kilometres underground by clouds of spreading toxic gas in the Kinross gold mine fire horror. At least 15 men have died so far.

Twelve rescue teams numbering 72 men were battling against time in the early hours to find survivors. Late last night 193 miners were being treated in several hospitals in the area.

Prospects for the survival of the men trapped in the workings which cover 2 sq km were described as grim and deteriorating rapidly.

The disaster — one of South Africa's worst — began about 9.30am yesterday when a welding accident caused a fire in a tunnel connecting the mine's two major shafts at a level of 1 620m.

The fire quickly spread to "cables and other materials", according to mine-owners Gencor.

Extremely poisonous gas — possibly cyanide-based — was released as plastic materials were

15 die — hope fades for rest

Staff Reporters and Sapa

incinerated in a major connection tunnel on the 15th level between No 1 and No 2 shafts. The fire was extinguished later during the day but the poison cloud continued to sink into the depths of the mine.

Gencor spokesmen said about 2 200 miners were in the affected area at the time of the accident. Most had been evacuated immediately and many were under observation for the effects of toxic gas poisoning in nearby hospitals.

A further 3 000 workers in unaffected areas had

been evacuated as a precautionary measure, said Gencor spokesman Mr D J Ackerman.

He did not know how many of the miners killed were black or white.

Dr W F de Water, acting medical superintendent for Evander hospital, said 52 white miners had been admitted from 3pm, all suffering from toxic gas poisoning.

"All but two are satisfactory and even the two who are more serious should be all right by tomorrow," he said.

The fire was the worst mining accident since the Hlobane colliery disaster which killed 65 workers in September 1983, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said last night.

He told Sapa his union regarded the accident "in a serious light" and had sent a team of officials to investigate the fire.

"Our union will have to take some decision about

To Page 2

From Page 1

CAE Trials 17/9/85 (212)
Mine horror

this accident. The accident rate on our mines is getting out of hand," he said.

"These types of accidents where workers are killed through factors that can be avoided by management are becoming totally unacceptable."

The union will release a statement about the accident as soon as its investigating team has made its report.

Health and safety has been a major focus of the Num's activities since it began organising on gold and coal mines in the early 1980's.

But recently released Chamber of Mines accident statistics show that in the first six months of this year the fatality rate for accidents on gold mines has dropped below one percent per 1 000 workers for the first time.

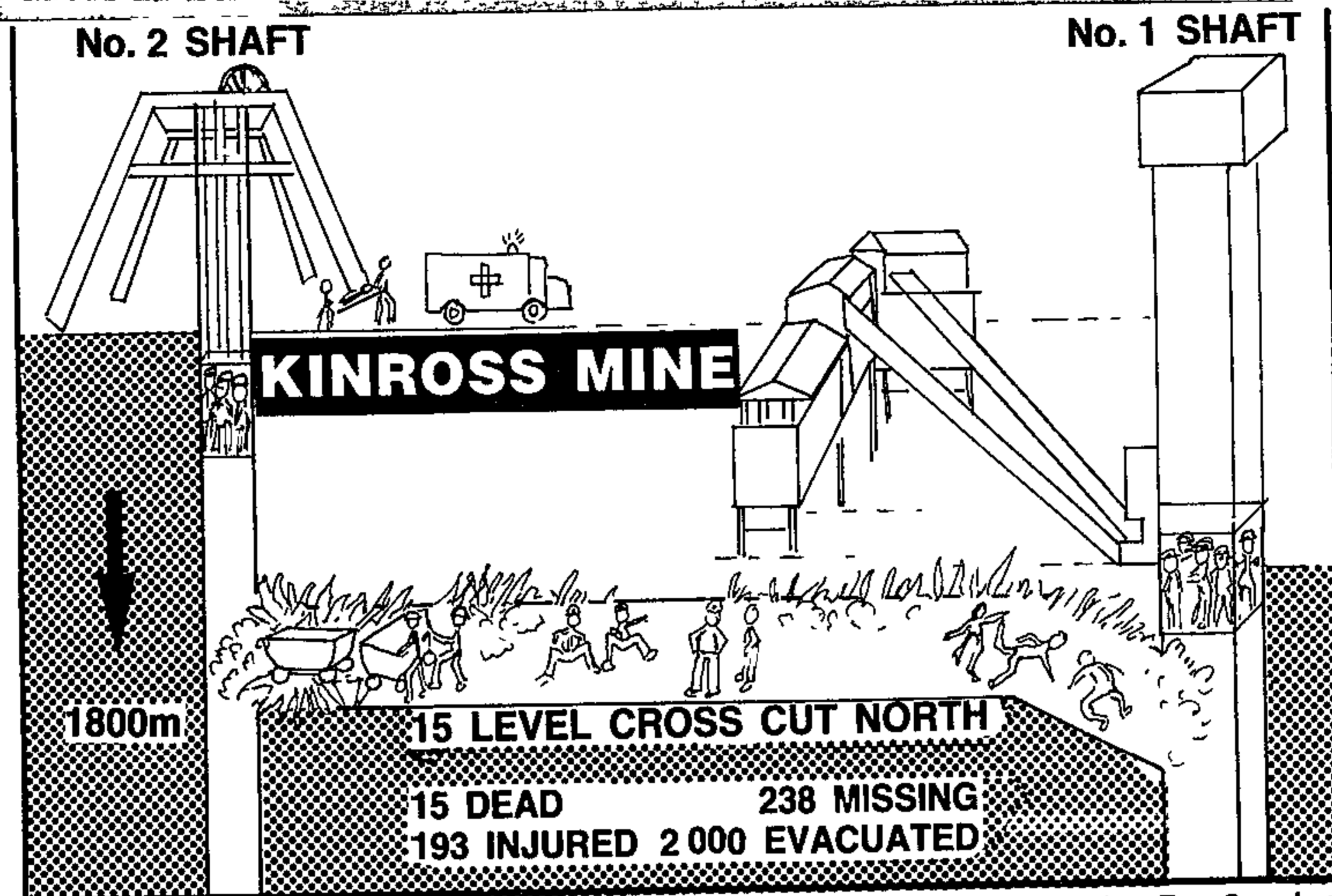
The figure — 0,88 — was 14,6 percent better than the previous low set in the first half of last year.

The reportable injury rate, halved over the past 10 years, was reduced by a further 14 percent to 18,81 per 1 000.

This followed record safety achievements in 1985.

The chamber's figures showed the mining industry was improving its safety record despite the difficulties associated with increasing depths and scale of operations.

Death mine: Where it happened



Graphic Tina Coombes

Towns wait for latest news

Cape Times
17/9/86

212

Staff Reporters

THE mining communities of Kinross, Evander and Secunda waited anxiously last night as hope diminished for husbands, friends and relatives still trapped underground at Kinross mine

The overpowering impression gained from numerous interviews was that most residents had little idea of what was going on at the mine

Top executives from Gencor's head office, including Mr Karl Netscher, head of the Gold Division, rushed to Kinross last night as the extent of the disaster became known. They were still on site as the Cape Times went to press

Late last night, a Gencor public relations officer, Mr DJ Ackerman, said that a special media office had been set up at the mine to deal with the queries

that were pouring in. At the Winkelhaak Hospital, a Mr Field, a mining manager for Secunda Mine, was taking all telephone calls for the hospital. He would not put reporters through to hospital staff, saying they were "very, very busy". He would also not answer questions concerning the disaster

Civil defence

The acting superintendent of Evander Hospital, Dr W F de Water, said that there were 52 white mine workers admitted after 3pm. All but two of these people were in a satisfactory condition, and even these two were expected to improve

Mr Jack van Zyl, chief of Evander Town Council's protective services, which includes the ambulance, civil defence and fire brigade services, said he had only learnt about what he

called "this major disaster" five or six hours after it had happened

"The mine management left us in the lurch on this one — we only found out about it when we were asked to assist military vehicles ferrying beds to the local provincial hospital this afternoon"

The barmaid in the pub of a local hotel, Miss Sheila Smith, said last night that most of her customers were miners and their wives. The people who were killed and injured were their colleagues

"They are very upset about what happened. Nobody really knows what is going on, other than what they have seen on the news," she said

Mine officials shared in the despair. "We just don't know what we will find," said an anguished Gencor spokesman, Mr Harry Hill

JOHANNESBURG — About 200 workers are feared to have died in one of South Africa's worst ever mining disasters.

The official death toll in a fire at the Kinross gold mine rose to 28 early this morning and a mine spokesman said 180 people were still missing in tunnels between the mine's number one and number two shafts

Earlier, Mr Kobus Olivier, general manager of the Eastern Transvaal mine, said there was only a slight chance of survival for the miners still missing about a kilometre underground

Mr Olivier told reporters 13 bodies had been brought to the surface by rescue teams and 183 miners had been admitted to hospital

He said 12 proto teams were still in the mine searching for the missing men, more than 12 hours after the fire was sparked by a welding accident, but that "time was running out" for them

The deaths and injuries were believed to have been caused by toxic gases that spread through the mine, generated by the fire

The fire started when a gas cylinder exploded in a crosscut between the first and second shafts of the mine, Mr Olivier said. Poisonous gases then spread rapidly through the 15, 16, 17 and 18 levels

The first rescue team was sent into the shafts within an hour of the explosion. Proto teams from the surrounding mines joined in the rescue operation and more than 2 140 miners were rescued

Mr Olivier said they were saved by "bubbles of oxygen" in the areas of the mine where rescuers found them

worked throughout the night in rescue operations

But by 11pm neither the rescue teams nor mine officials had had word from any of the miners trapped underground

Mr Olivier said workers had means of communication with ground level officials but "we haven't heard anything yet"

"People are going down physically searching every working place. Initially rescue teams went down using breathing apparatus," he said

Mr Olivier said no walls had fallen in underground as far as he was aware and there had been no underground rockfalls

The entire operation at Shaft 2 will be shut down today and possibly longer if necessary, officials said

Most of those who are dead or injured are migrant workers from South Africa and neighbouring states, Mr Olivier said

The fire was the worst mining accident since the Hlobane colliery disaster which killed 65 workers in September 1983, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said

He told Sapa his union regarded the accident "in a serious light" and had sent a team of officials to investigate it

Last night the mining communities of Kinross, Evander and Secunda waited anxiously as hope diminished for husbands, friends and relatives — DDC-Sapa,

200 miners feared dead in mining disaster

About 1 500 men were initially evacuated from the mine, situated some 100 km east of Johannesburg. A further 200 were later brought to the surface

Prospects for the survival of the men trapped in the workings which cover two square kilometres were described as grim and deteriorating rapidly

The fire quickly spread to "cables and other materials", according to Gencor

Spokesmen said about 2 200 miners were in the affected area at the time of the accident. Most had been evacuated immediately and many were under observation for the effects of toxic gas poisoning in nearby hospitals

A further 3 000 workers in unaffected areas had been evacuated as a precautionary measure, said a spokesman, Mr D J Ackerman

Dr W F de Water, acting medical superintendent for Evander Hospital, said 52 white miners had been admitted from 3pm, all suffering from toxic gas poisoning

"All but two are satisfactory and even the two who are more serious should be all right by tomorrow," he said

Scores of ambulances were seen travelling to Shaft 2 until late last night where ten teams involving 140 people

Wednesday, September 17, 1986

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Fire horror mine 'back to normal'

ARBUS 23/9/86
-212
JOHANNESBURG — Work at Gencor's Kinross mine, where 177 miners died in a fire last week, has "returned to normal" following a stoppage by workers protesting against the reopening of the shaft where the accident took place

According to a Gencor spokesman, Mr Harry Hill, the night shift reported for work last night and the day shift yesterday reported as normal at shafts 1 and 2

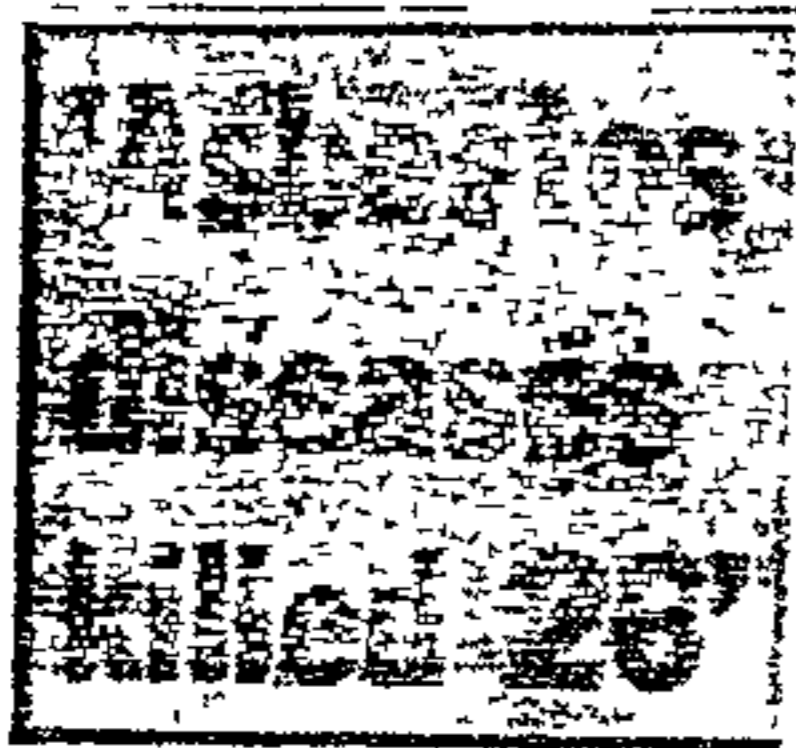
He said that yesterday the mine's No 2 shaft had been closed for a memorial service for the victims of the fire. About 2 500 workers at the No 1 shaft did not report for work either

He said Gencor was still discussing access to the mine for a number of experts appointed by the National Union of Mineworkers to study the shaft where the fire occurred

Last week NUM said Gencor had refused to allow its experts to look at the accident scene — Sapa

● Foam danger in mines highlighted, Page 3

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By JOSHUA RABOROKO

A TOTAL of 20 workers have died of various diseases at Everite Limited — a major manufacturer of asbestos cement pipe and building products — 58 percent are asbestos-related deaths in the past 30 years.

14/11/85

In a report to The SOWETAN, the company says it has accepted a total of 103 cases of workers who are suspected to have contracted the "killer disease" at its three plants countrywide.

The report reveals that 50 people have died of asbestosis, nine of mesothelioma, three of lung cancer and eight of other diseases. The company has acknowledged responsibility towards employees who contracted diseases while on duty.

This report comes in the wake of an anti-asbestos campaign launched by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu) following claims that thousands of people may die of asbestos-related diseases in the mines, especially in the northern Transvaal region of Pongola.

At its anti-asbestos conference in Soweto recently, the union resolved to intensify its campaign until the asbestos mines are closed in the country, just like in other parts of the world.

Referring to Everite's report, Bamcwu's president Mr Letsatsi Mosala said they were concerned about the rate of deaths caused by asbestos, although the company's rate seemed to be lower compared to the number of cases in the mines.

"We have held meetings with Everite on the possibility of improving health and safety measures of their plants because many people may die as a result of asbestos-related diseases," he said.

The report says all employees who become disabled as a result of the disease continue to receive an income equal to their basic monthly salary in addition to the money paid by the Workmen's Compensation.

By approving this policy and granting annual increments, the company ensures that the employee will be placed in the same financial position as if he had worked in his present position until the age of 65, the report says.

This policy applies to all workers despite their race groups. But, Mr Mosala said, "We are interested in seeing our people getting the same benefits as whites. There should be no disparity."

Unions call for probe into safety at mines

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called on the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, to appoint a commission of inquiry into safety in the mining industry

The call is backed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu)

In a statement, the NUM said the deaths and injuries at Evander were "a tragedy unparalleled in mining history"

The NUM's president, Mr James Motlatsi, the general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, regional chairman, Mr E. Vala, regional organiser, Mr T Mothupi, and safety adviser, Mr J Leger, went underground at the mine yesterday to investigate the disaster

The national executive committee of the NUM has convened an urgent meeting to decide on appropriate action to be taken by its membership

"This disaster takes us back to the Dark Ages and demonstrates clearly the unacceptable low safety standards practised in South Africa's mining industry," the union says in the statement

Referring to reports that wire cables underground caused a fire and toxic fumes were inhaled by workers, the NUM says it has repeatedly called for an end to the use of such cables underground and has waged a consistent campaign to expose the unsafe work practices in the industry

"It has required tragedy after tragedy and the loss of many lives before the industry and government pay attention to safety standards. This disaster is a clear indictment of the industry and makes its claims of having the lowest fatality rate in the world absurd"

Calling for a "complete overhaul of safety standards on the mines", Cosatu says the fatalities at Kinross are a "national tragedy" and "a telling example of the price black miners are expected to pay for the super profits of the South African mining industry"

Cosatu says calls to improve safety standards have met with a "lukewarm response and boastful safety claims from the industry."

"Are the mine bosses too busy pursuing profits to care about the lives and safety of black miners? Are they too busy trying to fend off the just demands of workers for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?" Cosatu asks

"Meanwhile, the disasters continue with horrendous frequency. Between 1973 and 1984, more than 8 500 miners were killed

"The continuing tragedy of the mining industry is that black miners are paying with their lives for the wealth and profits in which they do not share"

— Sapa

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'Kinross must not happen again'

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Eye Post

JOHANNESBURG — The mining industry had a commitment to ensure there would be no recurrence of the Kinross disaster, the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr E P Gush, said last night

The entire mining industry was overwhelmed by the Kinross tragedy.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go to the families of the dead and injured miners," he said

"We have a commitment to ensure that nothing like this happens again

"In line with this commitment, and once we have details of how a tragedy of this scale occurred, the industry will take steps to prevent any possible recurrence of such an event"

● In Cape Town last night Archbishop Desmond Tutu said he hoped the Kinross tragedy would spur the Government and the mining companies "to continue efforts to ensure the safety of all who work underground".

"It is with great distress that I have learnt of the tragic mine accident at Kinross," he said

"I mourn with those who have been bereaved, send my sympathy to the injured and remember in my prayers those who have perished in this disaster

"This accident reminds us of the human cost of producing minerals" — Sapa

INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA'S MINES

Dirty, dark — and dangerous

By DICK USHER, Labour Reporter



DIRTY, noisy, dark — and dangerous. South Africa's mines.

Ironically, the tragedy at Kinross mine, at Secunda, followed by one week an announcement by the Chamber of Mines that fatality rates had fallen to record lows on gold mines. The annual rate of 0,88 deaths per 1 000 people employed was a 14 percent improvement on figures for the previous year, and

a 40 percent improvement over the last decade

Kinross itself claims one of the most impressive safety records in the gold mining industry. It has worked a million fatality-free underground shifts three times, and last year had a fatality rate of 0,66 compared to an industry rate of 1,05.

But, offsetting these vaunts, are National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) figures claiming that at least 800 miners a year die from accidents, and other industry related causes.

The NUM's claims are backed by studies such as that issued in 1976 by the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) of the University of Cape Town which cited fatality figures of about 19 000 miners — more than 93 percent of them black — between 1936 and 1966.

In the wake of the Kinross tragedy the NUM backed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has called for a national commission of inquiry into safety in the mining industry.

Proximate to this call were reports that the majority of deaths were caused by toxic fumes from burning underground cables, and claims that the mining industry had ignored consistent condemnation by the NUM of safety standards on the mines.



The face of survival — a miner can't believe he is safe

DISSATISFACTION with safety conditions dates back many years, and the

danger, allied with low pay and poor living conditions, was long identified as a major reason for the unpopularity of mine work among South Africans, leading to the necessity of recruiting foreign migrant workers for the mines.

A Cosatu statement, issued yesterday, said more than 8 500 miners were killed between 1973 and 1984.

The Saldru study, covering up to 1976, showed that between 1967 and 1975 nearly 5 000 men died.

From 1972 to 1975 there were 2 993 accidental deaths and 110 169 serious injuries, the overwhelming majority of which were attributable to 'danger inherent in work or misadventure' and defective plant or machinery.

Issued shortly after a riot at Western Deep Levels, at Carltonville, in which 12 workers died and 13 police were injured, it said that a factor which appeared to be underplayed in reasons advanced for troubles on mines was the anxiety and consequent tension provoked by the hazardous nature of the work.

The fact that many incidents of unrest had taken place on mines where serious accidents also occurred suggested that a connection between danger and unrest might not be invalid, said the study.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), right, and the president of the union, Mr James Motlatsi, at Kinross mine to conduct an independent inquiry into the disaster.

The call for silence no one heard...

by GORRY BOWES-TAYLOR, Staff Reporter

December 24, 1959: You know what office parties are like, same old tinsel rolled out year after year, sometimes new mistletoe where kisses are lightly given, mostly the same staff, some savoury stuff to eat

Such was the merriment at the President Steyn gold mine bumper Christmas party that night when, at about 9.30 pm there came a call for silence, nobody heard

When there was quiet and the mine staff heard the news, there was soft weeping and the celebratory party was over

Twenty-five men had died in that Welkom mine after a methane gas explosion, at about 3pm the day before. The terrible news was withheld because no-one could immediately assess the possible loss of life

January 1960. At a pithead, on a very warm summer's evening, the two giant wheels are ominously still. There are people, mainly women, most with children, kneeling close by. A minister, the Rev P D Luckoff, moves among them praying, touching, holding hands

There is, someone notices, a sleeping baby in a shawl whose mother is trying to cry quietly, so as not to waken it

Some new significant Hollywood movie-in-the-making perhaps? A director who'll call 'CUT' and send the actors and extras home?

Sadly not. This is the true tragic scene at the Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook, in Natal. There are 435 miners entombed behind a rock wall. It will be known as the greatest mining tragedy in South Africa's history

Rock fell at 4.20 pm, with further falls at 7pm

There was no "pipe talk" — this is the miner's method of striking water pipes to tell rescuers that there are still survivors somewhere down there

There was no air. Its place was taken by the deadly methane and carbon monoxide gases. Rescue workers who carried a two-hour air supply could spend only an hour at the rock face. The other hour was spent in getting to and from that cavernous place

At the second, 7pm, rock fall, rescuers were trapped. They were led to safety four hours later. The scene at the pithead was almost unchanged. It had grown and the agony was greater for those parents and grandparents and children and wives, as hope faded. Surely somebody could step forward and say OK all over, all home now, entombed miners please come out. Collect your film pay at the gate marked OUT

No. Instead a rescue worker says, and it is widely reported: "Every falling stone sounds like thunder — and all the time we know full well that our lives are hanging by a thread"

Other rescuers talk of the entombing tons of mud, water and ore. Who could survive it?

Further into the 60s. At what was called Freddie's Mine at Odendaalsrus, 12 trapped miners are heard to weep with relief as rescuer workers sink a microphone to their level nearly 2 000 metres below ground. Wives and children talk and sing and call to them. The miners take it in turns to talk back. Then the earth shudders, and the microphone is silent

Dossier of disaster

Dateline: EVANDER

SEVERAL heroes emerged from the Kinross mine tragedy. Mr Billy Tarran (28) is one. But he wonders whether he will ever want to take another step underground. In intense heat, and smoke so thick he could not see past his hand, he climbed about 6 m with a man on his back and returned a second time to carry to safety another miner who had collapsed

Still under treatment at the Evander Hospital, he told of his experience

He was about to leave Level 13, where he was working, when he smelt smoke. He went to see if there was a problem, and told people to get out

But his own heroic actions are not dominating his thoughts. He cannot express his feelings of pain for his friends who lost their lives. "It's a loss to the whole community. We are all good friends in this town"

He described the panic on level 14. "Everyone was trying to run, but it was practically impossible to walk from the heat. My legs were numb, they felt like rubber"

IF it were not for a group of unknown black workers who dragged an unconscious Mr Tol Sadler to a running tap, he would have been dead today. "I have no doubt in my mind that they saved my life. The water cooled me down and brought me back to consciousness," Mr Sadler (32), a surveyor, said

He was trapped for six hours after the underground fire in the mine started, and was alone

for most of the time. "It was just after 9 am on Level 15 when I saw the smoke where I was busy surveying. I moved close to the point where the lift cage stops, but only ran into more smoke

"I turned round and decided to move to a lower point. I found more smoke and decided to climb up to a higher level, but was too weak. My hands slipped and I lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying under a running tap. I could not move and stayed under the tap for about three minutes. Eventually I shifted to the opening of another tunnel

"I managed to make about 40 metres when I reached a water pipe. My throat, eyes and nose were burning intensely. I used a stone to break the pipe to get more water. There was nobody else in the vicinity. I was alone and very scared. The only thought that entered my mind was this is the end

"The next morning I heard that it was a group of black workers who had dragged me to the tap and left the water running before making a break themselves"

WHILE other bereaved families in Evander are turning to their loved ones for comfort, Mrs Ria Smith (34) is alone with her grief and three small children. The body of her husband, Raymond (42), was brought up from underground shortly after midnight. He had been overcome by the fumes

Both their parents died several years ago. The rest of her family live in the Cape. She has no-one to comfort her

Investigation into 'safe' materials used in mines — chamber

ARGUS 18/9/86

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The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A search for five workers missing in the Kinross mine disaster is continuing, with the death toll standing at 177

The mine management has little hope that the missing five are alive

Serious questions about the cause of the tragedy have not been answered and are unlikely to remain so before the completion of a judicial inquiry into the disaster.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr DW Steyn, gave an assurance he would do everything to have the inquiry held as soon as possible

The Chamber of Mines says the disaster has thrown "a huge question mark" over the polyurethane materials used extensively on mines and says it will investigate these products once their role in the accident is known

WIDELY USED

Chemical products are used widely on South African mines for insulation and sealing. The mining industry could be faced with a major problem if some of these materials, previously regarded as flame-resistant, are identified as hazardous, according to sources in the industry.

The general manager of the Kinross, Mr Kobus Olivier, said samples used in the mine to provide support and prevent corrosion were being tested

He retracted an earlier statement that a sealing substance on surfaces had given off toxic fumes, but said some sort of polyurethane material might have given off the poisonous smoke

NO NEED TO CHECK

He said the mine administration had not known this substance was inflammable and the mine had not felt there was a need to check when it used the product

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said "The polyurethane and other products used in mines have until now been regarded by mines as safe. But the Kinross tragedy clearly puts a huge question mark over this, which the Chamber of Mines Research Organisation will be investigating once their role in the events at Kinross is known"

The chamber intended investigating these products and check where they had been used as "a matter of priority"

It was revealed yesterday that the victims had died from noxious fumes from of a burning polyurethane product and from the smoldering cables underground

COURSE OF ACTION

The National Union of Mineworkers, which has attacked safety standards on the mine, was due to discuss action at its executive committee meeting today

The general secretary of the white Mine Workers' Union, Mr Arrie Paulus, has expressed his condolences to the relatives of those who lost their lives

An MWU investigator visited the mine yesterday and will report back to the union's executive

Production at the No 2 shaft, where the accident occurred, has been halted indefinitely. The shaft could remain closed for longer than a week and will be reopened only when declared safe and clear of gas

The No 1 shaft has reopened

● Dirty, dark and dangerous, Page 23.

Pain and anguish of bereaved and hopeful

JOHANNESBURG — A pall of death and shock hangs over Evander where 177 miners lost their lives in the worst mine disaster in 26 years.

It is a shaft Sipho an underground worker who witnessed the accident, said "It was about 9:30am (Tuesday) A worker was using the cutting torch. The torch broke and caused a big explosion. I saw smoke and fire. I went as fast as I could to a lower level to get away from the smoke. I waited until about 1pm when we were taken to the hospital. I was treated for gas inhalation and respiratory problems. But, he said "Soon after the fire I escaped soon after the fire broke out at the Evander hospital on Tuesday night. I could not say what the conditions were like underground. But, he said "Soon after the fire I escaped with my team and we just got out."

A sobbing woman who had been waiting more than 12 hours for news of her missing husband, said "I can't say what I feel. There's nothing to say — just to wait and wait."

Earlier, an eyewitness near the security gate of the Winkelhaak mine hospital reported that the ambulances had already passed him "more than 20 times" — ferrying the dead and the injured.

"The building was much too small to accommodate all the injured. Some people had to lie outside. Protoworkers told me the scene last night was horrible. Several workers who were still alive when the proto teams reached them underground died on their way to emergency stations."

Yesterday morning red-eyed families waited in cars for news about trapped mineworkers. They declined to talk to the press.

Meanwhile, messages of condolences were sent to the families, friends and colleagues of those killed and injured in the disaster.

The State President, Mr P W Botha, has sent a message expressing his, his wife's and the South African public's condolences.

PPF leader Mr Colin Eglon yesterday called for an "exhaustive probe" into the disaster to ensure that "this kind of tragedy does not happen again."

"It makes us mindful of the debt which we South Africans owe to those thousands of our fellow citizens who go down deep underground daily in order to bring to the surface the gold on which the economic prosperity of our nation is so dependent," he said.

He said the PFP wished to extend its "deep condolences" to all those who lost loved ones and friends and its sympathy to the injured.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said last night he hoped the Kinross tragedy would spur the government and the mining companies "to continued efforts to ensure the safety of all who work underground."

"It is with very great distress that I have learned of the tragic mine accident at Kinross. I mourn with those who have been bereaved, send my sincere sympathy to the injured and remember in my prayers those who have perished in this disaster. This accident reminds us of the human cost of producing minerals," he said.

The British Government expressed its "sincere condolences" to the families of the bereaved — Sapa and Political Staff.

'Fatality Free Shifts 0'

THE sign atop the room where miners at the Kinross gold mine wait before descending into the earth reads "Fatality Free Shifts 0" — testimony to the worst disaster in the history of the South African gold-mining industry.

The underground fire that sent poisonous fumes spewing into the shafts of the Kinross mine killed at least 177 people.

According to the Kinross mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, the fire, which broke out at 9:30am on Tuesday, was started by welding in a section between the mine's No 1 and No 2 shafts.

"An acetylene cylinder caught fire and set alight underground cables and pipes."

He said an anti-corrosive sealing substance was burnt and caused a toxic reaction which filled areas between the mine's No 1 and No 2 shaft and went to levels 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Of the 177 dead, five were white miners. They were two surveyors, one shift boss, and two miners.

They were Christoffel Johannes Dorfling, 27, Raymond John Smith, 42, Stefanus Christoffel Adendorff, 27, Frederick Johannes Prinsloo, 32, and Stephen Anthony Latchford, 19.

Dorfling and Adendorff were members of a mine proto team.

The names of the black miners will not be released until their next of kin have been notified.

Rescue teams brought 2 200 people to the surface. A total of 44 people are still in hospital.

A member of the National Union of Mineworkers legal team, who was not named, said there were four people in the hospital's intensive-care unit.

Most of the workers treated were suffering from gas inhalation and respiratory problems.

Tension at the mine rose yesterday morning as a bakkie and several security guards — some armed — separated the press and about a 150 miners. The miners, who had been ordered to stop work, sat huddled in the morning sun.

However, as more journalists arrived at the scene and were refused entry to the mine shaft and permission to approach any of the miners, the gathering of miners grew.

One foreign journalist claimed he was nearly run over by the bakkie when he tried to speak to the miners.

Several times guards warned journalists the police would be called in to remove them if they persisted in their attempt to speak to the miners.

Truckloads of miners were ferried in and out of the ground as they were apparently taken for tests at the local hospital.

Both white and black hospitals barred the press. A spokesperson at the Winkelhaak Hospital told journalists that access to patients was being denied to "avoid conflicting reports."

Early yesterday morning there was wailing from miners' hostels at shaft 2. As journalists tried to find out what was happening, a security guard said "That is nothing unusual. It happens every day."

A miner later commented "We are very angry. None of this need ever have happened. It is going to take us a long time to get over the sadness this has caused." — Sapa and Own Correspondent.

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CHINA HOLDS UNENVIA BLE RECORD

JOHANNESBURG — China still holds the unenviable record for the largest number of people killed in a mining disaster.

On April 26, 1942, 1 572 people died in a coal-dust explosion at the Honkenko coal mine.

An explosion of methane gas in a Japanese coal mine, Mitsui Mine, near the port of Umuta, Kyushu, killed 452 in 1963. In the Senghennydd coal

killed 8 209 people and injured 230 000.

The disaster is bound to highlight a continuing controversy between the mines and the unions.

South African mining companies say their safety precautions are among the most stringent in the world.

Black mining unions have questioned the measures employed. Other major disasters worldwide include:

mine accident in South Wales in 1913, 439 men perished. The worst accident in South Africa took place in 1960 when a cave-in killed 437 miners at the Coalbrook North colliery. The most serious gold-mining catastrophe before this week's disaster was recorded in 1900, when 152 workers drowned in a flooded mine. According to a 1983 survey published by 'The Star' newspaper, mining accidents worldwide in the decade since 1973

● 1985 — A landslide at a mountain gold mine killed 56 in the southern Philippines.

● 1984 — Cave-in at the Haisan mine in northern Taiwan killed 72.

● 1983 — Nearly 100 bodies recovered from the Armutuk Kandilli coal mine part of which collapsed after a gas explosion.

● 1981 — Methane gas flooded a coal mine on the island of Hokkaido, Japan, killing 93. — Sapa-Reuter

MINE DISASTER: 5 STILL MISSING

By LANGA
SKOSANA

RESCUE workers were last night still searching for five miners still unaccounted for at the Kinross gold mine after Tuesday's disaster which claimed at least 177 lives and left scores of miners injured.

Mine manager Mr J A Olivier said yesterday the mine would close for a week during investigations into the disaster

The general secretary of the National Union of Mine workers (NUM) Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said he was not satisfied with safety procedures at the mine

He said there were no fire extinguishers in the area where the accident happened

Fire

The owners of the mine, Gencor, said the accident happened when underground fire broke out between number one and number two shafts on the mine

The mine is situated on the outskirts of Evander between Springs and Bethal, about 100 km from Johannesburg

Mr Ramaphosa said his union was going to launch an investigation and legal action might be taken to protect the interests of his members



MR CYRIL Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who told reporters yesterday that his union would start its own inquiry in the tragedy that killed 177 miners at the Kinross gold mine.

NUM was meeting urgently today to decide what action to take

Mrs Masichaba Mokoena arrived at the number two shaft yesterday after news of the disaster

She said her husband was among the people who were working on that shaft when the accident happened

She did not know whether he was dead or alive.

Critical questions remain unanswered

18/9/81

By Mike Sikuma and Glenda Spuro

At about 9 am on Tuesday, 2 400 mineworkers were working underground at the 1 900 m Kinross gold mine when a fire broke out leading to the death of nearly 180 men

While there is some consensus between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and management about what happened on that fateful morning, several critical questions remain unanswered

According to versions given by both sides events would have followed this pattern

● A gas cylinder ignites starting a fire
 ● Pandemonium breaks out as panicking workers try to escape the deadly fumes
 ● Some fall while fleeing, hurting themselves in the process
 ● Management becomes aware of the unfolding disaster about 10 minutes later
 ● Rescue teams are sent down
 ● Bodies of the dead and others overcome by fumes are found over an

area of about 1.5 km. Some are found huddled in groups and others are scattered over the affected area

The consensus ends here leaving a number of questions unanswered even after several Press conferences held by management

Questions like how the incident could have happened and how strictly were safety regulations adhered to

The mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, has defended its safety performance

PRECAUTIONS

When asked why the mine had been stripped of two of its five stars accorded in terms of an international mine safety system, Mr Olivier attributed this to certain elements governing the ratings system. He could not remember which of the elements it was his mine lacked

Mr Olivier said the miners would return to work before



"Fatality Free Shifts — 0" reads the sign outside Number Two shaft at the Kinross disaster mine. As the search continues underground for the last men still missing from the tragedy, only an ambulance at the minehead indicated the continuing drama underground as rescue teams searched for the five workers not yet found. They are feared dead.

Payments due to families

The families of the miners who died in the Kinross mine accident this week are entitled to certain benefits

In July 1981 a new de-racialisated death benefit scheme for miners was introduced. It created a salary-related formula for death benefits

Although the system is equitable in principle, black wages are much lower than whites' so black benefits are also lower

Dependants of workers who die receive 24 times their monthly salary, and in the case of black mineworkers, a further sum equivalent to the current value of food and lodgings allocated to them on the mine for two years

In addition, dependants are paid benefits by Rand Mutual Insurance, calculated according to salary, years of service and qualification

Relatives of black Kinross victims may be robbed of death benefits

By Sheryl Raine

Ignorance administrative red tape and corruption could rob the relatives of black miners killed in the Kinross mining disaster of much needed death benefits

Relatives most likely to lose out on benefits paid to mineworkers who died on duty are those living in neighbouring states such as Lesotho and Mozambique

An International Labour Organisation report on migrant labour released this year noted there was evidence of corruption and inefficiency in the administration of benefits paid to relatives as well as ignorance on the part of beneficiaries

A breakdown by origin of black workers who died at Kinross this week showed a significant number from Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique

In most cases, the Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA), the Chamber of Mines recruitment wing, administers successful payouts, but in Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi, the governments play a part in the administration. Sources in the mining industry say there are

lingering suspicions that money is misappropriated particularly in Lesotho from which South Africa draws 130 000 mineworkers

"In general we do not have any problems," a spokesman for TEBA insisted but he noted that in Lesotho TEBA recruitment agencies through which relatives lodge claims for death and other benefits try to keep the claim payouts within their control to ensure the benefits are paid out

One of the problems identified by the ILO and confirmed by TEBA is the assessment of which relatives qualify for benefits and the lack of available appeal machinery

Ignorance is a major problem. Relatives do not lodge claims for death benefits because they do not know they are entitled to them. Others lodge claims and never collect the money. Such funds are kept in trust and lists of beneficiaries who have not collected their benefits appear in the South African Government Gazette from time to time

The ILO noted that in 1979 less than one-third of those eligible for various types of compensation received their awards

● Picture by Kevin Carter

Mine rescue hero recalls the horror

Glenda Spiro

Several heroes emerged from the Kinross mine tragedy Mr Billy Tarran (28) is one — but now he wonders if he will ever want to take another step underground.

He is one of three men still being treated at Evander Hospital In nearby Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, 38 miners have not yet been discharged

In "intense heat and smoke so thick" he could not see past his hand, Mr Tarran climbed 6,5 m with a man on his back and returned to carry to safety another miner who had collapsed

Mr Tarran said he was about to leave level 13, where he was working, when he smelt something He went to see if there was a problem and "told people to get out"

THOUGHTS OF LOST FRIENDS

But he does not dwell on his own heroism His thoughts are dominated by the friends he lost

He said he could not express the feelings of pain at the loss of close friends, killed in South Africa's worst gold mine disaster

"It's a loss to the whole community We are all good friends in this town"

As a surveyor, he hopes there is a lot of work for him above ground "I'm scared to go back under and my wife doesn't want me to," he said

One of the things he feels saved him was the

fact that he tore off his shirt to cover his face from the toxic fumes which claimed the lives of nearly 200 fellow workers

He described the panic on level 14

"Everyone was trying to run, but in the heat it was practically impossible to walk My legs were numb, they felt like rubber"

Because he spent three hours ferrying several people to underground stations away from the gas, Mr Tarran's condition is still being monitored

● Mr Jeremy Lewis (24) is lying opposite Mr Tarran and Mr Koos Green (29)

He told *The Star* he did not know at first there was a fire He first noticed an acrid smell and only realised something was wrong when he saw shift bosses waiting for a cage to take them out of the mine

Mr Lewis is still confused about what happened, but feels something should have been done to prevent the tragedy

He added "The rescue procedures seemed first class, but we were so busy trying to get everyone out, we didn't realise the extent of the task"

Mr Lewis, a Briton, is a surveyor who was working on level 12 He went to see what was happening on levels 14 and 15 when workers rushed from these areas Although he went above ground soon after that, he was still badly affected by fumes

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Safety row at death mine

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missed being squashed by Wisley and being hit by Tartan's Pride and American Banker as they fell over Wisley. Marcus escaped with bruises and a sore ankle. Jockey Gavin van Zyl was thrown from Tartan's Pride injuring his back and chest while Greg Holme injured his leg when he came off American Banker.

Wisley whose near fore cannon bone was badly broken was put down on the course but Tartan's Pride was taken to the stable area behind the stand where it was found he had shattered his off fore shoulder and he was put down.

Outstanding

Marcus and Van Zyl were declared fit to ride while Greg Holme was stood down for the day.

Marcus and Van Zyl rode in the main event where Marcus put up an outstanding display of riding on Exarch to fight out a neck and neck finish with the favourite Transistor.

Marcus said afterwards that he had been lucky that he fell right in front of Wisley. If he had been thrown forward the horse could have rolled on him.

Trainer Herman Brown who trained Wisley, said while he was sad to have lost the colt, 'we were lucky today. That young man could have been killed.'

'We can replace horses but not people.'

See Page 20

Large bomb rocks children's home

Mercury Reporters
A RUSIAN bomb exploded outside a holiday home for underprivileged children in Durban last night, destroying two cars but leaving the 126 youngsters in the home unhurt.

The bomb, believed to be a Russian-made limpet mine, was planted between a car and the pavement outside the Star Seaside Home in Molyneux Road near North Beach.

The device exploded about 7.13 p.m., minutes after the owner of one of the wrecked cars, Mr Greg Pyle, had parked the vehicle.

Mr Leon Mellet, the Information Bureau's director of internal media, said the children at the home, all aged between 10 and 14, had been shocked but were unhurt.

Asked if the home had been the target, he said: 'If it was, it is certainly in

line with the ANC's stated policy of hitting soft targets. Police said the bomb was planted between Mr Pyle's car, a Datsun Skylife and the pavement outside the home.

The Datsun Skylife and a BMW were destroyed and another BMW parked in front was badly damaged.

Seconds after the explosion, people from flats and holidaymakers from the nearby hotels flocked to the scene.

Sniffer dogs

Police arrived within minutes and ordered bystanders back behind cordons set up about 150 m from the wreckage. They also erected a barbed wire barricade around the cars.

Bomb Squad officers using sniffer dogs checked for other explosives in the area.

Reporters were not al

lowed near the scene until it had been declared safe three quarters of an hour later. They were then escorted by police officers and allowed to have a look at the site of explosion but no photographs of the damage were allowed.

The crumpled wreckage of the Datsun Skylife lay half on its back and its side. Next to it was a hole in the pavement about 1.5 m wide and 1 m deep.

A witness said he arrived at the scene while the car was still engulfed in flames.

When the police arrived — two men with dogs — a black man ran up to them saying he had seen men running from the cars just before the bomb exploded. He pointed in the direction the men had run.

A nightwatchman who saw the explosion said when he heard the deafen

TURN TO PAGE 2

JOHANNESBURG—A row over safety measures at Gencor's Kinross gold mine broke out yesterday as the official death roll climbed to 177

More than 235 miners were injured in the disaster and five are still missing. A judicial inquiry is to be held said Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn, who accompanied the Government Mining Engineer and a team of mine inspectors underground to assess the damage.

The mine recently lost two of its five safety stars it was disclosed yesterday after a national safety body found it lacked certain elements to do with safety.

While mine officials confirmed this, they refused to elaborate on which safety measures were lacking.

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) president Cyril Ramaphosa who spent three hours investigating underground yesterday said: 'We believe this accident could have been avoided.'

He alleged that conditions in the mine particularly on the 15th level of No 2 Shaft where the fire broke out were highly irregular.

Mr Ramaphosa alleged that no fire extinguisher was available near the spot where the welder who started the blaze was working. Apparently a spark from the man's welding torch ignited a methane gas cylinder and set alight materials lining the walls.

Killer fumes

NUM's executive will meet tomorrow to decide on possible action nationwide and at Kinross mine.

The mine's general manager Mr Kobus Olivier said samples of the materials used in the tunnels to provide support and prevent corrosion particularly in the affected section of the mine were being investigated.

He denied an earlier statement that a highly toxic substance Rigiseal was painted on the walls and suggested that a polyurethane material may have caused the killer fumes.

The mine had not known before yesterday that this substance was inflammable and the mine had not felt there was a need to check on this aspect when it was installed, he said.

He agreed mine officials would have to strive for better safety precautions but he would not say what steps would be taken before the mine is reopened.

It is NUM's opinion that we put production before safety, he said. We are continually striving for better conditions.

However, NUM safety of

Mercury Correspondent

ficer Hawly Sibanyoni, who was refused entry to the mine's shaft, said his union had suffered an uphill battle in negotiations with Gencor's management on safety issues.

Production at the No 2 Shaft is likely to be interrupted for a week although the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are safe again. One week's production at the shaft is equal to 25 000 tons out of the mine's total milling rate of 180 000 tons ac

cording to a Gencor statement.

An NUM delegation has visited the Withaak Hospital where 1 900 of the 2 200 men brought to the surface were treated mainly for gas inhalation and respiratory problems. Sapa reports.

A member of the delegation said 44 men were still in hospital, some of them so badly burnt that their faces were unrecognisable.

Five of those who died

TURN TO PAGE 2

Seven ANC terror suspects arrested

PRETORIA—Seven suspected ANC terrorists have been arrested, Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange said yesterday.

They are being held in connection with the landmine explosion on August 17 this year in the Kapino district of Nelspruit.

Mrs M C Roos was seriously injured in the explosion and died on August 20.

The arrests followed a roadblock at which Defence Force members found several demolition charges, limpet mines and other bomb components in a vehicle in which the two alleged terrorists and two other suspects were travelling, the statement said.

Those arrested had presumably also been involved in the limpet and landmine blasts on August 17 at Kings town, Nelspruit, in which five people died.

The South African Police also arrested a further five suspected ANC terrorists and found a large quantity of terrorist weapons including a landmine, AK rifles and handgrenades.

Two of these suspected terrorists are being held in connection with the limpet mine explosion at Checkers in Silverton on July 4 in which 20 people were injured.

One of those arrested was allegedly involved in the incident in which a front end loader was damaged on July 21 at Soshanguve by a landmine, the statement said. — (Sapa)

55% poll at Klip River

Political Reporter

AS THE polls closed in the Klip River by-election last night, the National Party seemed set to keep the seat with a reduced majority over its Herstigte Nasionale Party opponents.

As the percentage poll reached 55% the NP were predicting their candidate Mr Jacko Maree would poll 60% of the votes against 40% for the HNP's Mr Chris Wolmarans.

The HNP believed that an upset victory for them was still possible but stated that even if the NP's projection was correct it would be a victory for the HNP.

There were several heated exchanges during the day as party officials and workers confronted each other.

Car saves sleeping woman

was sleeping on saved a woman car crashed into her bedroom say.

oria Camardo, 21, said in an hospital bed. 'I just woke up

from it pushing against my there.'

trapped under the car for 90 gh a window in her ground Paramedics put air bags un

der the car, inflated the bags, wedged pieces of wood under the car, and pulled her out, she said.

'The engine block was on top of the victim but the waterbed absorbed much of the shock of the impact and the pressure from the vehicle,' said Sgt Dan Umbstad.

Miss Camardo said her injuries were mostly facial bruises and cuts. She was in satisfactory condition at McCullough Hyde Hospital, officials said.

Two men in the car were uninjured and a third was in satisfactory condition. The driver had failed to stop at a stop sign at a dead-end street, police said. — (Sapa AP)



Kinross disaster

Rescuers died trying to save workmates

N/M 18/9/86 (2/2) (2/2)

◆ FROM PAGE 1

were whites, 45 Sothos, 29 Xhosas, 20 Pondos, 15 Malawians, 14 Tswanas, 21 Shangaans, six Hlubis, eight Zulus, eight Swazis and one Venda and one Pedi, with the origin of three others still not established

Two of the five whites who died, Christoffel Johannes Dorfling, 27, a shift-boss and father of two children, and Stefanus Christoffel Adendorff, 27, a surveyor who had been married for two months, were members of a proto team trying to rescue miners underground

The other white miners who died were Raymond John Smith, 42, a stoper and father of three children, Frederick Johannes Prinsloo, 32, a developer and father of two children, and Stephen Anthony Latchford, 19, a surveyor

The names of the black miners who died will only be released once their next of kin have been notified

The wife of a survivor has given a chilling description of the horror and panic below ground when toxic gasses swept through the mine

Mrs Barbara Tarran told how her husband Billy had described the terror to her

'My husband said there were bodies piled up on

the tracks. Men were lying with blood coming out of their mouths

'My husband had to punch his friend in the chest to make him breathe again

Panicked

'He saw a lot of men fall down the shaft because they panicked when the cage came down and did not pick them up'

A Mr Mmereko, who works as a driller, was one of about seven survivors from the 15th level

'Only about seven of us made it to the surface. When the gas leaked we tried to escape to the 14th level but it was too strong for us

'One Swazi citizen continued going up but he was overcome by the gas between the two levels and fell and died'

The miners retreated and tried to use another route to the 14th level. Many could not make it because the gas had become too strong

Evacuated

Mr Rantile Lipala, a Lesotho citizen from Maseru, was loading iron sheets into a locomotive at the 14th level when his supervisor yelled at them to drop everything and rush to the lift

He said he did not smell

or see the gas

Mr Sikelelwa Nqatha, 22, from the Transkei, said he smelt little of the gas at the 18th level before they evacuated the area

Mr Tshidiso Linyatsi and Mr Litshoane Litshoane, both from Lesotho, said 'We know of colleagues from the 18th level who are not in the compound. We have heard that only seven survived'

● See Editorial Opinion

Fatality rate up in past 6 months

Safety records kept over the last decade indicate that the Kinross gold mine generally compared favourably with the rest of the gold mining industry. However, certain of the most recent statistics give cause for concern. As far as injury rates are concerned, only in 1985 did Kinross records show that the injury rate (29,32) was higher than that for the gold mining industry generally (25,14). Significantly, the statistics show that the reportable injury rate for the last six months is the highest for the last decade — 39,87. As far as fatality rates are concerned only in 1978 and significantly in the last six months, has the Kinross average fatality rate exceeded the average for the mining industry as a whole. In the period September 1985 to August 1986 the fatality rate at Kinross was 0,96 workers for every 1 000 workers underground. The industry rate was 0,88.

Kinross toll up prior to disaster

By Sheryl Raine

The Kinross gold mine had recorded a significant increase in deaths and injuries in the months immediately prior to this week's disaster.

Records show that the latest reportable injury rate on the mine is the highest in 10 years. The mine, which lost two of its five stars after a rating on the advanced International Mine Safety Rating System in June this year, boasts an impressive safety record (see graphic).

But, an examination of the records shows that, during the period September 1985 to August 1986, the average fatality rate for every 1 000 underground workers on the mine had jumped to 0,96 — higher than the gold mining industry average for the same period of 0,88.

Kinross for years recorded an average reportable injury rate well below the industry average, but spoiled its record in 1985.

The injury rate again rose in the first half of this year. Latest injury statistics are higher than at any time in the past 10 years (see graphic).

Records show that the injury rate for 1985 was 29,32 for every 1 000 underground workers. This figure is higher than the 25,14 average for the gold mining industry generally. The figure for 1986 so far is 39,87 which is higher than the Kinross mine's 1978 high of 39,40.

The rating system was first implemented at Kinross in 1980 when the mine was awarded three stars on the advanced schedule. By 1981 it had won four stars and kept its rating for 1982 and 1983. In June 1984 it was awarded five but in June this year was down-graded to three.

● A reportable injury is one in which a limb is lost or a person incapacitated for 14 days or longer.

Apartheid blamed for high fatality rate

The Star Bureau

LONDON — South African mines have a "disastrous record," says the South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu).

In a statement from Lusaka, it claims that an average of almost two miners are killed and 10 injured every day in accidents on gold mines.

"This high fatality and injury rate stems from apartheid. It is the racist and exploitative conditions in the pursuit of super-profits that makes mining in South Africa one of the most dangerous occupations in the world."

Sactu condemns Gencor, saying its health and safety record is "among the worst in the international rating system."

It calls on all miners to demand recognition of the National Union of Mineworkers at their workplace as the first step towards ensuring adequate health and safety standards.

ROW OVER safety as mine death toll rises

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A row concerning the safety measures at Gencor's Kinross Gold Mine broke out yesterday as the official death toll climbed to 177. Over 235 people were injured in the disaster and five are still missing.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr Danie Steyn announced that a judicial inquiry would be held.

Mr Steyn accompanied by the government mining engineer and a team of mine inspectors went underground to assess the damage.

The mine recently lost two of its five safety shafts. It was disclosed yesterday after a national safety body found it lacked certain elements to do with safety.

While mine officials confirmed that they refused to elaborate on which safety measures were lacking.

The president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who spent three hours investigating underground yesterday said "We believe this accident could have been avoided. It was completely unnecessary."

He charged that conditions in the mine particularly on level 15 of shaft two where the fire broke out

LATEST

THE government last night announced a judicial inquiry into the disaster. This was announced by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn.

phosa said "The deadly gas which was emitted from materials lining the tunnel walls, should also have been checked. NUM members were very angry" at the terrible

were "highly irregular". No fire extinguisher was available near the welder who apparently caused a spark from his welding torch which ignited a methane gas cylinder and set alight highly inflammable materials lining the walls, Mr Ramaphosa said.

Mr Ramaphosa said and the union's executive would meet tomorrow morning to decide on possible action nationwide and at Kinross mine.

The mine's general manager Mr Kobus Olivier said samples of the materials used in the tunnels particularly in that section of the mine to provide support and prevent corrosion, are being investigated.

He denied he had said that a highly toxic substance Rigiseal was painted on the walls, and suggested yesterday that a polyeurothane material may have caused the killer fumes.

The mine had not known before the disaster that



Injured miners are accommodated in extra beds on the floor of the Withaak Mine Hospital

From Page 1

this substance was inflammable and the mine had not felt there was a need to check on this aspect when it was installed.

He agreed mine officials would have to strive for better safety precautions but he would not say what steps would be taken before the mine is re-opened.

"It is NUM opinion, not management's, that we put production before safety," he said. "We are continually striving for better conditions."

However, NUM's safety officer, Mr Hawlzy Sibanyoni, who was refused entry to the mine's shaft, said his union had suffered an uphill battle in negotiations with Gencor's management on safety issues.

Despite Gencor's claim of a "clean accident slate" for 1985, Mr Sibanyoni and other miners claimed that many accidents at the mine were not always reported.

After his meeting with mine management yesterday Mr Steyn said procedures for holding a thorough judicial inquiry would be expedited.

He added "The Government Mining Engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that the responsible union representatives have been assisted as far as possible by management to investigate the incident."

"Mine management will keep the union representatives informed of developments in the investigations which have already commenced."

NUM officials, accompanied by their lawyers, said they still had to negotiate with management on the re-opening of the mine. They would have to decide whether to demand certain standards at the mine before re-opening or not.

The NUM delegation also visited the Withaak Hospital where 1 900 of the approximately 2 200 men brought to the surface were treated, mainly for gas inhalation and respiratory problems, Sapa reports.

A member of the delegation said forty-four were still in hospital, some of them so badly burnt that their faces were unrecognisable. Two had severely swollen faces and cuts which they sustained when the men ran away from the flames, the spokesman said.

Condolences from the British Government, the State President Mr P W Botha, the leader of the Opposition Mr Colin Eglin and the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Peter Gush, were expressed yesterday.

Mr Gush said that the entire mining industry was absolutely overwhelmed by the events at Kinross and that it had "a commitment to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again".

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Disaster could have been prevented Ramaphosa

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EVANDER — The general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday he believed the Kinross accident could have been avoided.

"It was completely unnecessary," he told journalists after a three-hour inspection of the site where the fire occurred.

Mr Ramaphosa said more safety precautions should have been taken to prevent such accidents, especially when workers were welding.

He said the NUM had established that the welder whose acetylene cylinder had caught fire and set alight underground cables and pipes, had not had a fire extinguisher "immediately near him."

"We believe this is very irregular."

Mr Ramaphosa said NUM members were "very angry" at the "terrible disaster" and the union's executive would meet this morning to decide on possible action nationwide and at Kinross mine.

He said it was "anybody's guess" what action might be taken by the union. However, in 1983, after another mine disaster, 30 000 workers had gone on a 30-minute work stoppage.

He could not say whether the accident would affect wage negotiations, but he was doubtful whether talks scheduled for tomorrow would continue.

Asked whether the NUM was contemplating any court action, he said the union had asked its lawyers to pursue the case.

"It goes without saying that when an accident of such proportions happens, we have to take action to protect our members' interests."

Mr Ramaphosa said the union was opposed to the mine's compensation scheme, which would pay the equivalent of two years' salary to the next of kin of miners killed in such accidents, and would take action to try to obtain increased compensation.

He said most of the black miners earned only about R340 per month and two years' salary therefore did not amount to much.

So far, Mr Ramaphosa said, the management's version of events appeared to be correct. The NUM had only been able to interview two people underground and the union would have to take further statements from other miners involved.

Mr Ramaphosa said that from the accounts the NUM had heard, it appeared the flames had spread from the acetylene cylinder to the walls, pipes, cables, and rubber equipment on the rails and lighting system in the shaft.

A sealant that had been used on the walls, caught fire and caused fumes that killed the miners.

He said the NUM was not satisfied with the type of materials used in the shaft.

The union had identified four dangerous materials, including PVC cables, rubber cables and the sealant, which it believed should not have been used.

However, he could not say whether other mines were using better equipment. He said the NUM was unhappy with Gencor's attitude on safety requirements. The union believed that safety stewards should be appointed from its ranks but Gencor believed that safety was management's responsibility.

Mr Ramaphosa said Gencor had been declared "an enemy company" by the NUM because of "intransigence" over union recognition and "repressive measures".

However, the management had been very co-operative during the accident and had allowed a NUM inspection, and had promised to keep the union up to date with the latest information.

He said the NUM delegation would meet the mine management again after a visit to the mine hospital to interview victims of the fire. — Sapa

11/10
**Names
of ~~(5)~~
five (2/2)
dead
released**

DA

18/9/86

JOHANNESBURG —
Gencor has released the names of five white mineworkers who were killed in the disaster

They were a shiftboss, Mr Christoffel Johannes Dorfling, 27, who was married with two children. He has worked at Gencor since July 1978. Mr Raymond John Smith, 42, employed since February 1972 as a stoper. He was married with three children. Mr Stephanus Christoffel Adendorff, 27, employed from November 1984 as a surveyor grade 1. He was unmarried.

Mr Frederick Johannes Prinsloo, 32, employed as a developer since January 1986. He was married with two children. Mr Stephen Anthony Latchford, 19, employed as a surveyor since July 1985. He was unmarried.

A statement released by Gencor yesterday said the names of the other deceased could only be released pending the notification of their next of kin.

This was being done, but as they came from various parts of South Africa as well as neighbouring countries, it might take two or three days to contact all concerned.

They are, however, of the following origins: Sotho 45, Zulu eight, Shangaan (Mozambican) 21, Pondo 20, Hlubi (Transkei) six, Swazi eight, Venda one, Xhosa 29, Tswana 14, Malawi 15, Pedi one.

The origin of four more persons has not yet been established, the statement said.

It is estimated that production at No 2 shaft will be interrupted for a week, although the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions there were absolutely safe again.

One week's production at the shaft is equal to about 25 000 tons out of the mine's total milling rate of 180 000 tons — Sapa

Mine safety row after 177 killed

PD 18/9/81
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Dispatch Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A row over safety measures at Kinross gold mine in the Eastern Transvaal broke out yesterday as the death toll from Tuesday's disaster climbed to 177.

More than 235 were injured and five workers are still missing.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn announced yesterday a judicial inquiry would be held. Mr Steyn accompanied by the government mining engineer and a team of mine inspectors went underground to assess the damage.

The mine recently lost two of its five shafts, it was disclosed yesterday, after a national safety body found it lacked "certain elements to do with safety".

While mine officials confirmed this, they refused to elaborate on which safety measures were lacking.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said conditions at the mine, particularly on level 15 of shaft two where the fire broke out, were "highly irregular".

No fire extinguisher was available near the welder who apparently caused a spark from his welding torch which ignited a methane gas cylinder and set alight highly inflammable materials lining the walls. The deadly gas which was emitted from ma-

terials lining the tunnel walls should also have been checked, he said.

The mine's general manager Mr Kobus Olivier, said samples of the materials used in the tunnels particularly in that section of the mine, to provide support and prevent corrosion, were being investigated.

He denied earlier statements that a highly toxic substance was painted on the walls, and suggested yesterday that a polyeurothane material may have caused the deadly fumes.

The mine had not known before yesterday that the substance was inflammable and had not felt there was a need to check on this aspect when it was first used.

He agreed mine officials would have to strive for better safety precautions but would not say what steps would be taken before the mine was re-opened.

Sapa reports a NUM delegation visited the Witbank Hospital where 1 900 of the approximately 2 200 men brought to the surface were treated, mainly for gas inhalation and respiratory problems.

A member of the delegation said about 44 were still in hospital, some of them so badly

burnt that their faces were unrecognisable. Two had severely swollen faces and cuts which they sustained when the men ran away from the flames, the spokesman said.

Addressing a press conference at the mine yesterday morning, Mr Olivier explained how the deadly gas swept through the mine.

"At times we have to seal certain areas, and make use of a sealing substance."

It is a liquid which turns into foam and is used to make water and air-tight seals.

This substance had been applied to tunnel walls six years ago and was thought to be fire-resistant, he said.

The disaster occurred when welding operations were going on to repair broken underground rail when a gas cylinder is said to have caught alight.

Cables and the coated tunnel walls caught fire. The workers were overcome by toxic fumes from burning sealing substance.

All the people who were killed were on the 14th and 15th level. The lowest level on the mine is the 18th level, which is 1 900 m underground.

Mr Olivier said many of the people rescued owed their lives to pockets of oxygen in the tun-



Members of a prototeam clean a mine cage used in rescue operations at the Kinross Gold mine yesterday.

Witnesses tell of horror

Chilling accounts of death underground

JOHANNESBURG — A pall of death and shock hung over Evander yesterday where 177 Kinross miners lost their lives in the worst mine disaster in 26 years

Mr Isaih Siphon, an underground worker who saw the accident happen, said "It was about 9 30 am yesterday A worker was using the cutting torch The torch broke and caused a big explosion I only saw smoke and fire I went as fast as I could down to a lower level to get away from the smoke There I waited until about 1 pm when we were taken out"

The wife of a survivor of the disaster gave a chilling description yesterday of the horror and panic below ground when toxic gasses swept through the mine

Mrs Barbara Tarran said her husband, Billy, had described the terror to her

"My husband said there were bodies piled up on the tracks Men were lying with blood coming out of their mouths

"My husband had to punch his friend in the chest to make him breathe again He saw a lot of men fall down the shaft because they panicked when the cage came down and did not pick them up"

An injured miner said his father, a shift boss, warned him to get out of the mine when he smelt smoke

"I smelt smoke and knew immediately there was a fire somewhere," Mr Wiets Pretorius, 26, said from his hospital bed in Evander

"To be safe I phoned my father, Piet He said we had to get out at once, because there was smoke at level 15 I went straight back to my workers We took our things and ran back to the station

"If we had not got to level 11 so quickly, we would have been at least badly hurt All my workers were luckily unharmed," he said

Another miner, Mr Komiti Mmereko, 20, said "We were trapped We held our hands to our mouths and noses in desperation I saw my colleagues being overcome by the gas and fall"

"It is the worst I have seen or heard of in the 23 years I have worked at the mine," said Mr Ntoloza Thangane of Transkei

Mr Mmereko, who works as a driller, was one of about seven survivors from the 15th level

"Only about seven of us made it to the surface When the gas leaked we tried to escape to the 14th level but it was too strong for us

"One Swazi citizen continued going up but he was overcome by the gas between the two levels and fell and died," said Mr Mmereko

● The Withaak Mine Hospital, 8 km from the scene the disaster, treated 1 900 miners, of whom 44 were still there, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday

Mr Ramaphosa visited the injured after a 50-minute delay at the hospital's entrance before he was allowed to proceed

● Kinross lost two of its five safety rating stars in June last year

The mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, said the stars had been lost because of "lesser elements" in the list of 21 safety criteria used to grant the stars

"It was certainly not because of materials or work methods," he claimed — Sapa

DPBAPL (20) 612 Worst mine accident since 1960 collapse

JOHANNESBURG — The fire at Kinross gold mine is the biggest mining disaster in South Africa since 435 coal miners were buried alive at the Clydesdale colliery in January 1960

Ironically, it comes just one week after the Chamber of Mines announced accident rates had fallen to record lows on gold mines

As a country which draws vast wealth from the earth, South Africa has recorded its tragic share of mining deaths over the decades.

A recent International Labour Organisation report noted that despite significant improvements in safety, 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines between 1973 and 1984

In its defence, the industry claims South African mining conditions are among the most dangerous in the world, one of reasons being the depths at which ore is mined. Further, the industry is one of the biggest in the world employing over 500 000 people.

"Gold mines which are members of the chamber have reduced their fatality rate to below one for every 1 000 people employed," said the chamber last week. The annual fatality rate of 0,88 for every 1 000 workers

was a 14 per cent improvement on figures for the previous year and a 40 per cent improvement over the last decade

Kinross belongs to the Chamber of Mines

The country's worst mining disasters include

- 1983 Hlobane Colliery — 68 dead after a methane gas explosion. An inquest found the owners of the mine, Iscor, criminally responsible for the death of the miners. The NUM emerged as a safety watchdog in the industry and instituted civil action against Iscor on behalf of the victims' families

- 1980 Vaal Reefs — 31 dead in lift cage fall

- 1978 Vaal Reefs — 41 dead in underground fire

- 1977 Blyvooruitzicht gold mine — 32 dead

- 1969 Buffelsfontein gold mine — 60 dead

- 1960 Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook — 435 dead when the mine collapsed, burying miners alive

- 1928 ERPM gold mine — more than 50 dead — Sapa

British, Germans to aid union in ^{Argus 19/9/86} mine-disaster inquiry ²¹²

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — South African mining standards will come under international scrutiny when the National Union of Mineworkers brings in mining experts from Britain and Germany to help it in the judicial inquiry into the Kinross gold-mine disaster

The NUM is also briefing a team of top advocates to represent the families of the victims at the inquiry, the inquest and during possible criminal prosecution, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said today

West Germany's Foreign Minister, Dr Hans Dietrich Genscher, has issued a statement saying experts from other countries with deep-level mining experience might be able to propose improvements to prevent similar tragedies

Mr Pik Botha has invited Dr Genscher and the "best German experts" to South Africa for a look at safety standards in the gold-mining industry

More than 300 mineworkers yesterday went on a protest march at De Beers Finch diamond mine near Kimberley after the mine refused to allow a senior shaft steward time off to attend an emergency NUM executive committee meeting

NUM Press officer Mr Marcel Golding said "Finch has acted in the most despicable, callous and insensitive manner by refusing to allow Mr Archie Luhlabo to attend the meeting"

Mr P Leyden, a director of De Beers, told Sapa that management had given orders for Mr Luhlabo to be released from work so he could attend

He said the mine had initially refused permission because Mr Luhlabo had been absent from work frequently in recent weeks

The NUM national executive council meeting has been postponed to today because many delegates had not been able to attend yesterday

The meeting is expected to discuss the NUM's "course of action" in the light of the Kinross tragedy

ROW OVER COMPENSATION

Meanwhile, a major row has erupted between the NUM and the Chamber of Mines over compensation for the families of those killed

The chamber has claimed that compensation paid to victims was non-racial and exceeded International Labour Organisation standards

The NUM rejected the claim

Mr Golding said that while compensation for black mineworkers was officially based on salary, not race, the final outcome was a racially determined structure of compensation because of the "appallingly low wages paid to black mineworkers who work under the most dangerous conditions in the mines"

According to the chamber, compensation for "lower-income groups" was based on a maximum of 75 percent of their monthly wage earnings, while "higher-income employees" received 60 percent of their earnings

"If a married employee is fatally injured in an accident at work his widow will receive a monthly pension payable for life," the chamber said

Dependants also received two years of the employee's monthly wages as a lump sum

Compensation could be increased if negligence in the Kinross disaster was proved, Mr Golding said

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FOCUS ON THE MINE DISASTER

The horrified faces of miners watching the bodies of 177 col



It could so easily have been one of them Kinross miners who weren't underground that tragic Tuesday morning. Picture: Wendy Schwegmann, Reuters

TUESDAY'S disaster at the Kinross mine inspired an uncomfortable sense of *déjà vu*

On September 17, 1983 — almost three years to the day before the Kinross disaster — 68 mineworkers died in a methane gas explosion underground at the Hlobane coal mine near Vryheid in Northern Natal

After an inquest-inquiry revealed hair-raising lapses in safety standards at the mine, its owners, a subsidiary of Iscor, were prosecuted and fined R400 for contravening the Mines and Works Act

A member of the National Union of Mine Workers' legal team at the inquest inquiry described Hlobane as a "disaster waiting to happen"

A total of 14 machines underground were not flameproof and could have sparked an explosion, no proper testing had been done for methane gas on the morning of the explosion, the ventilation system, which should have dispersed any build-up of gas, had never worked properly and a holing operation a few days before had short circuited it, and so on

A white miner — who died in the blast and who was identified by the inquest-inquiry as the major culprit — had found methane gas in the mine a week before

This, however, was scratched out of the production book by the mine captain who — it was alleged at the inquiry — believed it would reflect badly on the mine's safety record

Yet the mine continued to boast a four star safety

rating, even after the accident, and the local government inspector — himself a former manager of Hlobane — did not think the mine was much worse than others around it

The relatives of the deceased are still waiting for increased compensation, though some have now brought individual suits against mine management for pain and suffering

On Wednesday Kinross' mine manager, Kobus Olivier, under a grilling from the local and international press, refused to answer questions about the cause of the blast because, he said, it was "sub judice"

The "thorough investigation" launched into the accident by the government would, Olivier implied, ensure that justice would take its course. In the light of the fact that some 50 000 workers have died in mine accidents in South Africa since the turn of the century, 8 500 of them between 1973 and 1984, and that management has never been held responsible, can one reasonably make that assumption?

The mining industry has consistently blamed the

high death and injury toll on 'acts of God' — accidents which they could not help — but under pressure in recent years has been successful in restricting the number of 'acts of God'

Despite the scanty information available, several key questions have emerged about the Kinross accident

●Was there a fire extinguisher around at the time of the accident?

Olivier said it would have been normal practice for there to be an extinguisher at the scene of the welding operation which sparked the fire but refused to comment on whether there had in fact been one

Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said after investigating the scene of the disaster on Wednesday that the union's main concern was that welders did not have fire extinguishers

According to Olivier, the gas cylinder which started the fire did not explode but started flaming and, according to eyewitnesses, a black worker had tried to put out the blaze. If there had been an

This week's mine horror came three years, almost to the day, since the last major mine disaster. After an inquiry, the mine owners were fined R400 for lapses in safety leading to 68 deaths. What kind of safety system hands out high ratings to mines, while disasters continue to happen? PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports

A GRIM SENSE OF

extinguisher, he would surely have been able to use it to put the fire out

●Why was there no alarm system underground warning workers of danger?

The poisonous fumes spreading through an area of one and a half square kilometres caught workers by surprise

NUM president James Matlasi said the people involved at the source of the fire where the welding took place managed to escape

Had the others — who were much further from the fire, some on different levels of the mine —

been able to... The... materials... walls... cables... lighting... What before... safety... happen at... Kinross.

A sharp NUM critique of shaft safety

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

ONE of the cruel ironies of this week's mine disaster at Kinross is that the National Union of Mineworkers was due to launch a new booklet for workers on mine safety today. It is called "A Thousand Ways to Die"

The title comes from a quote from an old miner who said "There are a thousand ways to die in a gold mine"

Billed as a report "for the workers, by the workers", the booklet, here summarised, sets out a black miner's critique of safety in the industry

"There are a thousand ways to die underground. The biggest reason is having to work in working places that are not safe. Many accidents happen which should not and need not happen

"White miners do not spend much time in the stopes anymore. They are not doing what the law says they must do. They no longer make safe and do inspections. They no longer mark off drill holes and remove misfires. They don't even work with explosives anymore

"Team leaders are now doing the work of white miners — and they are the ones who are now looking after the safety of the team in the stopes. But team leaders do not have the same training as white miners. They can't tell the team to leave the working place if it is dangerous

"The government says the law will change in 1987. But what will happen to team leaders? Will they get better training — and will they get the power to pull the team out when conditions are dangerous?

"The Mines and Works Act says workers must call a white miner if conditions are dangerous. The white miner must then 'make safe'. But workers do not often call the white miner. They know he will not come

"Team leaders are the ones who 'make safe' when conditions are dangerous. A team leader will only call a white miner if he can't make a place safe — and if conditions are very dangerous

"The mines use threats and punishment to make the work go faster. If workers stop because the



A mines ambulance carries bodies from the scene of the disaster. Picture: Wendy Schwegmann, Reuters

working place is not safe, they may get charged — and sometimes even fired. The fear of punishment makes workers take more chances in the stopes — and when workers take more chances, they have more accidents

"Most workers say that training for new workers is not good enough. Workers believe that bosses are in a hurry to send them underground. This is bad for safety. Workers also say that they hate *fanakalo*. It is time for workers to decide on a new language for underground"

The booklet lists a miners' bill of rights which the NUM is struggling to get accepted by the Chamber of Mines. Included in this charter are

- 1 The right to elect safety stewards and safety committees
2 The right to refuse dangerous work.
3 The right to call and go with inspectors on all inspections — without the loss of pay
4 The right to proper health and safety training
5 The right to get all information about health and safety
6 The right to protection from punishment when demanding your rights
7 The right to have a say in the running of the mine — and in all future plans

The black dead: Just faceless mine statistics

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

IN 1945 a black academic and poet, BW Vilakazi, wrote a poem about black mineworkers

My brother is with me, carrying His pick and shovel on his shoulder, And, on his feet, are heavy boots He follows me towards the shaft, The Earth will swallow us who burrow And, if I die there underground, What does it matter? Who am I? Dear Lord! all around me, every day, I see men stumble, fall and die

After this week's disaster at Kinross, the question "Who are they?" — the 177 dead black miners — is a very real one

As was usual after disasters of this kind, the names of the five dead white miners were released and the SABC had moving footage of interviews with their families

A statement from Gencor said however that the names of the 177 — all black migrant workers — could only be released once their next of kin were informed

Instead, this was what the press was told of their origins: Sotho 45, Shangaan (Mozambican) 21, Pondo 20, Hlubi (Transkei) 6, Swazi 8, Venda 1, Xhosa 29, Tswana 14, Malawi 15, Pedi 1

One knows the circumstances of their death. Eyewitnesses described how they were trapped by the gas and how workers fell all around them. Those that survived had held their noses and mouths and walked slowly so as not to inhale the poisonous fumes

Bodies were found spread out over a one- and a half kilometre radius. Some workers unable to get into the cages to be hoisted to the surface were reported to have jumped down the lift shafts, which are several kilometres deep

The families of many of the men who died — scattered in far-flung rural areas of the Southern African subcontinent —



Battered but alive, an unidentified survivor in hospital hours after the fatal accident. Picture: AFP

might not know for more than a week that their loved ones are dead

When workers die on the mines, the recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, The Employment Bureau of Africa, which has offices in the rural areas, attempts to trace their next of kin. It could take a long time to contact relatives in the isolated mountain villages of Lesotho or the Transkei

But who were these men who died? What were their aspirations, their likes and dislikes? How many children were orphaned and how many wives became widows?

It is unlikely we will ever know. It is likely, in fact, that — as in the case of previous mining disasters — their names will never be published in the South African press

For most people the Kinross disaster will remain forever just a statistic: the death of five whites and 177 faceless, nameless blacks

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the bodies of 177 colleagues being brought to the surface...



SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU

Now — with fresh concern being expressed over safety in the wake of the Kinross disaster — the NUM has called for a commission of enquiry to examine not just Kinross but the whole question of mine safety in South Africa

A repeat of Hlobane could provoke anger among black workers, who are already questioning what they see as collusion between mine management and the government

It would be an opportune moment for such an enquiry because the Mines and Works Act — which is supposed to be framed in the interests of worker safety — is in the process of being amended to scrap racial job reservation

The situation which has evolved — in which black miners, without the same pay or adequate safety training, are doing the jobs of white miners — could be addressed by amendments to the law scrapping mining apartheid

The disaster could also lend impetus to the NUM's demands for safety stewards and safety committees and for greater safety rights for workers

"When the NUM started in 1983" Ramaphosa said in an interview conducted shortly before the disaster, 604 workers were killed in the gold mines. Last year, in 1985, 539 workers were killed. So we can see that we are slowly winning the struggle

"But we have a long way to go. We will not rest as long as our people are dying underground. For us, every death is one too many"

This week's mine horror came three years, almost to the day, since the last major mine disaster. After an inquiry, the mine owners were fined R400 for lapses in safety leading to 68 deaths. What kind of safety system hands out high ratings to mines, while disasters continue to happen? PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports

been alerted, many more would probably have been able to get out in time

●The third, and most obvious, question is what highly-inflammable toxic material was doing underground in the first place

At first Olivier blamed the toxicity on a chemical sealant used on the wall, but he later corrected himself and said this was a polyurethane type foam and that samples had been sent for testing

The source of the poisonous gas which killed some 182 workers could have been any of the materials said by Ramaphosa to have burnt underground: the plaster used to firm the tunnel walls, the insulation around the underground cables and rubber equipment on the rails and lighting system in the shaft

What tests were these materials subjected to before being used underground?

●Finally, what good is the international mine safety rating system if such disasters continue to happen at mines with high ratings?

Kinross had recently lost two of its stars but this,

according to Olivier, was not for matters related to Tuesday's fire

On Olivier's telling, if it were not for certain mysterious yet minor shortcomings Kinross would still be a five star mine

Thus the lack of an underground warning system, for instance, is not considered to be a drawback in acquiring points for the star rating system

Coming within a week of the Chamber of Mines' proud statement that there had been a decline in deaths in the first six months of this year to the lowest rate ever, the Kinross disaster has clearly been a setback

The Chamber has not been unresponsive to pressure from the NUM on safety and since the Hlobane disaster there has been a marked improvement in safety statistics

But still, hundreds of workers die every year — three times more than died in the Kinross disaster — and thousands of them are injured on South African mines. This is seldom written about because death on the mines is a daily occurrence

extinguisher, he would surely have been able to use it to put the fire out

●Why was there no alarm system underground warning workers of danger?

The poisonous fumes spreading through an area of one and a half square kilometres caught workers by surprise

NUM president James Matlatsi said the people involved at the source of the fire where the welding took place managed to escape

Had the others — who were much further from the fire, some on different levels of the mine —

Gencor's censors can teach the government

By PAT SIDLEY and ANTON HARBER
THE accident at Gencor's Kinross mine took place at 9.30am on Tuesday. The first announcement of the incident came after 3pm

In delaying the news for eight hours — and in its subsequent treatment of reporters and photographers — Gencor has shown it is even more adept than the South African government at blocking journalists and controlling the flow of information

Gencor also ignored a long standing agreement — although little known and less used — between the Chamber of Mines and the Conference of Editors

Although dwarfed by the tragedy of 177 unnatural deaths, another victim of the incident was the public's right to know

Most mining companies have always been protective of their territory and reluctant to allow journalists to move around mine property and talk freely to employees. With Gencor however, the control of information this week was more extreme

The agreement between the Chamber and the press is meant to ensure that news organisations are kept informed of accidents on mines and sets out principles behind the agreement, procedures for dealing with the press and procedures for major accidents or disasters

This agreement is certainly unknown to most working journalists and observed largely in the breach. Neither editors, nor Sapa nor the Chamber have seen fit over the years to refer to it or update it (the agreement does not deal with union activity, for instance)

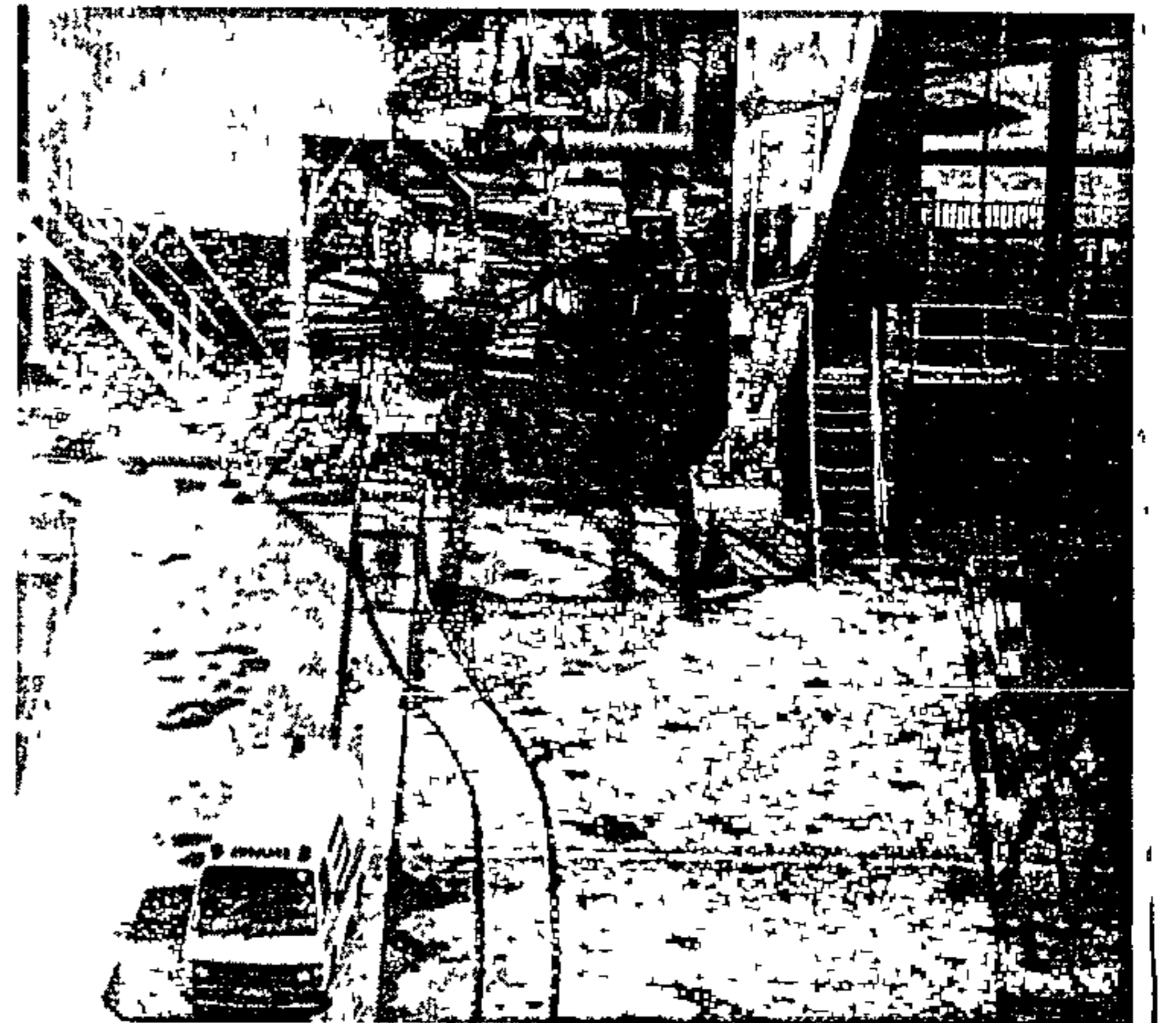
Nevertheless, Gencor has not kept to even its own agreed standards

Under the section on major accidents the first rule to follow reads

On receipt of first news of an accident in the above category, the Group Press Liaison Officers will issue immediately a message to Sapa stating that a major accident or disaster has occurred and giving such few details as are immediately available

"Sapa will be informed that further details will follow as soon as possible"

In this case, Sapa was not notified until some eight hours after the disaster. Even then, the full scale of the disaster was not revealed until much later, with the company originally standing by a



A photograph taken from a helicopter reveals an ambulance leaving the mine shaft. Picture: WENDY SCHWEGMANN, REUTER

death figure of 13

In principle, according to the agreement, mines, members of the Chamber, accept that newspapers have a legitimate interest in the reporting of mine accidents. Mines, therefore, are willing to accord facilities to newspapers to report mine accidents and to give every reasonable assistance

Reporters on the scene of this week's disaster say mine management was decidedly uncooperative and failed to allow access to any useful information

Reporters were barred from going anywhere near the disaster area and were not allowed near the hospital to interview survivors. In scenes

reminiscent of attempts to report on the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union, reporters were forced to hire helicopters and use third parties to sneak pictures of the scene of the accident

Gencor's attitude could be confirmed by anyone who heard a representative of the mining house on radio broadcasts. He claimed repeatedly that he could not comment as the matter was *sub judice*, while at the same time admitting that no legal procedures had been instituted. Radio listeners heard the representative refuse to comment while a reporter's tape recorder was switched on and abruptly terminate the interview when faced with some hard questions.



Battered but alive, an unidentified survivor in hospital hours after the fatal accident. Picture: AFP

might not know for more than a week that their loved ones are dead

When workers die on the mines, the recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, The Employment Bureau of Africa, which has offices in the rural areas, attempts to trace their next of kin. It could take a long time to contact relatives in the isolated mountain villages of Lesotho or the Transkei

But who were these men who died? What were their aspirations, their likes and dislikes? How many children were orphaned and how many wives became widows?

It is unlikely we will ever know. It is likely, in fact, that — as in the case of previous mining disasters — their names will never be published in the South African press

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WEEKLY MAIL
19/9/86

Nation-wide protest by miners likely

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

BLACK miners are almost certain to decide on national protest action in response to Tuesday's disaster at the Kinross mine where 177 workers died.

The national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers was meeting at the union's headquarters last night to decide how to respond to the disaster.

Union sources said there was growing anger among NUM members at the accident, which workers felt could have been avoided if proper safety standards had been applied.

"This action takes us back to the dark ages and demonstrates clearly the unacceptable low safety standards practised in South Africa's mining industry," the NUM said in a statement.

NUM president James Matlatsi said it was likely that whatever action was decided on would take place within the next two weeks

In 1983 about 30 000 miners downed tools in solidarity with the 68 mineworkers who died in a methane gas explosion at the Hlobane coal mine near Vryheid in northern Natal

The NUM was in its infancy then, and now claims more than 300 000 members — six times the size of its

● To PAGE 3

Black miner protest likely

support in 1983

Union sources indicated that the most likely form of action was a disciplined stoppage throughout the industry for several hours

Matlatsi said the union would also demand all the corpses be examined by union doctors

In addition, the NUM is gearing up for a massive legal challenge at the judicial inquiry which is to be held in terms of the Mines and Works Act

The mine's manager, Kobus Olivier, has refused to comment

further on the accident because he claims the matter is "sub judice" However, Gencor have called a press conference for today which is to be addressed by its chief executive Derek Keys

The union — backed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) — has called on the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Danie Steyn, to appoint a commission of inquiry into safety in the mining industry

From PAGE 1

WEEKLY MAIL
19/9/86

0 Cape Times 19/9/86 (1986) 212

Kinross miner still missing underground

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Fourteen workers injured in Tuesday's underground fire at Kinross gold mine were still receiving treatment in the Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, Gencor said in a statement yesterday

The condition of the hospitalized workers was described as satisfactory, with all but one of the workers reported missing accounted for

Fifty-five injured workers have been discharged from hospital

The disaster, which claimed 177 lives, comes a week after the Chamber of Mines reported sharply reduced accident figures for the industry

The No 2 shaft, where the accident occurred, would remain closed "for as long as it may be necessary to assure that it is safe again", the Gencor statement said

Gencor chief executive Mr Derek Keys will address a press conference on the disaster today

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has convened an urgent national executive meeting to discuss possible action. The meeting was due to begin last night and continue today

Commenting on speculation that NUM may stage a demonstration work stoppage, its spokesman, Mr Marcel Golding, would say only that members had responded angrily to the disaster

'Callous'

He slated as "callous and insensitive" De Beers' Finch diamond mine management's refusal to permit the national executive committee member for the mine to attend the meeting

Meanwhile, in continued international reaction to the disaster

Sapa-Reuter reports that the Pope sent a message of condolence in a telegram signed by Vatican Secretary of State, Agostino Casaroli

West Germany expressed condolences and has urged South Africa to allow an international commission of deep-level mining experts to assess conditions at the mine

Foreign experts for Kinross inquiry

Staff Reporters

South African mining standards will come under international scrutiny when the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) brings international mining experts from Britain and Germany to assist it in the judicial inquiry into the Kinross mine disaster.

The NUM is also briefing a team of leading advocates to represent the families of the victims at the inquiry, the inquest and during possible criminal prosecution, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said today.

Civil action which could demand thousands of rands on behalf of the families could follow the inquest, depending on its outcome.

The issue has now taken on political dimensions. West Germany's Foreign Minister, Dr Hans Dietrich Genscher, has issued a statement saying experts from other countries with deep level mining experience might be able to propose improvements to prevent tragedies similar to the fire at Kinross.

Mr Pik Botha has invited Dr Genscher and the "best German experts" to South Africa for a look at safety standards in the South African gold mining industry.

Mr Botha said that Dr Genscher was "apparently not aware of the standards which exist in the South African mining industry".

He claimed that South African safety standards were internationally accepted as the highest standards practised.

And a major row has erupted between the NUM and the Chamber of Mines over compensation for the families of those killed.

The Chamber of Mines has claimed that compensation paid to victims was nonracial and exceeded standards laid down by International Labour Organisation.

The NUM has rejected the claim. The union's Press officer, Mr Marcel Golding, said that, while compensation for black mineworkers was officially based on salary not race, the final outcome was a racially determined structure of compensation because of the "appallingly low wages paid to black mineworkers who work under the most dangerous conditions in the mines".

Praise for SA safety

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Mining safety experts in Britain and the United States have acknowledged that South African mines are fitted with some of the most advanced safety equipment in the world.

But they say this reflects the fact that working conditions are among the most difficult and dangerous anywhere, since South African gold mines are the deepest in the world, and miners frequently have to work in cramped conditions.

Mr Sam Stafford, an official at the US Government Mine Safety and Health Administration, is reported as saying "We consider that South Africa has some of the most advanced safety-conscious equipment and safety training we have seen".

● The South African Congress of Trade Unions said mines have a "disastrous record, with close on two miners killed and tens injured each day".

One miner still missing, 14 stable in hospital

JOHANNESBURG — The official death toll at Kinross Gold Mine on Tuesday afternoon, when toxic fumes were released after a gas cylinder caught fire during welding work, was 177, Gencor said yesterday.

"With one exception, all employees previously reported missing have now been accounted for," Gencor said in a statement.

"The majority of the workers that were in hospital have been discharged, although 14 are still receiving treatment in the Winkelhaak Hospital. Their condition is satisfactory."

"The No 1 shaft system at the mine is in operation again, but as reported previously, No 2 shaft, where the accident occurred, will remain closed for as long as it may be necessary to assure that it is safe again."

"The names of the deceased, which have not been released yet, will be released as soon as possible, after their next of kin have been informed."

"Unless circumstances warrant it, no further statements, other than the names, when possible, will be

released," the statement said.

In a Sapa report it emerged, that if it were not for a group of unknown black workers who dragged an unconscious Mr Tol Sadler to a running tap, he would be dead today.

"I have no doubt in my mind that they saved my life. The water cooled me down and brought me back to consciousness," Mr Sadler, 32, a surveyor at Kinross, said.

The father of three said he was trapped for six hours by the underground fire in the mine.

"I decided to climb up to a higher level but lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying under a running tap."

"Eventually I shifted inch by inch to the opening of another tunnel."

"A bossboy, with a few other black workers, carried me to a spot where the ventilation was better. I stayed there until a proto team took me to the surface."

"The next morning I heard that it was a group of black workers who had dragged me to the tap and left the water running, before making a break themselves."

The 55 white miners admitted to the Evander Hospital after the accident, were allowed home after treatment, the report said.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn disclosed yesterday, that West Germany has urged South Africa to allow an international commission of deep-level mining experts to assess conditions at the disaster-hit Kinross gold mine.

It said the Foreign Minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, had asked Pretoria to allow an immediate inspection of the mine, to determine if poor safety standards contributed to the deaths of the 177 workers poisoned by the toxic fumes from the fire.

The statement expressed West Germany's condolences for the disaster.

Mr Genscher, who held talks in Bonn yesterday with South African churchmen, Dr Beyers Naude and Dr Wolfram Kistner, said experts from other countries with deep-level mining experience might be able to propose improvements to prevent similar tragedies. —Sapa-RNS

2 Cape Times, Saturday, September 20, 1986

Gencor starts

From Page 1

phosa said it was "interesting" that Gencor should concede that worker compensation was inadequate.

"Kinross should not be treated as a special case. All workers in mining accidents should be adequately compensated."

He said he had heard that Gencor was holding a memorial service on Monday, but NUM had not yet been invited.

Mr Ramaphosa also said Gencor yesterday refused NUM's mining experts access to the Kinross mine to conduct an inspection.

He said that on the day after the accident, Gencor had agreed to allow NUM experts — from Germany, Sweden and Great Britain — to inspect the mine, but yesterday afternoon "they called us to say they could not see their way clear for our experts to inspect the mine."

However, Sapa reports that the Chamber of Mines said in a statement the mining industry would be

Kinross Trust

happy to open its doors to any team of international mine safety experts.

A Gencor spokesman denied that they had been approached by NUM.

Mr Ramaphosa also said that workers were "compelled" to go underground on Thursday, though workers yesterday refused as they were "apprehensive".

"Our members will refuse until their apprehensions are allayed." He said the entire shaft should be closed as the toxic fumes had penetrated a large portion of the mine.

Mr Carl Netscher, senior director mining division, said "some people" were working in the number two shaft, where the accident occurred, but not in the area where the fire broke out. The number one shaft was in full operation.

"But there is no question of forcing any workers to go underground."

● SA mine safety measures less strict — claim, Page 4

R2m trust for families of Kinross dead

Cape Times 20/9/86
212

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Gencor yesterday announced the establishment of a R2-million trust fund to assist the dependants of the 177 victims of the Kinross disaster, as the National Union of Mineworkers called for a national day of mourning.

It was also disclosed yesterday that some miners were refusing to go underground

Speaking at a press conference, Gencor's executive chairman, Mr Derek Keys, said. "Our intention is that we should seek a majority of trustees who are independent of Gencor and who include some with the closest possible identification with the beneficiaries"

Mr Keys indicated that NUM will be one of the parties to be invited to participate in the trust, which would have the provisional name of the Kinross Trust

He said the trust will have the "sole aim of assisting any such dependants for whom the industry's present arrangements of compensation might require to be compensated"

Meanwhile Sapa reports that NUM's secretary general, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said at a separate press conference yesterday afternoon that his union has called for a national day of mourning on October 1, to honour the dead miners

He said NUM had "approached the Chamber of Mines to close all mines on Wednesday, October 1, to honour the fallen miners"

Mr Ramaphosa said he expected the Chamber to consider the union's request, and should it refuse, NUM members would still observe the day of mourning

Commenting on Gencor's trust fund, Mr Rama-

Tons of steel
trap bodies
— battle
by rescuers

ARGUS 27/10/86

212

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Rescue workers were battling today to free the bodies of six miners killed in an underground accident at JCI's Randfontein Estates Gold Mine

A JCI spokesman said 26 survivors had been taken to the surface and 25 were in hospital.

The accident happened yesterday when an empty cage and 120 tons of steel cable plunged 800m down the Cooke ventilation shaft

"There were 32 men working at the bottom of the shaft," said the spokesman. The six who died were buried under tons of cable

HELICOPTER

Three injured were taken by helicopter to the Cottesloe Hospital in Johannesburg. The hospital superintendent said today they were in a good condition.

Two miners who were "more seriously injured" were taken to the Wenela Hospital in Johannesburg

Twenty miners were taken to the Sir Albert Robinson Mine Hospital in Randfontein. They were all in a satisfactory condition today and most were expected to be discharged soon.

The names of the dead and injured have not yet been released.

The accident happened when a hoist, operating a kibble (cage) went out of control.

Mr Gordon Waddell, chairman of JCI, said a full inquiry would be held.

27/10/86

Battle to free miners' bodies

EVE Post
27/10/86

2/2

Council not to blame for delay

2/2

By DENISE BOUTALL
THE Port Elizabeth City Council was not responsible for any delay in the decision about the future of Walmer Township, the Town Clerk, Mr P K Botha, said today

It was announced on Friday by the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, that Walmer Township would be retained and R1 million spent on upgrading it

Mr Heunis also announced that R2 million had been allocated for housing in Ibhayi and Motherwell and that extensive facilities would be provided in Kwanobuhle in Uitenhage

In Port Elizabeth on Friday Mr Heunis said the Port Elizabeth City Council's investigations had been "time consuming" and were only completed on August 29

Mr Botha said the council had only twice been asked to comment on Walmer township. In one case it had passed on the information within seven days and in the other within 24 hours

"This council is certainly not to blame for any delay in the decision on Walmer Township"

The first time the council was ever asked to comment on Walmer was in April when the council was asked what conditions it would impose on the retention of the township. The council supplied information about its roads requirements within seven days

On August 27 the council was asked to give its general views on the retention of the township within 24 hours. The matter was put to the council which decided it favoured the retention of the township

The Town Clerk of Uitenhage, Mr Eddie Coetzee, said projects in the pipeline for Kwanobuhle included electrification of the whole of Kwanobuhle, the full servicing of the resettlement area and the construction of a 1 500-seat community hall

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue workers were still battling to free the bodies of six miners killed in an underground accident at Randfontein Estates Gold Mine yesterday, a spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidated Investments said today

Mr Ken Maxwell, chairman of the JCI-owned mine, said that at 10am today rescue teams were still struggling to free the bodies pinned under tons of steel cable

The accident occurred when an empty cage and 120 tons of steel cable plunged 800 metres down the Cooke ventilation shaft.

"There were 32 men working at the bottom of the shaft," Mr Maxwell said

The six who died had not yet been brought to the surface because they were still buried under tons of cable

The medical superintendent at the Wenela Hospital said the condition of two seriously injured miners was still "serious"

He declined to give further details saying it was not yet possible to get the permission of the patients for details of their condition to be released

A total of 26 survivors were freed from the accident shaft yesterday and last night

A JCI spokesman, Mr J J Nel, said 20 of the survivors were only slightly injured and are expected to be released from hospital today

Three injured men were taken by helicopter to the Cottesloe Hospital in Johannesburg

The superintendent of the hospital said today one patient had had a leg operation last night and was not in a serious condition

"The other two patients are also in good condition," he said

Twenty workers were taken to the Sir Albert Robinson Mine Hospital in Randfontein. They were all in a satisfactory condition today and most were expected to be discharged soon

Mr Maxwell said the accident occurred when a hoist operating a kibble went out of control. The kibble and 120 tons of steel cable fell 800 metres to the bottom of the shaft, collapsing a work stage 16 metres from the bottom

Rescue operations were hampered by the fact that the shaft was new and incomplete. It had no proper lift system and the hoist operating the kibble had to be repaired before rescue work could begin

Mr Maxwell and Mr Gordon Waddell, chairman of JCI, went to the scene of the accident immediately. Mr Waddell said a full inquiry would be held

Company spokesmen said the accident would affect Randfontein Estates Gold Mine's star safety rating. The mine celebrated its 10th one-million fatality-free shift last week

The mine is one of only two mines to have achieved three million consecutive fatality-free shifts. The other mine is the West Rand Consolidated Mine

The names of the dead miners have not yet been released — Sapa

Sowetan

Monday, October 27, 1986

(212)

FIVE MINERS DIE AS CAGE FALLS

FIVE miners were killed when a cage fell on them as they were working at the foot of an 800 metre deep ventilation shaft at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine yesterday.

Chairman of the mine, Mr K Maxwell, said an unknown number of the 32 miners working at the bottom of the shaft were injured but details were not yet available.

He said two of three miners working on the stage were killed by the falling kibble.

The accident occurred at about 7 40am.

Crashed

Mr Maxwell added that the miners were killed when the cage which was lowering them down crashed down the 800 metres shaft.

"Communication with those at the bottom of the shaft was cut off but torch lights have been seen flashing. The damage to the hoist winder drum has been repaired and it is hoped that another cage will be lowered down to the shaft to try and rescue the miners," Mr Maxwell said.

The names of the dead miners will only be announced after their next-of-kin have been notified.

Battle to free bodies of six miners

STAR
27/10/86
212

Workers are battling to free the bodies of six black miners killed in an underground accident at JCI's Randfontein Estates Gold Mine yesterday

Of 26 survivors brought to the surface, 25 are in hospital

The accident occurred when an empty cage and 120 tons of steel cable plunged 800 m down the Cooke ventilation shaft

Three whites were taken by helicopter to Cottesloe Hospital in Johannesburg.

Two black workers, "more seriously injured" were taken to the Wenela Hospital in Johannesburg and 20 others to the Sir Albert Robinson Mine Hospital in Randfontein

The accident would affect Randfontein Estates Gold Mine's Star Safety Rating. The mine celebrated its 10th one million fatality free shift last week

Bodies hauled from mine shaft

JOHANNESBURG — The bodies of three of the six workers killed in Sunday's accident at Randfontein Estates gold mine on the West Rand had been recovered, it was announced here yesterday

A spokesman for Shaft Sinkers, the company responsible for sinking the ventilation shaft at which the accident occurred, said the three bodies had been trapped under about 20 tons of steel cable

Rescue teams were still working to recover the bodies of the other three workers

Three of the dead were from Lesotho and the other three from Bushbuckridge in the Northern Transvaal. The managing director of Shaft Sinkers, Mr Eric Brereton, said he knew the identities of the dead workers but would not release their names until all the bodies had been brought to the sur-

face and positively identified

They were all employed by his company

It is believed it could be days before all the bodies are recovered

At a news conference yesterday, the chairman of Randfontein Estates, Mr Ken Maxwell, said "It will be a question of days rather than hours before we can get them out"

The accident occurred at Cooke 3A shaft at 7 40 am on Sunday where Shaft Sinkers were digging a ventilation shaft to join up with the production area of the mine.

By 2 pm on Sunday,

the first rescue workers reached the wrecked stage underground and worked through the night until the last of the 26 survivors were brought to the surface at 3 45 am yesterday

Mr Maxwell said Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), which owns the mine, would welcome participation by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in the inquiry into the accident

At yesterday's news conference, it emerged that the winding gear above Cooke 3A shaft was found to be in order less than 24 hours before the accident — Sapa-DDC

Rescuers could see lights in (212) tragedy shaft at Randfontein

STP
28/10/86

Rescue teams could see lights moving 800 m down after the shaft accident at Randfontein Estates Gold Mine on Sunday — but were powerless to do anything

"We tried to contact the survivors but failed. All we could do was to look down. We saw moving lights and realised that there was life at the bottom of the shaft," Mr Eric Breton, managing director of the shaft sinking company, said at a Press conference yesterday.

Only about eight hours later could rescue teams start going down the shaft as a new brake mechanism had to be fitted to the headgear.

"We also had to ensure an unrestricted path for the rescue kibble. The kibble eventually went down unguided in a pendulum motion," said Mr Breton.

The last survivor was brought to the surface at 3.45 yesterday morning.

No names yet

The six people who died in the accident are still trapped under 3 200 m of rope.

Mr Breton said 26 people, including four white workers, survived.

"Three workers have fractures and the remainder suffered from shock and bruises and are under observation."

Three of the dead miners were from Lesotho and the other three from Bushbuckridge. Their names would be released only after the recovery of the bodies.

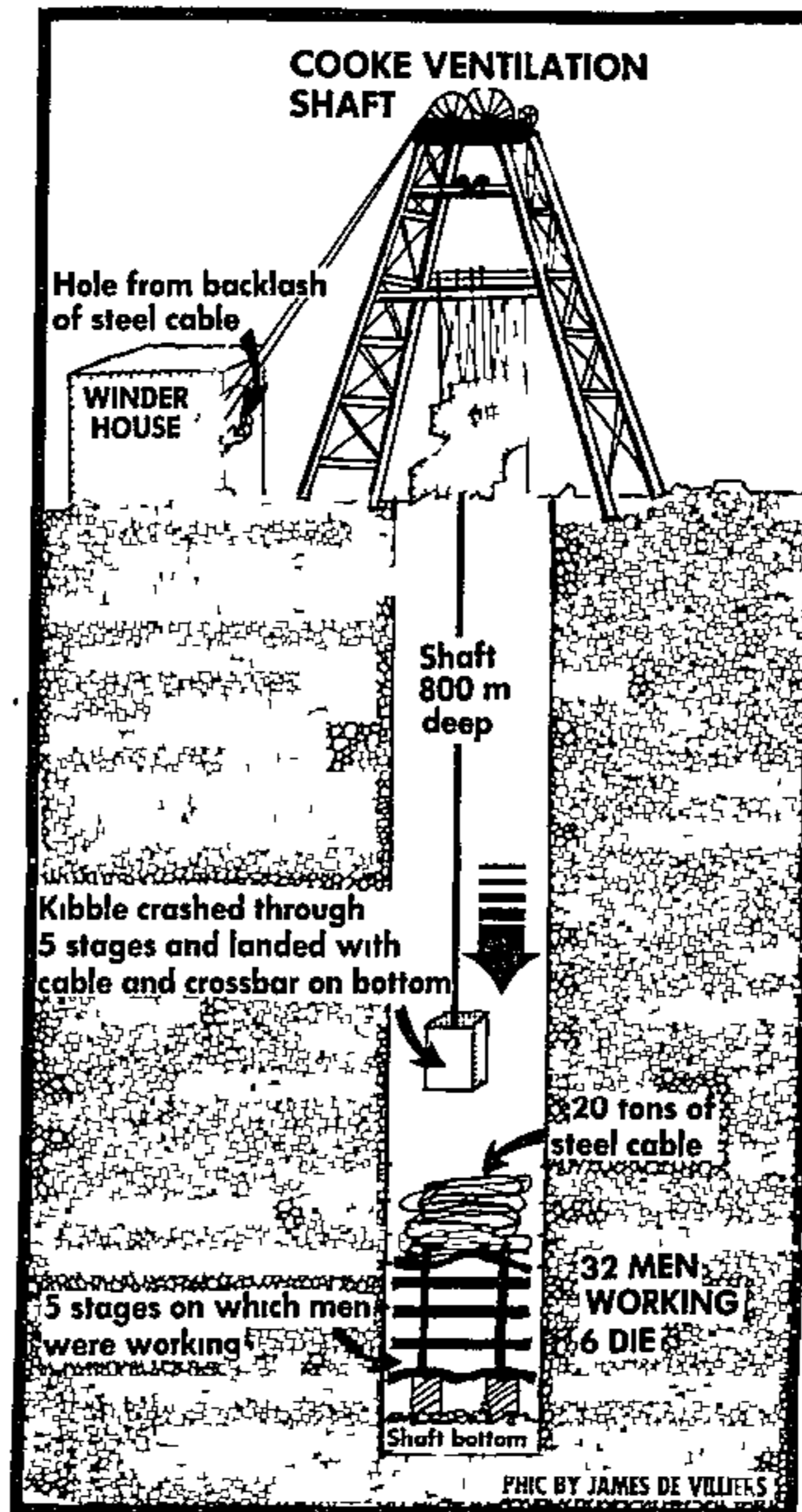
It could take "hours or days" to free the trapped bodies, said Mr Breton.

"We can see the bodies, but tons of steel cable have to be cut away and we have to get through the stage or platform which weighs about 100 tons."

Mr Ken Maxwell, executive director of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, described the disaster as an "incredible accident".

From yesterday's Press conference it emerged that things started going wrong when an empty kibble hoisted to the surface went out of control, hit the headgear and snapped the steel cables.

Twenty tons of steel cables and the second kibble in the shaft plunged down on top the stage on which most of the men were working.



Three of the dead workers were working on top of the platform while the other three were at the bottom of the shaft.

Mr Breton said yesterday that it was inexplicable that the accident took place.

"Something went wrong, and that will be the subject of our inquiry."

Second accident

A commission of inquiry under the auspices of the Inspector of Mines will investigate the cause of the accident.

Mr Breton said that representatives of the Nation Union of Mineworkers would be welcome to attend the inquiry.

The question of NUM participation in the actual investigation was not up to the mining company, he added.

The accident was the second since the sinking of the ventilation shaft started in January.

Three months ago a black worker died when a kibble rolled over after hitting a slope at the bottom of the shaft.

The accident occurred only nine days after Randfontein Estates achieved a million fatality-free shifts for the 10th time.

Shaft gear ^(2/2) 'checked'

ALAN FINE

THE winding gear above Cooke 3A shaft at Randfontein Estates gold mine was inspected less than 24 hours before the equipment attached to it plunged nearly 800m down the shaft on Sunday morning, killing six people.

This emerged at a Press conference called yesterday by JCI, owners of Randfontein Estates, and Shaft Sinkers, the company contracted to dig a 2km ventilation shaft at the mine.

All 32 people in the shaft at the time of the accident were Shaft Sinkers employees.

Anglo American holds an 80% equity in the company and the remainder is owned by JCI.

Shaft Sinkers MD Eric Brereton said the winding gear was inspected on Saturday and found to be in order. The four-hour inspection was carried out by company personnel in terms of requirements of the Mines and Works Act.

The accident occurred after the hoist "failed to retard". A crosshead — the fitting to which a 2,3-ton, bucket-like kibble is attached — crashed into the winding gear. It severed the cable and both it and a kibble — used to bring ground to the surface — attached to the

other end of the cable plunged down the shaft with 20 tons of cable.

Brereton refused to comment on whether the accident might have been caused by faulty equipment (including the apparent failure of an emergency automatic cut-out device) or by human error. He said the matter was *sub judice* pending the outcome of the official inquiry by the Government Mining Engineer (GME).

By yesterday afternoon, three of the bodies had been brought to the surface. Operations to rescue survivors were completed at 4.30am yesterday.

Six survivors — three whites and three blacks — have suffered fractures or dislocations of limbs. Other injuries include abrasions, bruises and shock.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said it wished to take part in any inspection or inquiry into the accident.

Mine chairman Ken Maxwell said yesterday it was the prerogative of the GME to allow the union to take part. The GME could not be reached for comment.

The accident, which took place in a shaft not yet in use, will not affect production.

GOLD Fields (GFSA) was last night considering a call by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) for a top-level meeting to discuss ways of resolving the wage dispute which has precipitated a strike involving at least 25 000 black miners.

More than 80% of the black workforce at Gold Fields' Kloof, Doornfontein and Deelkraal mines went on strike on Sunday night and yesterday over the refusal to match the 19,5% to 23,5% wage increases offered by other mining houses last week.

Formal agreement with Anglo American, JCI, Gencor and Rand Mines' gold division was reached last night.

Gold Fields, with Rand Mines collieries, withdrew from the negotiations

GFSA weighs up

NUM peace offer

ALAN FINE

when the employer offer reached the 15% to 20% level in July.

However, the company says it implemented a wage adjustment in August, designed to eliminate certain anomalies in its wage curve.

These increases, Gold Fields claims, mean that its wages are "on aggregate in much the same ballpark as those of other mining groups".

It says the strike is illegal because the union has not conducted strike ballots.

Randfontein mine disaster survivors tell of their 'luck'

By Claire Robertson

"Luck" is a word the survivors of this week's Randfontein mine tragedy often use

Sitting up in their beds in the Chamber of Mines hospital yesterday, miners Mr Wynand Neuhoff and Mr Hennie Ludick spoke of their escape from the accident which claimed six lives when an empty kibble went out of control in a shaft on the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine on Sunday

Mr Neuhoff says he is lucky to be alive Mr Ludick was lucky to escape with only a sprained ankle and bruised back

"I was busy with my work on a lower deck of the stage when the kibble hit," Mr Neuhoff said

"About five seconds later the cross bar and

cables hit the top deck"

By then Mr Neuhoff was trapped under the debris, one leg broken, the other severely bruised. Something hit the back of his head, and he received a puncture wound.

He could not move until he summoned one of the lightly injured men in the shaft to his aid and he was pulled free of the debris

"That hurt very much," he said

From about 7 30 am, when the accident occurred, until he was rescued just before five that evening, Mr Neuhoff lay in the dim light with the moans of the injured all around him

He could only reflect on "the luck of my God"

Last bodies are brought up

West Rand Bureau

Rescue operations at the Randfontein Estates gold mine Cooke 3 shaft were completed yesterday when the last three bodies were brought to the surface following Sunday's accident.

One of the bodies was recovered at the ventilation shaft in the morning, the other two in the afternoon.

The cause of Sunday's accident, in which a kibble and 120 tons of steel cable fell on to 32 miners sinking a shaft, killing six of them, is still being investigated.

A spokesman for the shaft-sinking company said the recovery operation had been completed

much sooner than expected

"We really did not expect to finish so soon as we had masses of steel cable to cut through," he said

He added that 11 of the 20 shaft sinkers who had been admitted to the Albert Robinson mine hospital were discharged yesterday. The remaining nine would be discharged soon

The condition of the three white miners at the Cottesloe Chamber of Mines hospital has been described as "fair"

One of the two injured men, who were flown by helicopter to the Rand Mutual Hospital on Sunday, is in a serious condition. The other is reported to be in a fair condition

He has worked on the mines for 24 of his 42 years. He does not intend to go underground again

"I am lucky that I don't have to I have a trade so I can go back to working with tools"

Mr Hennie Ludick was on the top deck when he saw the kibble shoot down to the lower levels

"Myself and Japie (Wessels, discharged yesterday with a sprained ankle) looked down. The crossbar cut the cables and the stage dropped about 18 m. We were flung to one side just before the cables came crashing down"

Mr Ludick and four others were trapped in a narrow space afforded by a canopy built as protection from falling rocks

LIFTED CLEAR

The men comforted the injured and, using a snapped-off bar as a lever, lifted two men clear of the cables

Mr Neuhoff's wife heard about the accident about 9 30. Until late that afternoon she did not know if he was alive

"It was terrible, waiting like that," Mrs Emmarentia Ludick told *The Star*

"I just hoped she wouldn't hear about it too soon — it is awful for the families when something like this happens," said Mr Ludick (48), who started the mines when he was 16

Would he go underground again?

"Look, if you have a road accident, it doesn't mean you'll never get into a car again

"But I will never have to go underground. I am very grateful for that"

SAA halts freight traffic amid security rumours

Transport Reporter

South African Airways placed a nationwide embargo on domestic freight traffic for several hours yesterday "for operational reasons", an SAA spokesman confirmed yesterday

Although the spokesman would not elaborate, freight agents surprised by the temporary ban said documentation had been double-checked at airports. There were rumours of a security scare linked to the funeral of Mozambican President Samora Machel

The embargo lasted from about 12 am to 3 pm

All SAA's domestic flights operated normally and there were no problems with passenger traffic. However, the airline would not accept cargo

A large freight company told *The Star* it was informed of the embargo at about 12 am by SAA, which warned that cargo could be delayed

"They gave no reasons but asked us to bear with them. They also said they would try to get urgent cargo through"

5/11/10
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All mine-shaft bodies recovered

The bodies of all six people killed at JCI's Randfontein Estates gold mine have been recovered, according to a spokesman for Shaft Sinkers whose 32 employees were in the Cooke ventilation shaft on Sunday morning when an empty cage and tons of steel cable plunged 800 m to the bottom of the shaft.

Another 25 people were hurt.

The spokesman said the last two bodies were brought to surface late yesterday afternoon.

He added that the shaft would be closed pending an investigation by the Government mining engineer.

● See Page 4.

FINAL

MINE SAFETY

30/9/86

Randfontein riddle

The key question to be answered at the official inquiry into the shaft-sinking disaster at Randfontein Estates gold mine, in which six miners were killed, is what happened to the various automatic safety devices installed to prevent the overwind which caused the accident

Cages, or kipples in the case of a shaft-sinking operation, are raised and lowered in a mine shaft by a hoist situated at surface level. The hoist is controlled by an operator, the hoist driver. The hoist is connected to the cage by steel cables which run from surface to sheavewheels at the top of the shaft headgear, some 50 m above ground level, and then down to the cage.

An overwind occurs when the cage being raised is not stopped in time but is, instead, pulled by the hoist to the top of the headgear, rather like the overwind inexperienced fishermen suffer when using a centre-pin reel. This can occur through human error or through technical problems with the hoist.

To prevent this, there are a number of automatic safety features built in to all shaft-sinking hoisting operations. These include an overwind prevention device, an underwind prevention device, an overspeed device, a slow/fast braking switch, which automatically controls the braking rate depending on where the kibble is in the shaft, a deceleration device, and an ultimate limit switch in the headgear which switches off the hoist if passed.

At a press conference this week, Eric Brereton, MD of Shaft Sinkers which is carrying out the work, declined to comment on why the various devices had not prevented the accident. He said this had to be determined by the official inquiry.

The accident occurred after the five-deck sinking stage had been lowered to a position just above the bottom of the 792 m shaft to start removing the rock on the shaft bottom after it had been blasted.

Workers on the various decks of the stage

line and equip the bare rock walls of the shaft, while below them the broken rock is loaded into the steel kipples, each weighing about 2,3 t, and hoisted to surface on guide-rails which run through the sinking stage.

Kibble tandem

The hoist works in tandem with one kibble going down as another comes up. When the accident happened, an empty kibble was going down while on the other side the steel crosshead, which attaches the rope to the kibble, was being raised to surface so that it could be attached to another kibble for lowering underground.

The crosshead was overwound, hit the crashbars at the top of the headgear and the rope snapped, while the descending kibble plunged to the bottom of the shaft. The crosshead then fell back down the shaft onto the sinking stage which, in turn, collapsed onto the bottom of the shaft. The stage weighed about 100 t. Then some 3 200 m of steel rope fell on top of the stage. These ropes weigh about 20 t.

A National Union of Mineworkers' spokesperson said the NUM would be represented at the inquiry into the accident. It had also requested access to the accident site during the investigation to be carried out. ■

Stayaway at refinery after talks deadlock

News 3/11/80
JOHANNESBURG — Workers at Zinc Corporation's refinery near Springs failed to report for their shifts last night and this morning, Gold Fields of South Africa said in a news release today

A strike ballot was apparently held on Friday but the management of Zincor, which is affiliated to Gold Fields, had not been advised of the outcome, the statement said

Wage negotiations between Zincor and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) became deadlocked last month NUM then applied for the establishment of a conciliation board

The Minister of Labour failed to approve or disapprove the establishment of a conciliation board within the 30-day period provided for in the Labour Relations Act, the statement said

"Zincor and NUM held further talks at the invitation of Zincor. The parties again deadlocked and NUM requested permission to hold a strike ballot on Zincor's premises"

Zincor management said they had not been advised of the outcome following Friday's ballot nor were they informed that workers would go ahead with a strike — Sapa

2 miners ^{SOM} killed by ~~6/11/84 212~~ mud rush

Two miners were smothered to death by a mud rush yesterday afternoon at Gencor's Bracken Gold Mine, near Evander, a Gencor spokesman said. No one else was injured.

Mr. Tshidiso Mothupi, regional organiser of the NUM for Secunda, yesterday reported that three people were believed to have been injured in another accident at Bracken between 3 pm and 4 pm on Tuesday.

He understood that two people were thought to be still trapped underground.

A spokesman for Gencor could not confirm the second accident.

Second blaze in 24 hours hits West Rand mine

Firefighters are battling to stop a blaze raging underground at Gold Fields' Kloof gold mine on the West Rand, a company spokesman said this morning.

It is the second fire in less than 24 hours and arson could not be ruled out, the spokesman said.

The first fire was extinguished. The second began last night. No injuries have been reported.

The National Union of Mineworkers is in dispute over wages with Gold Fields.

Although the union has been given strike ballot facilities at three Gold Fields gold mines, where it is recognised in certain bargaining units, the company refused such facilities at four other mines — East Driefontein, Kloof, Doornfontein and Venterspost.

The union has appealed to the Industrial Court for a ruling on the matter.

Mine fire: arson fear

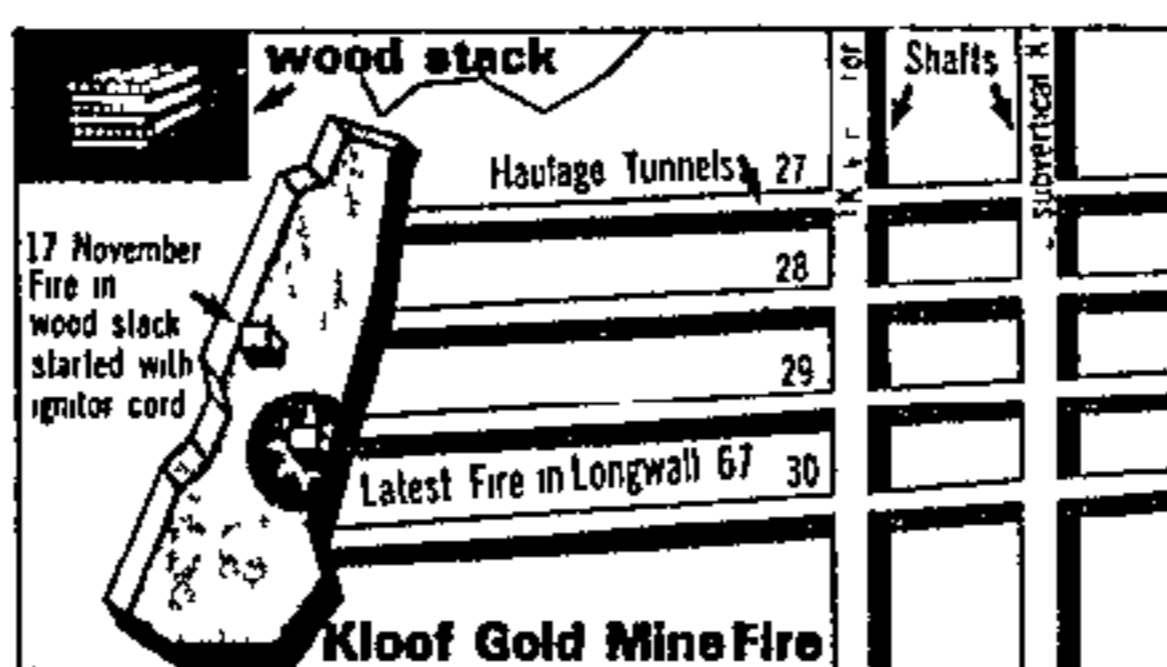
MINING EDITOR

A FIRE 2 300m underground at Kloof Gold Mine continues to burn, amid speculation that it was caused by an act of sabotage

A spokesman for the mine said it may take "some weeks" before the fire is brought under control

Proto teams are still being deployed in relays to monitor the situation

Based on the mine's high average grade of about 15g a ton, and a 20% cutback in production as a result of the fire, production losses could run at more than R600 000 a day



The fire, detected at 7pm on Wednesday night, has halted production on the 67 longwall, the mine's most southerly stopping area, 3km from the No 1 shaft main complex

So far one person has been hospitalised as a result of exposure to gas, but his condition is reported to be satisfactory

The area was sealed off to contain the blaze. Steps are now being taken to install concrete plugs with a view to flooding the affected area.

The plugs will seal off four crosscuts leading to the longwall, on levels 28 to 31. The affected area is approximately

● To Page 2 →

Arson possible in mine fire

1 000m by 220m

It is planned to start flooding next week, but because of a limited supply of surplus water (over and above what is needed for production) it may take some weeks to quench the fire and cool the working places

The extent of damage is not known and

management are not forecasting when production will return to normal. Yesterday about 10% of the mine's 8 500 underground workforce had been re-deployed elsewhere

← ● From Page 1

1 1 1

10 days ago

Adair's 21/11/86 (212)

3 gold miners die from fumes.

JOHANNESBURG — Three miners at the Stilfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal died after being overcome by fumes underground early today, the mine's owners, Gencor, said in a statement in Johannesburg

Gencor said investigations were proceeding "to obtain more details" and a further announcement would be made later today — Sapa

● Mine fire at Gold Fields Kloof rages on — Page 11.

OPTHALMIC OPTICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Parties Employer Organisation: South African Ophthalmic Optical Manufacturers' Association
Trade Union: Optical Workers' Union

Area Magisterial Districts of Johannesburg*, the Cape* and Durban*

Footnotes

1. Annual Leave - Workers with 10 years continuous service are entitled to 5 days extra paid leave .

Mine fire 'sabotage'

CAPE TIMES 21/11/86 (2/2)

By CHRIS ERASMUS with Sapa

PROBABLE sabotage at Gold Fields Kloof Gold Mine on the West Rand has left a fire raging 2,5km underground, put 20 percent of the mine out of production and will cost at least R12 to R15 million in damage and lost earnings

This was said yesterday by the mine's manager, Mr Keith Spencer, as mine management fought a desperately battle to extinguish the mine's second underground fire in three days which late yesterday was still raging out of control on the 29th level

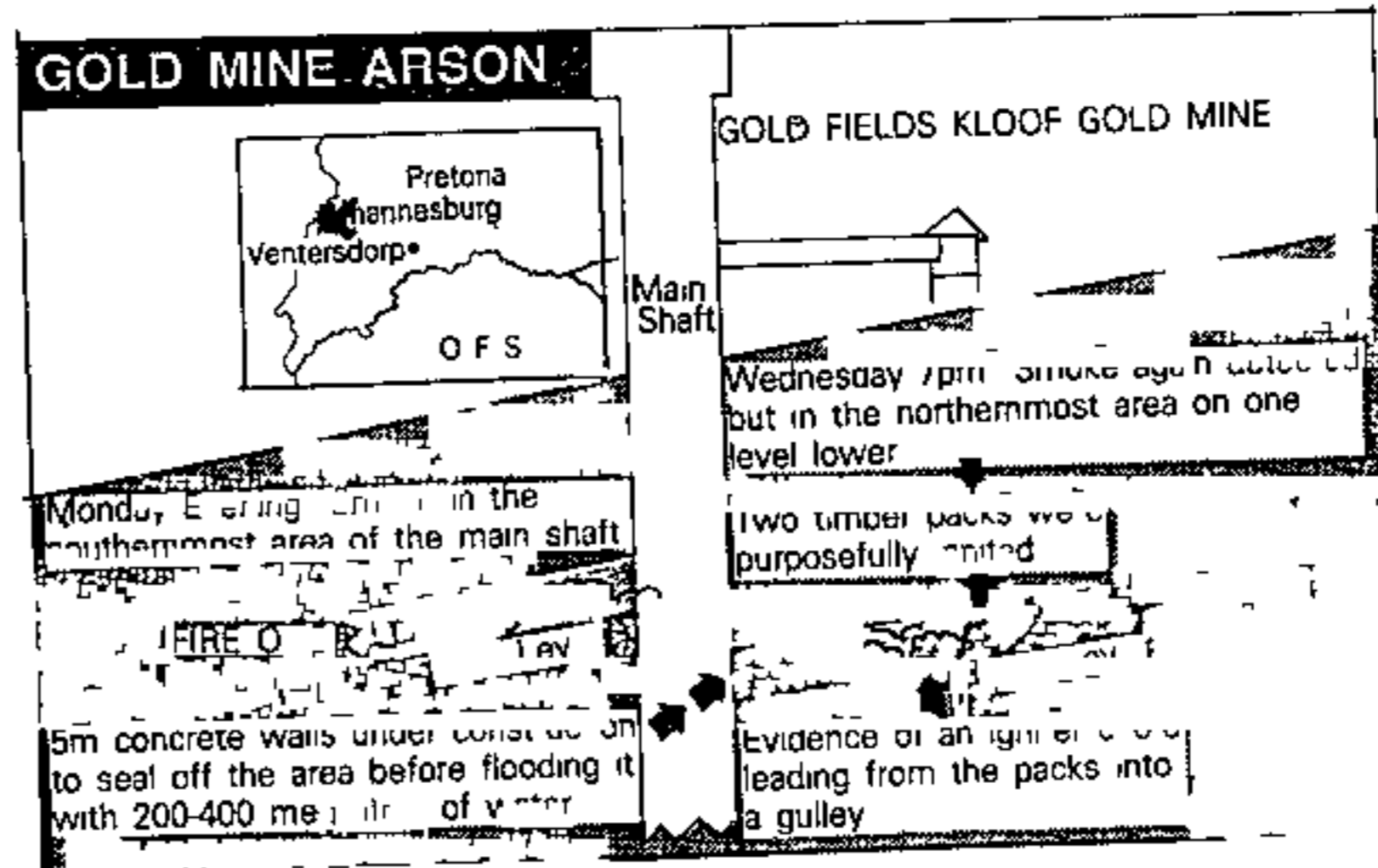
No injuries have been reported so far, although proto teams were yesterday at work close to the fire

"I am almost certain that sabotage was behind the first fire, which we managed to extinguish before too much damage was done on Monday evening

"Ignitor cord, which burns at a very high temperature, had been wrapped around one of the mat packs, or timber support columns, on the 28th level and adjacent packs were already burning, but the fire patrol — which detected smoke and reaction from gas detectors in the southernmost working area the mine — managed to put it out

"There were no electrical cables about and the area was relatively unused. That together with the way the ignitor cord was placed makes us feel sure it was sabotage

"We have not yet had a chance to get close to the site of origin of the second fire, which began in the same area about 300m away and one level down, but



we are considering the possibility of sabotage as its cause," said Mr Spencer

Following Monday's fire, mine management, concerned about the possibility of another attempt by an arsonist or arsonists, sent special shifts down the mine on Tuesday afternoon and about 7pm smoke was again detected coming from the same longwall where the first fire had started, this time on the northern side and one level lower

The effect was "four times greater than on the previous occasion", said a mine spokesman

The area was immediately sealed off, making it

To Page 2

From Page 1

Gold Fields mine fire

impossible to determine the cause and exact location of the fire

About 10 percent of the 8 500 underground workforce reporting for yesterday's morning shift had to be deployed elsewhere

Mr Spencer said the next step was to seal off large parts of the mine with four 5-m thick walls to smother the second fire, but this meant the closure of about 20 percent of the mine's production capacity

"We will then flood the area if the fire is still burning. In all we can expect a disruption in production of at least three weeks and although it is difficult to estimate the final costs in damage and lost earnings at this early stage, it will almost certainly be in excess of R12 or R15 million"

□ The National Union of Mineworkers has declared a formal dispute with Gold Fields over wages. Although the union has been given facilities to hold strike ballots at three Gold Fields gold mines, the company declined such facilities at East Driefontein, Kloof, Doornfontein and Venterspost.

Firefighters battle gold mine blaze

2/2 DO 2/11/86

JOHANNESBURG — Firefighters are still battling to stop a blaze 2,5 km underground at Gold Fields Kloof Gold Mine on the West Rand, which has put 20 per cent of the mine out of production, a Kloof spokesman said yesterday

Losses are expected to run into tens-of-millions of rands

The management has reported evidence of arson in one of two working places affected by fires since Monday evening, said a Gold Fields' spokesman, Mr Attie Roets. There is a strong possibility that arsonists started the second fire.

There is evidence that two timber support packs had been deliberately set alight by means

of ignitor cord placed in the timber and connected to the face charged up for blasting at the end of the day shift, reports a Daily Dispatch Johannesburg correspondent

A fire patrol raised the alarm and the fire was extinguished

Based on the mine's high average grade of about 15g a ton, and a 20 per cent cutback in production, production losses could run at more than R600 000 a day, the correspondent reports

Mr Roets said there was a cutback in production as a result of having to seal off large parts of the mine to smother the second fire

No injuries have been reported although proto

teams are working close to the sealed off area

Mr Roets said that on Monday evening a fire patrol detected smoke and reaction from gas detectors in the 67 long-wall of the southernmost working area of Kloof's main shaft system

"Because of management's concern about the possibility of another attempt by an arsonist or arsonists, senior mine officials worked special shifts" He said at 7 pm on Wednesday night "smoke was again detected coming from the same long-wall, but this time on the northern side and one level lower. The effect was four times greater

"This area was immediately sealed off, making it impossible to determine the cause and exact location of the fire"

Yesterday the fire was still raging on the 29th level

Kloof was one of several Gold Fields mines affected by wildcat wage strikes by up to 35 000 mineworkers last month

Gold mine fumes kill three

JOHANNESBURG—Three miners at the Stilfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal died after being overcome by fumes underground early yesterday, the mine's owners, Gencor, said in a statement here

Gencor said investigations were proceeding 'to obtain more details' and a further announcement would be made later

Earlier this year 177 miners died when they were overcome by fumes from an underground fire at Gencor's Kinross gold mine in the Eastern Transvaal — South Africa's worst gold mine disaster

Meanwhile the fire 2,5 km underground at Gold Field's Kloof mine on the West Rand was still burning, a company spokesman, Mr Attie Roets, said last night — (Sapa)

N/14
22/11/76
212

3 die in third
mine fire *22/11/86*

JOHANNESBURG —
Three men died yesterday in the third underground goldmine fire this week, a mine official said

Gencor spokesman Mr Harry Hill said the men were killed by fumes from a fire in the Stillfontein gold mine about 160 km south-west of Johannesburg, near Klerksdorp. No other details were available.

Yesterday engineers at the Kloof gold mine, owned by the Gold Fields group, continued to build concrete dykes almost 3 200 metres underground and planned to flood a fire that began on Wednesday.

An official said mine owners suspected sabotage. A fire in the same mine on Monday was set deliberately — UPI

Rockburst miners recovering

Argus 25/11/86
The Argus Correspondent

212

JOHANNESBURG — Eleven miners are today recovering in hospital after a rockburst at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine on the West Rand, said a company spokesman

The employees were injured in a rockburst at midday yesterday at the 70th level of the No 8 shaft, said the spokesman. The injured are in a satisfactory condition in the mine's hospital

"An inquiry into the accident is be-

ing held by management," he said

This is the second time tragedy has struck the mine in a few days

In a weekend of violence 13 people were killed and at least 20 injured, four seriously, over a boycott of the No 1 shaft beer tavern

As a result, 5 000 workers at the shaft refused to work yesterday

Last night, 90 percent of the work force reported for duty and today absenteeism was back to normal levels, said the spokesman

Cape Times 25/11/81 (212)
11 miners hurt in rockburst

JOHANNESBURG — Eleven mine workers were injured in a rockburst at midday at the 70th level of Vaal Reefs no 8 shaft, an Anglo American Corporation spokesman, Mr John Kingsley-Jones, said last night

“Following normal procedures, an inquiry into the accident is being held by mine management,” he said

No further details were available — Sapa

□ **11 miners killed in clashes, page 15**

hospital

CME Times 26/11/80

(212)

Mine fire fight goes on

JOHANNESBURG — Proto teams yesterday continued attempts to seal off a fire 2300m underground at Gold Fields's Kloof gold mine near Westonaria on the West Rand, a spokesman for the company said. Workers were still putting in concrete plugs to seal off the area and predictions that workers could begin pumping water at the 31 level by Friday appeared on target, he said.

THELMA TUCH

MANAGEMENT at the Gencor-owned Matla colliery, near Kriel, discharged 128 workers on Saturday for striking last Tuesday

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) plans to fight the dismissals in the Industrial Court

The workers were among 2 000 who staged the stoppage in protest against relations between their union and Kinross Gold Mine management. Matla management barred 2 000 from returning to work, pending indi-

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11/12/88
BUSINESS DAY
1/12/88

Coal workers dismissed over strike action

vidual disciplinary hearings which were completed on Friday

Gencor coal-division CEO Graham Thompson said 128 workers, as a result of the hearings, were discharged for failing to obey an instruction which was reasonable and in no way

constituted a danger to them

They already had disciplinary warnings on their records, he said

The remaining workers had been given final warnings not to absent themselves from work. Despite the dismissal of their colleagues, they are expected to return to work today

NUM Press officer Marcel Golding said the NUM would ask the Industrial Court to rule that Gencor was guilty of an unfair labour practice by selectively discharging workers

● Matla was one of three Gencor mines affected by strike action last week over the situation at Kinross

BUSINESS DAY, I

New NUM report links gold mines' safety records with company profits

By Mike Siluma

In the wake of several accidents, some fatal, that have plagued several South African gold mines in recent months, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has released a new report into accident statistics and has expressed disquiet at the situation.

The report says that between 1980 and 1984, 3 031 died on South African mines, an average of about 600 a year.

Researchers studied accident rates at mines belonging to six South African companies, as well as their profits per worker.

The companies are JCI, Anglo American, Gencor, Gold Fields, Rand Mines and Anglovaal.

According to the report, Gold Fields, with

the highest profit per worker (R20 150), had the highest fatality rate of 1,43 per 1 000 workers

This is followed by Anglo American with a fatality rate of 1,30 (R12 470 profits per worker), Rand Mines 1,23 (R5 510 profits), Gencor 1,22 (R9 440), Anglovaal 1,09 (R10 030) and JCI 1,08 (R9 310).

NUM safety officer Mr Hazzy Sibanyoni repeated his union's stance that the international safety-rating system used in South Africa was far less than adequate.

In the light of the above information, it was clear, he said, that "the belief that the international safety-rating system is a solution is devoid of truth".

A case in point, Mr Sibanyoni said, was Rand Mines' ERPM gold mine. ERPM had

recently been awarded a five-star rating "despite the fact that last year more than 54 workers died on the mine and that the mine had a fatality rate of 2,01 between 1980 and 1984".

"The other irony is that Gold Fields made the highest profits per worker between 1980 and 1984 (yet) it had the worst accident record

"It is only through the involvement of workers in matters affecting safety that there will be a decline in the number of accidents. It is time that more money is spent in making the mines safer, than on security, as Gold Fields is doing."

Major accidents in recent months include the one that claimed 177 lives at Gencor's Kinross Gold Mine.

Mine safety 'not related to profits'

N/M 4/12/86 (SAPA) 2/2

JOHANNESBURG—The Chamber of Mines has rejected a suggestion by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) that accident rates on South African mines were related to profits

A spokesman for the chamber said there was no scientific basis to link accident rates with profits. They were unrelated.

He said the profitability of a gold mine was, for instance, largely determined by the grade of ore that was mined, while accidents, on the other hand, could be influenced by numerous factors including the geological strata of a mining area,

the depth of mining and human error.

While it was true that only richer ore bodies could be mined economically at great depth — thus providing a link between profitability and depth which, in turn, could impact on safety — it was illogical to compare profits and accident rates.

In reply to the reported criticism by the NUM of the International Safety Rating (ISR) system, the chamber spokesman said the NUM had 'consistently and deliberately ignored' the improved safety performance on South African mines since the introduction of

the system, which was a 'very effective' management tool.

The spokesman said the ISR system was not an end in itself but, as an organised way to focus on safety, was only a means to an end — improved safety on the mines.

In essence the system identified potential problem areas and set standards for the work to be done to remedy these. And, most important, it enabled the effectiveness of this work to be measured by means of audits or inspections.

Progress towards greater safety on mines through the ISR system was therefore dependent on the efforts of both management and the workers themselves.

In the light of these facts concerning the ISR system,

it was 'misleading merely to suggest, as the NUM has done, that a mine which has been awarded a five-star grading in terms of the system should have a 100% safety record', the spokesman said.

What the ISR system had done was to contribute to a dramatic reduction in accidents over the past few years, he added.

A 42% reduction in the fatality rate had been recorded on the chamber's member mines from 1978 to the middle of this year.

The chamber also believed that the latest round of illegal stoppages and unrest on some mines was having a negative effect on safety and 'the NUM must take responsibility for this disturbing state of affairs', he said. — (Sapa)

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RUSDAY
4/12/86

'No basis' for safety-profit link on mines

ALAN FINE

THE Chamber of Mines has rejected attacks by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on the industry's safety record and its International Safety Rating (ISR) system.

It was apparently reacting to allegations last week by NUM safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni, who linked accident rates to profits.

A chamber spokesman said yesterday there was "no scientific basis whatsoever" for this link. He said profitability was largely determined by the grade of ore mined.

Accidents "could be influenced by numerous factors including the geological strata of a mining area, the depth of mining and human error".

The spokesman accused the NUM of "consistently and deliberately" ignoring the improved safety performance on SA mines since the introduction of the ISR system.

He said the system was not an end in itself but an organised way of focusing on safety. He pointed to a 42% drop in the fatalities on chamber mines from 1978 to mid-1986.

"Regrettably, these achievements have been overshadowed by the Kinross disaster which would naturally distort the industry's safety figures for the second half of this year," the spokesman said.

Vaal Reefs death toll rises to 33

By Sheryl Raine

Thirty-three mineworkers have been killed and at least 92 injured at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney on the West Rand in the past two weeks.

Trouble started at the mine, which employs about 47,000 people, on the weekend of November 22 when 13 men were killed and 20 injured. Fighting began when certain parties, among them members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), tried to enforce a boycott of the No 1 shaft beer tavern. Eight of those killed were NUM members.

Situation tense

Violence erupted again this weekend claiming a total of 20 lives and injuries to at least 72 people. Although calm had returned to the mine by last night, the situation remains tense, according to an Anglo spokesman.

In the latest violence, 10 people were killed and 51 injured in "faction fighting" with home-made weapons at the No 2 shaft hostel on Friday night.

Despite efforts by mine security per-

sonnel to keep the factions apart, fighting began again on Saturday night. Another 10 people were killed and 21 injured. This time the fighting took place predominantly at the No 1 shaft hostel but also spilled over to the No 2 shaft hostel.

None of the injured admitted to the mine's hospital was in a critical condition, the company spokesman said.

Anglo American says the cause of the fighting is not yet known and management is acting as an intermediary between the two factions. Police are investigating but have not been involved in restoring calm to the mine.

The factions were divided along tribal lines, Anglo spokesman Mr Marcus Golding said.

"Management is holding discussions with leaders of the two groups involved in an urgent attempt to find out the cause of their actions and to resolve their differences," said the spokesman.

Asked whether the latest violence was linked to the earlier beer tavern boycott, the spokesman said "It may be linked but it is too early to tell. Once fighting started two weeks ago and 13 people died, a revenge mentality set in. It is thought the latest violence was sparked by a desire to get even."

Asked whether Vaal Reefs had experienced a particularly violent year, the spokesman said "No."

However, records kept by The Star show that Vaal Reefs has in fact experienced several wild-cat strikes and a number of outbreaks of violence.

The worst outbreak of violence occurred in March this year.

In less than a week, between March 11 and March 17, 10 men were killed and 91 injured in faction fighting at the mine.

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8/12/86

MINING

First black mining engineer graduates

9/12/88
BUDDAY
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THE first black mining engineer graduates from Wits University tonight, but government legislation will prohibit him from working as a miner in SA.

The Scheduled Person definition in the Mines and Works Act will block graduate Patrick Rangwetsi from obtaining a blasting certificate — a pre-requisite for entry to mine management.

The discriminatory clause, which prevents advancement to skilled jobs, is expected to be removed early next year. However, until the definition is scrapped, Rangwetsi will have to undergo training at one of the homeland mines of his employer, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI).

JCI director Jeremy Nel said "The scheduled person's clause was not a problem in terms of Rangwetsi getting his degree. But we were constantly aware that it would raise its head once he had graduated."

JCI sponsored Rangwetsi's education after spotting his "obvious potential"

CHERYLYN IRETON

during training courses at Rustenburg Platinum mines, where he was employed for a number of years.

His practical postgraduate training will take place at either JCI's Atok mine or one of its Bophutatswana mines.

Graduating along with Rangwetsi are the first four black candidates for BSc (Engineering) degrees in metallurgy, materials and surveying.

Another pioneer is Gavin Foley, who will become the first Wits graduate to obtain a BSc (Eng) degree in mine surveying.

At the ceremony, Professor Desmond Midgley, SA's leading authority on hydrology and water resources, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Engineering.

In all, the engineering faculty will confer 148 degrees, 42 higher degrees and 54 postgraduate diplomas.

2 15pm today

CAAC Trits 11/12/86 212

Three miners killed

JOHANNESBURG — Three miners were killed in a pressure burst at the ERPM gold mine in Boksburg yesterday morning, a mine statement said. The burst 3 000m underground took place on the 79th level of the south-east vertical section. The names of the dead have not yet been released.

of abduction, the speaker

CAPE TIMES 11/12/86

212 Mine fights: 5 die

213 Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A spokesman for the Gold Fields group has announced the death of five people and the hospitalization of another 12 after a faction fighting at its Kloof gold mine.

Two miners died in fighting "between Zulus, Xhosas and Pondos" in the hostel late on Tuesday night

□ Three black miners were killed in a pressure burst at the ERPM gold mine in Boksburg yesterday morning, according to a mine statement.

Govt 'courting confrontation'

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STAR
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By Mike Siluma

The National Union of Mineworkers today warned the Government that by deporting two of the union's senior leaders, it was courting confrontation with the NUM and the broader union movement.

The two officials served with deportation orders to the Transkei were, according to the NUM, Mr M Manyosi, employed by Anglo American and Mr M Phato, who works for Gold Fields' West Driefontein Gold Mine. Mr Phato is the union's Western Transvaal regional chairman and a member of the national executive committee.

NUM spokesman Mr Marcel Golding said the two men have been in emergency detention since June, with no charges brought against them.

He said the deportations were part of a general attack against the trade union movement, which included the deportation of Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) branch secretary Mrs Chris Bonner.

The orders were issued by the office of the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha, said the union.

"Through these attacks, the State is clearly looking for a confrontation with the NUM and the broader trade union movement," Mr Golding said.

"We do not recognise the bantustan system — a creation of apartheid which has led to thousands of people being stripped of their South African citizenship — and will not accept the State's arbitrary decision to deport our members."

Meanwhile, the CWIU reported that up to 6 000 workers in Natal and the Transvaal engaged in industrial action in protest against the impending deportation of Mrs Bonner.

A union spokesman said after a meeting which ended late last night that of about 25 chemical industry employers, 13 undertook to make representations to Mr Botha. The rest would make their decision known today.

Dr Bonner is attached to the history department at Wits University.

SOB (21)
27/12/86

Ninth miner dies

A mine worker died in hospital today, the Anglo American Corporation has announced

This brings the deaths in recent faction fighting at the President Steyn gold mine to nine

A spokesman said on Wednesday that eight mine workers had died and 37 were injured in the fighting — Sapa

MINING — ACCIDENTS

1987

JANUARY — DECEMBER

NUM retaliates after Anglo advert on mine violence

By Sheryl Raine

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) today hit back, in a full-page newspaper advertisement, at Anglo American's criticism of the union and the company's views on recent mine violence.

Earlier, Anglo American placed advertisements in newspapers noting "disturbing trends" in NUM's behaviour and announced that fighting on two mines had resulted in 62 deaths. Anglo said an inquiry was determining the causes of the violence.

Anglo criticised NUM for failing to adhere to established procedures and channels for conflict resolution.

In an advert in a weekly paper today, NUM said that while Anglo had not stated that the union's behaviour had caused the violence, it had suggested that the violence had been aggravated by the union.

NUM said the conflict was rooted in the "institutions of oppression and exploitation" existing in the mining industry.

"The hostel system, migrant labour and induna system were pioneered at the turn of the century by the mine owners to ensure maximum exploitation and control over all aspects of mine-workers' lives.

BRUTAL SYSTEM

"It is from this brutal and draconian system that Anglo has benefited. Over time these structures have been refined but kept intact."

Although Anglo had acknowledged some of the causes of tension on the mines, it was not prepared to remove these "archaic structures"

"It (Anglo) wants to publicly articulate its liberal views and distance itself from the deaths and violence, when the very causes of the problems emanate from the institutions it has created," said NUM.

Anglo had refused to implement union proposals to remove the sources of conflict. Only once these institutions had been dismantled could industrial relations on mines be regularised.

Six died in accidents on two mines

By Mike Siluma

Six workers died in the past three weeks in accidents at two mines owned by Anglo American, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) disclosed yesterday.

NUM spokesman Mr Marcel Golding said two workers died in the Elandsrand gold mine, near Carletonville, in a 2 000 m fall down a shaft when a small cage was involved in an accident.

An inquiry is planned for Monday.

Mr Golding said four workers died on December 17 during a fall of ground in Number 2 shaft at the Western Deep Levels gold mine, near Carletonville.

An inquiry into the deaths was held on Tuesday.

An Anglo American spokesman confirmed the deaths.

The company gave the names of those killed at Western Deep Levels as: Mr Mncedisi Mbanga (26) from Mount Frere, Transkei; Mr Elijah Mbilli (27) from Ezingolweni, kwaZulu; Mr Gaetabolwe Tshiamiso (37) from Botswana; and Mr Maswane Nkanyana (31) from Indwe in the Cape.

Those killed at Elandsrand were Mr Njengam Mboneni (41) from Transkei and Mr Zacharius Mabessa (57) from Mozambique.

R1bn bill for safety in mining



Self-rescue device being tested in a coal mine

Picture by courtesy of the Chamber of Mines

BECAUSE of several disasters last year, the mining industry will be forced by law to spend an additional R1-billion on safety in the next four years

The first major blow to the pockets of the mining houses came in amended safety regulations last October

These require all underground miners to wear life-support systems on their belts. There are 500 000 miners in SA. The self-rescuers cost R1 000 each, so the mines face a R500-million bill for them alone

High risk

The life-support systems will have to be worn at all times, be ready for instant use and contain sufficient oxygen to keep a miner alive for about 30 minutes

All underground mines will have to provide refuge bays or safe places within walking distance of men using the life-support systems. Mines will have to build refuge bays every two kilometres

The refuge bays must be large enough to accommodate all workers

By Don Robertson

in the area and be equipped with air, water and first-aid equipment. The refuge bays must be impervious to noxious gases and have communications with the surface

The bays will have to be provided with larger, longer-lasting rescue systems for about two-thirds of the workers to enable them to move to surface or a safer place. The large units will cost about R2 000 each

A billion rands of expenditure will increase costs. Mine costs were estimated at R8-billion in 1986

It is estimated that it will take four years for the mines to implement all the new safety measures

Don Morris, deputy Government Mining Engineer (GME), says new safety standards will be introduced to as many high-risk mines as possible this year

He says the cost could be as high as R1-billion, spread over about four years

Three in running

Three companies are vying for the lucrative business of supplying life-support systems — Premier Group's Protective Mining & Industrial

Equipment Systems, US-owned MSA Africa and Cemtec

Only two of their self-rescue systems have been approved by the GME. These are the German-designed Dräger unit called the Oxyboks K, which is distributed by PMIE, and a unit from MSA Africa. PMIE will test a compressed oxygen unit in February

The French-designed Fenzy unit distributed by Cemtec will undergo trials in February

All self-rescuers are imported, but PMIE is investigating the possibility of making Oxyboks under licence. It is almost certain that most models will have to be modified to meet difficult gold-mine conditions

Obstacle

Reaction from the mining industry has been cautious

A week after the promulgation of the regulations last October, the Chamber of Mines said "A major obstacle to the introduction of self-rescuers is the absence of any unit here or overseas which is practical to wear on the body while working and will also provide a self-contained life support system"

"Existing self-rescuers in use overseas are of the filter type and

not able to provide life support in the event of oxygen deficiency, a common occurrence in large explosions and fires"

The chamber embarked on a R400 000 research programme with manufacturers and suppliers, but only three systems had been found to be suitable

The chamber says progress towards the introduction of self-rescuers on coal mines is at an advanced stage, but more research is needed for gold mines. The chamber hopes this will lead to success in the short to medium term

Time-table

Since November, however, two self-rescue systems have been approved by the GME

No specific time-table has been set for the introduction of the safety measures, first mooted in 1984. However, the GME may instruct a mine to introduce all or some of the safety measures contained in the new regulations

Mr Morris says the GME has asked mining groups to submit programmes for introduction of the measures, but high-risk mines will be asked to introduce at least some of the measures this year

T&I Ivor's fortune soars

RAND Merchant Bank Business Times Reporter
is to take control of

SMALLER COMPANY MANAGEMENT

29 January - 21 February 1987

Two more miners killed in the OFS

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Some Jan
28/1/87

TWO more mineworkers have died at the President Steyn Gold Mine in Welkom — one in an underground "incident" and the other after being stabbed. Anglo American Corporation announced yesterday.

A miner was killed and 12 others slightly injured on Monday in a faction clash between Xhosa's and the Basotho at the No 2 shaft hostel

Incident

Announcing the two deaths yesterday Anglo said "President Steyn management regret to announce that, following an underground incident on Monday morning one employee died and that a second employee was killed in a separate stabbing incident today"

Meanwhile, management is meeting Lesotho and Xhosa delegations and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in an attempt to settle differences between those who were involved in faction fighting on Sunday night — Sapa.

The spokesman said no details about the meeting would be disclosed

Can. Times 7/2/87

3 miners die in rockfall

JOHANNESBURG — Three miners died and three were injured in a rockfall at Western Deep Levels gold mine number 3 shaft yesterday morning, an Anglo American spokesman said. The injured are in a satisfactory condition.

ARGUS 5/3/87 212

IS still hearing

Kinross disaster homicide charges

The Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA. — A director of the Kinross mine, Mr Hugh Smith, another Kinross employee and the mine itself are to face charges of culpable homicide following the disaster in which 177 mineworkers died last year, said a spokesman for the Attorney-General's office.

The spokesman said Mr Smith, Mr Ignatius Olivier and the Kinross gold mine would be tried in Witbank Regional Court probably in May or June.

They also face alternative charges related to alleged contraventions of the Mines and Works Act.

Four other Kinross employ-

ees will also be charged with allegedly contravening the regulations.

Most of the 177 miners died after inhaling toxic fumes from polyurethane foam which caught alight underground, said experts employed by the National Union of Mineworkers and the mining group Gencor.

Constable puts marathon man on the wrong track

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — Marathon runner Gregor Booth was certain to win his latest race until he asked a police officer the way.

For a woman constable sent him up a cul-de-sac and, by the time he got back on course, his closest rival was crossing the finishing line

Gregor, 24, finished the mini-marathon in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, about a minute and a half be-

CAPIT. TIMES 5/3/87 (212)

Charges after Kinross disaster

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Kinross gold mine and two individuals will face charges of culpable homicide arising from the disaster in which 177 miners died last September, Transvaal Attorney-General Mr Donald Brunette said yesterday

The two are Kinross director Mr Hugh Smith and mine employee Mr Ignatius Olivier. The case will be heard in Witbank Regional Court on a date still to be decided

Mr Brunette said he did not expect the hearing to begin before May or June

The three main accused also face alternative charges relating to contraventions of Mines and Works Act safety regulations

Four more Kinross employees would be charged with contravening the regulations

Mr Brunette said the 14-page indictment was served "a few days ago". However, a Gencor spokesman was unaware of the step last night

NEWS SOUTH AFRICA

ONE of South Africa's worst mine disasters

— in which 177 people were killed at Kintross Gold Mine last September — was this week recalled in Pretoria when Transvaal Attorney-General Donald Brunette said the mine, its director Hugh Smith, and junior employee Ignatius Olivier would soon appear in court charged with the deaths of the miners.

The three accused expected to appear in the Witbank Regional Court in May or June will face charges of culpable homicide or alternative charges relating to contraventions of the Mines and Works Act safety regulations.

Four other mine employees are to be charged with contravening the safety regulations.

Special reports REVELATION NTOULA

The attorney general said he had served a 14 page indictment on the accused and that the decision to prosecute obviated the need for an official inquiry into the disaster in terms of the Mines and Works Act.

However, the National Union of Mineworkers this week expressed reservations about the possible effects of the prosecution. The union fears that should the three plead guilty details of the accident would not become public and the facts of the tragedy would never be known to the public.

Reacting to NUM's fears, Brunette said evidence would be led in an open court. The accused would also have to make certain admissions in court.

Necklace accused helps his fiancée, Noekie Grobbelaar, down the stairs of the Pretoria Supreme Court

By SOL MORARHI

GEORGE Burt, a 33 year-old Pretoria man accused of necklacing a black police sergeant, stood unflinching and seldom blinked during cross-examination in the Pretoria Supreme Court this week.

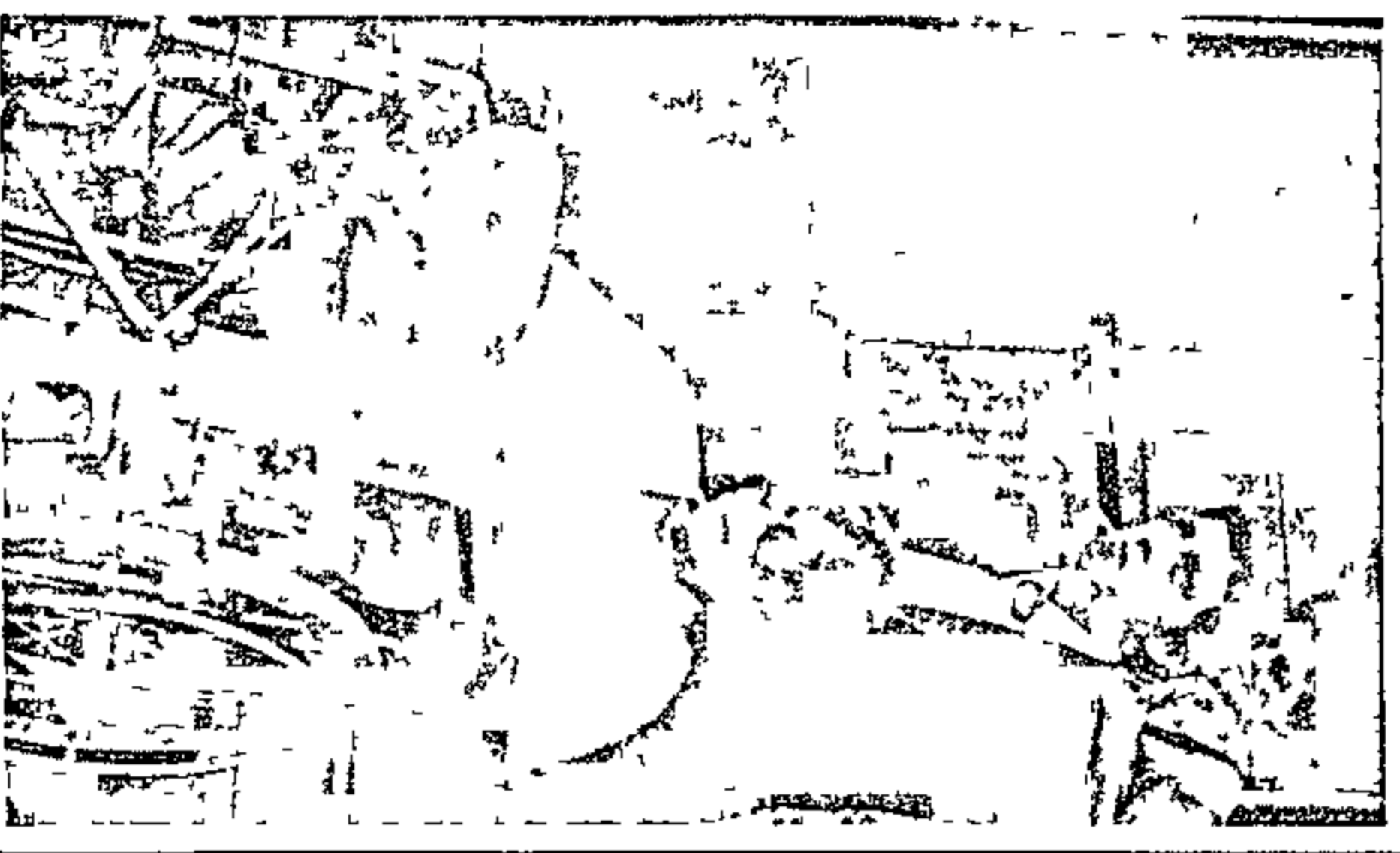
His fiancée, Noekie Grobbelaar, and parents looked noticeably worried and pale as Burt answered questions.

Burt has pleaded not guilty to stabbing and necklacing Sergeant Johannes Burt Ndumande on June 6 last year.

He submitted that he had given Ndumande a lift after drinking beer at a civil defence meeting and had later gone to see Roger North, an acquaintance and also an alleged accomplice.

Burt said he had gone to see North in connection with an appointment that North had failed to keep.

North had told the police in a statement that



Necklace accused Henry Burt helps his fiancée, Noekie Grobbelaar, down the stairs of the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Burt came to him carrying Ndumande's body. He told him that he had killed Ndumande and wanted North to assist him to burn the body.

North has since left the country.

Burt who told the court that he was assaulting Ndumande's body during interrogation has denied that his car seats had blood stains of the same group as Ndumande's.

The case has been postponed to March 24.

Details of the charges and the specific acts of negligence which the State will allege are not yet available but the Kintross disaster made headlines in the media and sparked a war of words between NUM, the country's largest trade union and Gencor owner of the Eastern Transvaal mine over general safety matters on the mine with the union demanding worker control of safety matters on the mine.

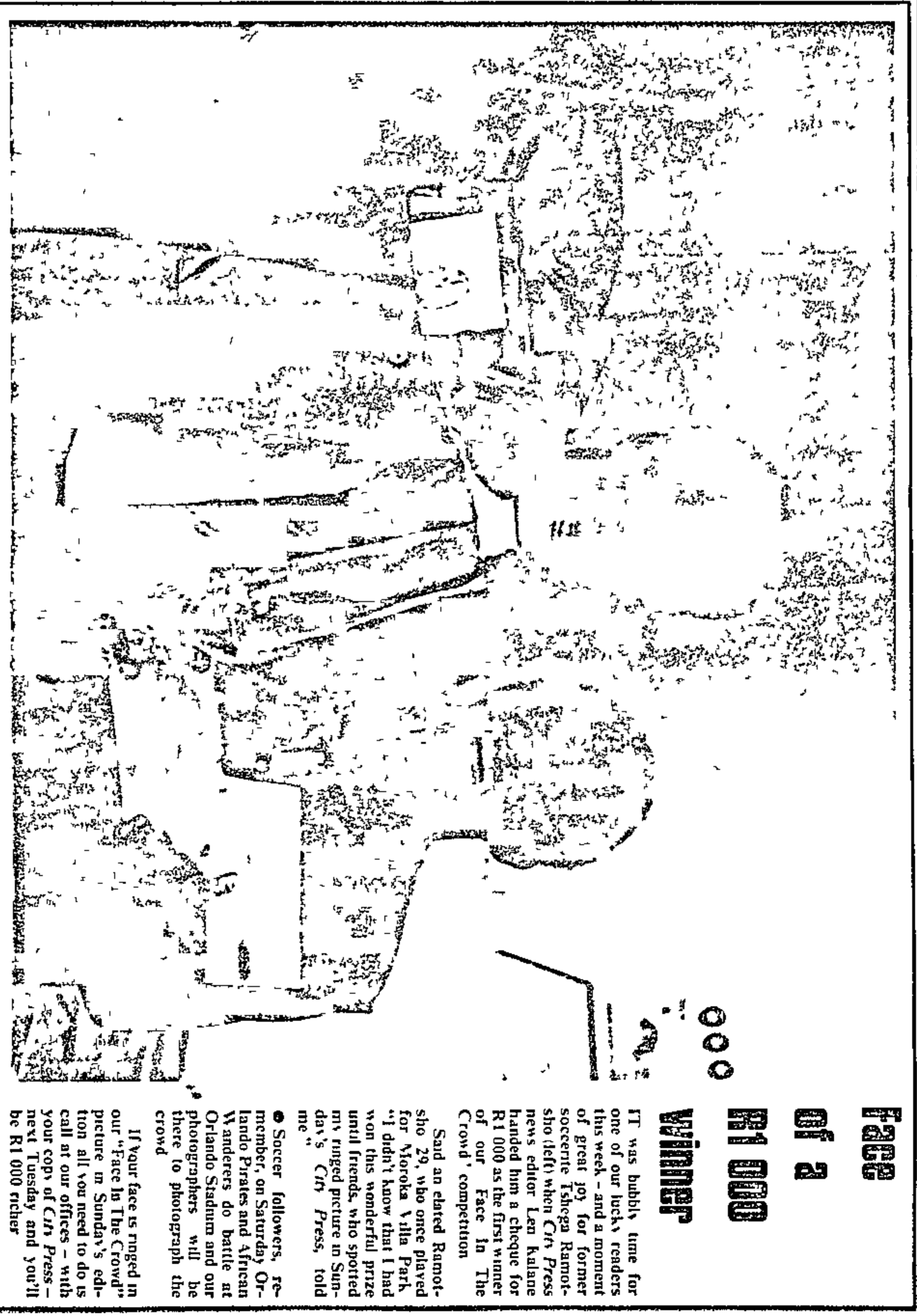
Subsequent investigations into the tragedy which killed 172 black miners and five whites a kilometer underground, revealed that the mine had made use of a highly toxic and inflammable material banned in British mines 20 years ago and in American mines five years ago.

Furthermore, when the mine used the unsafe material it did not heed recommendations from the manufacturers and an American testing authority regarding its application.

The irony of the disaster was that the deadly foam that killed the 177 miners was there to protect and to stop fires. Instead it caught alight and gave off toxic fumes.

In the event of Gencor being found guilty, the mining house is certain to face huge damage claims from the families of the victims.

NUM spokesman Marcel Golding said he could not comment on possible action after the case. However, he said that NUM would work closely with families of the victims once the court had given its verdict.



**FREE
OF 2
R1 000
winner**

IT was bubbly time for one of our lucky readers this week — and a moment of great joy for former soccerite Ishiga Ramotsho (left) when City Press news editor Len Kalane handed him a cheque for R1 000 as the first winner of our Face in The Crowd competition.

Said an elated Ramotsho 29, who once played for Moroka Villa Park: "I didn't know that I had won this wonderful prize until friends, who spotted my ringed picture in Sunday's City Press, told me."

● Soccer followers, remember, on Saturday Orlando Pirates and African Wanderers do battle at Orlando Stadium and our photographers will be there to photograph the crowd.

If your face is ringed in our "Face in The Crowd" picture in Sunday's edition all you need to do is call at our offices — with your copy of City Press — next Tuesday and you'll be R1 000 richer.

JUST DO IT EYE

By MARTIN NTSOLENGOE

AZANIAN People's Organisation president Patrick Pogo Molala this week brought a R50 000 return to the Law and Order and Defence Ministers following an alleged assault by security forces last year.

Molala lost an eye when a teargas canister exploded in his face during a stampede at the funeral of White City shooting victims at Soweto's Avlon cemetery.

Molala's lawyers served papers in the Rand Supreme Court after the Law and Order and Defence Ministers failed to reply to letters of

**The Greatest Name
In Cigarettes**

10/3/87
B/Dev (212) (A)

NUM urges inquiry into Kinross disaster

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) yesterday called for a Mines and Works Act inquiry into last September's Kinross disaster.

The Attorney-General said last week the mine and certain employees would face culpable homicide and other charges arising from the accident and that this obviated the need for an inquiry.

NUM health and safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni said the union "accepts that the criminal prosecution is the forum for determining the guilt or otherwise of the mine's management".

"But there are wider safety issues involved in the Kinross accident that

ALAN FINE

need to be canvassed and debated in a public forum."

□ Gencor has placed an advertisement saying that no formal charges relating to the Kinross accident have been served yet and that only draft charge sheets have been sent to the company's legal representatives and to other parties who might be charged.

It says the name of H A Smith, a director of the company, was listed in the draft documents purely as a nominee of the company. Smith will be retiring soon and the A-G has agreed to substitute another nominee.

will broadcast the finals on both evenings.

CAPL TIMS 2/10/87 **212**

Mine rockburst kills 3

JOHANNESBURG — Three employees died and another three were injured in a rockburst at Anglo American's Western Deep Mine on Tuesday. An Anglo spokesman said the accident happened at 10am on the 78 level of the mine's No 1 and is being investigated by the government mining engineer. Two of the injured had been treated and discharged from the mine's hospital. The third employee had been hospitalized and his condition was satisfactory.

~~APR 21/1987~~
Two miners ^{2/2}
critical after
gas explosion

JOHANNESBURG — Five of the 16 miners injured in yesterday's methane gas explosion at Bosjesspruit Colliery near Secunda in the Eastern Transvaal have been taken to private hospitals in Johannesburg, says a Sasol spokesman

Two of the five were in a critical condition and three were serious

The remaining 11 injured miners were in the mine hospital

Mr Peter Cox, general manager responsible for collieries and personnel, who was on the scene immediately after the incident, said the explosion was in a secondary area 180m underground and 6,5km from the shaft

The exact cause of the explosion was not known, but the mine inspectorate had already visited the scene, said Mr Cox.

— The Argus Correspondent and Sapa

News in Brief

Cart 11/15 9/4/87
Miners hurt in gas blast 2/2

JOHANNESBURG — Sixteen miners were injured — three badly — in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Bosjesspruit Secunda colliery in the Eastern Transvaal at midday yesterday. A Sasol spokesman said the cause of the blast was not yet known.

17/11/87

TO ADVERTISE ON THIS

Protest strike at detention of miners in T'kei

Dispatch Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — About 1 500 members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) employed at Anglo American's New Denmark colliery in the south eastern Transvaal have been on strike since Tuesday, a union statement said

The NUM said yesterday they were protesting against the detention of 75 colleagues in Transkei. The 75 had travelled by bus to Transkei at the weekend to a colleague's funeral

Workers at New Denmark believed management had acted in collusion with the Transkeian authorities because after management had received the news of the detentions it refused to inform workers of the incident, the NUM said

Workers were now demanding that management put pressure on the Transkeian authorities to release their colleagues

An Anglo spokesman last night denied any collusion in the arrests. He said management had received unconfirmed reports of arrests on Monday from the local recruiting agents

Anglo had been in contact with the Transkeian authorities and had expressed its concern, but the authorities had not yet confirmed or

denied the arrests. "Management has informed the workforce of its position and expressed concern for the safety and whereabouts of the employees and hopes for an early return to work," he said

● The chief of the Transkei Security Police, General L Kawe, could not be contacted for comment last night

Free should all

Dispatch Reporter

KOMGA — It was imperative that the free enterprise system be made to work for all South Africans, the NRP/FPF alliance candidate for King William's Town, Mr Pat Rogers, said here last night

Mr Rogers told some 35 people in the town hall that the economic situation in South Africa was more critical than the constitutional situation

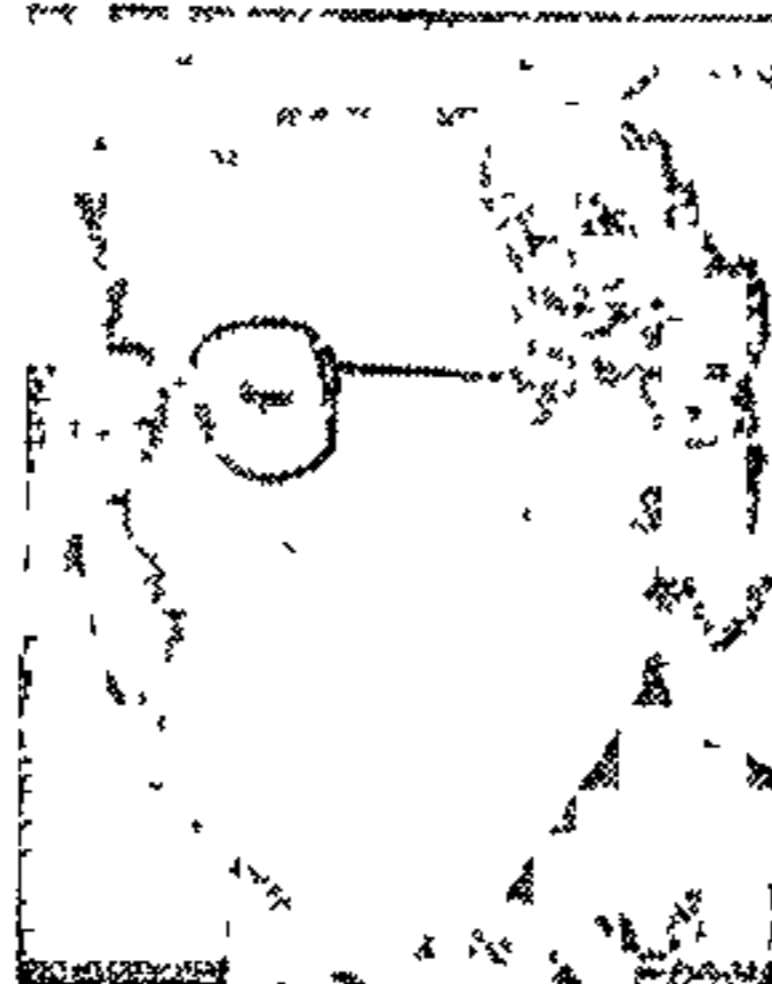
The constitutional situation had been created for South Africa, while the economic situation was created by South Africa

National Party policies had resulted in the country having a limited tax base where a minute proportion of the population shouldered most of the tax burden

The laws of the country did not allow all its citizens to participate in the economy to the full extent where taxpayers and entrepreneurs could get a better deal

"If you think of the boycotts and unrest I can see no reason why blacks should be con-

votes



DR VAN NIEKERK

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31 die in

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SMK
10/11/87

Mine gas explosion

Thirty-one miners were killed and 12 injured in a methane gas explosion which ripped through Ermelo Mines in the Eastern Transvaal at 6.30 last night.

The incident, the worst mine accident since the Kinross mine disaster last September and the second methane gas explosion this week, was announced by mine owners Trans-Natal Coal Corporation, a part of the Gencor group, this morning — nearly 12 hours after the accident occurred.

The names of three of the dead have been released. They are Mr Abel Erasmus (28) of 44 Dame van Heerden Street, Ermelo; Mr Petrus Pieterse (24) of 10 Jannie de Waal Street, Ermelo, and Mr Andre Veldsman.

The names of the other victims — all black miners — will be announced as soon as their next-of-kin have been notified.

Mr Pieterse is survived by his pregnant wife, Mr Erasmus by his wife and two children

Proto teams brought the last of the 31 bodies to the surface this morning

A spokesman for the Ermelo Provincial Hospital said 12 of the injured had been admitted, some in a serious condition

The spokesman would not give further details

Gencor spokesman Mr Harry Hill said the company had no more information on the accident and would release details as they became available.

In its initial statement Gencor said the dead had apparently been overcome by carbon monoxide fumes following a methane gas explosion about 110 m underground in the Falekopp area of the mine

Hospital

Mr Hill said ten people who received light injuries were taken to hospital

They were in a satisfactory condition. He could not confirm the hospital figure of 12 injured

The rest of the 700 night-shift employees returned to the surface safely

The mine, about 27 km from Ermelo, employs 2 500 workers. The cause of the explosion is unknown at this stage and is being investigated.

Last September, 177 miners were killed by an underground fire at the Kinross Gold Mine in the Eastern Transvaal, also owned by Gencor

JOHANNESBURG
EVANDER
BETHAL
ERMELO
31 DEAD
12 INJURED
SWAZILAND
MINE DISASTER

Ermelo tragedy was 2nd methane blast this week

By Susan Fleming

The accident at Ermelo Mines last night, which claimed 31 lives, is the second mining incident in three days involving a methane gas explosion

On Wednesday 16 people were injured in a methane gas blast at Sasol's Bosjespruit Colliery. No reason has yet been given for this incident.

The Ermelo accident is the most serious in the coal mine industry since 1983, when 68 people died at Hlobane Colliery after an explosion caused by methane gas.

An inquest found the owners of the Hlobane Colliery, Iscor, criminally responsible for the deaths.

The Ermelo miners apparently died after they were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes following the explosion.

The presence of methane gas has always plagued the mining industry, especially coal mining operations

The gas seeps out of the exposed coal underground and because it is odourless and colourless it is difficult to detect. It is also highly inflammable.

Other incidents on the country's worst mining disasters list include:

● The Kinross mining disaster on September 16 last year in which 177 miners lost their lives. Poisonous polyurethane foam was involved in that accident

● At the Vaal Reefs mine in 1980 31 people died when a lift cage fell.

● At the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine in 1978 41 died in an underground fire

● The Clydesdale Colliery, near Coalbrook, is where the worst mining disaster in this country took place. In 1960 435 miners were buried alive when the mine collapsed

● At the Middelbult Colliery at Secunda on August 12 1985, 30 miners were killed after a methane gas explosion.

● In 1928 ERPM Gold Mine lost 50 miners

But, as a whole the South African mining industry has an improving safety record. Deaths in the coal-mining sector fell from 0,43 for every 1 000 employees in 1985, to 0,33 for every 1 000 employees in 1986. The industry has set itself a target this year of 0,25 for every 1 000 men.

boarders at Colana from been brewing at the Methodist church.

Detention of 75 miners confirmed by general

Dispatch Reporter

UMTATA — The head of the Transkei Security Police, General Leonard Kawe, confirmed yesterday that about 75 mine-workers from the Transvaal had been detained under the Public Security Act.

It was reported earlier that 1 500 workers at Anglo American's New Denmark colliery in the south-eastern Transvaal had gone on strike in protest at the detention of their fellow-workers.

Gen Kawe said the men had been detained because of their activities at the funeral of one of their colleagues at Mqanduli.

The funeral included speeches and songs and the actions of the mine-workers were felt to have been undermining the authority of the state, he said.

The men were arrested at a roadblock after the funeral. It was not known at the time that they were all mine-workers, but it would

have made no difference to their being detained, he added.

Gen Kawe said the men would not be held unnecessarily. Police were investigating the motives for their actions and if no charges were to be brought, they would be released immediately.

Sapa reports from Johannesburg that Anglo American yesterday expressed its "extreme concern" for the safety and whereabouts of the men.



INVERTED

Miners tell forbidden story

Miners at the Ermelo Mines, where methane gas exploded on Thursday night, killing 34 of their colleagues, told yesterday how they escaped 110 m underground

They said something like a storm filled the tunnels. The lights went out and men screamed

"We dropped everything we were doing and scrambled for the exits. Others fell on the way," said one miner

The miners gave interviews under anonymity after threats by mine security staff at the compound that action would be taken against them if they spoke to the Press. Pressmen were ordered not to interview the miners

"You will get everything from management. No worker is allowed to speak to you so long they are employed here,"

MUDINI MAIVHA (212)

said an official

Earlier, Pressmen were allowed to tour the shaft surface on condition they did not speak to surface workers or go to workshops

Miners said the explosion took place in Sections 3 and 18, which are next to each other.

Mr Abel Erasmus (28), Mr Petrus Pieterse (24) and Mr Andre Veldsman died while working in Section 3.

"I was in Section 14 when I saw smoke coming. Our shift boss told us there was something wrong and we should leave the place. All of us there escaped uninjured and re-surfaced at Tweefontein," a miner said

One in Section 3 said "We tried to drag

● To Page 2

Mine disaster

● From Page 1

along those overcome by the fumes, but when their bodies stiffened, we dropped them because they were becoming heavier as they died. There were screams all over. The lights went out and our lamps only shone as far as an arm's length."

"We ran into dead ends on several occasions and were forced to go back the way we came, where the fumes were coming from. There was a stampede," said a miner who was working in Section 10

On the surface they saw their colleagues brought up by rescue teams. Some were dead, others injured

"Some died on the way to the Bethal Hospital. We were taken there for treatment and were later released," another miner said.

By last night the afternoon shift had not gone underground.

Political comment by H W Tyson, posters by D Allen, headlines by D Legge, all of 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg

SMA 1/4/87

Ermele mourns its 34 mine deaths

By JOHANN VERSTER

ERMELLO was a sad town this week. A mining tragedy had taken the lives of 34 of its townsfolk

Thursday's explosion ripped through the coal mine's Tafelkop shaft, leaving 34 mineworkers dead and at least 12 seriously injured — 48 hours after a similar incident at Gencor's Secunda coal mine where no fatalities were reported. Officials at the mine — 27km from the town — told survivors of the methane gas explosion not to speak to reporters.

But in the local hospital seven survivors, including one man from Secunda, spoke of their ordeal.

"It felt like a tornado flying through the underground tunnels. The lights went out, followed by a loud bang," said one.

Burning

"Then came the burning in our throats — no oxygen, just the poisonous carbon-monoxide strangling us like a huge hand round the throat."

His group, including six colleagues hospitalised in Johannesburg in critical condition, escaped through the mine's Tweefontein shaft.

In the John Vorster Park suburb of the town Mrs Minette Erasmus, 34, widow of 28-year-old Abel Erasmus, was yesterday still heavily sedated.

On the doorstep Mr Erasmus's two children smiled for the photographer. For the blonde little girls, Nicolette, 5, and 14-month-old Deome, the Sunday Times man was just another friendly stranger. The death of their father had not yet sunk in.

Mrs Coriette Pieterse, the pregnant widow of another victim, 24-year-old Petrus, apparently left their Jannie de Waal Street home to stay with relatives.

And in the mine's single quarters the room of Andre Veldsman remained empty. He also did not return.

● By late yesterday the 31 black victims' names and addresses had not been released.

S/T
12/4/87

2/12

~~2/12~~

buildings were damaged. Picture. RICHARD BELL

Newsmen arrested at Ermelo's death mine

CAPE TOWN 13/4/87 Own Correspondent ~~212~~ 212

JOHANNESBURG. — Three journalists assigned to the Ermelo mine disaster on Friday were arrested and had their cameras and video equipment confiscated by police.

Those arrested were Visnews cameraman Mr Rob Celliers, his sound recorder Mr Dave Copeland and Reuters photo-journalist Ms Wendy Schwegmann.

All three have been summonsed to appear in the Ermelo Magistrate's Court on May 4.

Captain P E Meyer of the Ermelo police yesterday confirmed the arrests of the three.

He said they had been summonsed to appear in court to face charges of trespassing and of taking pictures of dead bodies before a post mortem.

The police alleged the three had photographed some of the 34 people killed in Thursday's mine disaster, after they had gained entry to a mortuary.

On their release, their cameras were returned, but police refused to return the TV crew's video cassettes and other video equipment.

By yesterday the equipment had still not been returned.

PHASES OF THE MOON

Full Moon, April 14
Last Quarter, April 21
New Moon, April 28
First Quarter, May 6

POOL, SEA TEMPERATURES

Muizenberg. Pool 19, Sea 21
Sea Point Pool 20, Sea 12
Newlands: 22
Long Street. 24
Coastal belt Cape Infanta to Plettenberg Bay Fine and mild apart from morning fog patches.
Coastal belt Plettenberg Bay to Port Alfred. Fine and mild

The logo features the word 'tele' in a large, stylized, lowercase font. Above and below the letters are decorative elements resembling TV signal waves. Below the word, the text 'TV schedules, supplied by the' is visible.

- 6.00: Good Morning So
- 3.27: Programme Sched
- 3.30: Work Study. F
- 3.45: The Draw Man. L
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- 4.00: The Get Along Ga
- 4.15: Pumpkin Patch.
- 4.30: Hand in Hand

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Child

Mine disaster

R500-m to be spent on rescue devices

SIX CRITICAL MERGY DASH

A mother's anguish



MRS SENGWANA she was twice near tears as she spoke

BY NAT DISEKO

SIX of the victims of the Ermelo mine disaster sent on a mercy dash to the Rand Mutual Hospital were still critical yesterday.

A third, Mr John Mkhonza is in the hospital's intensive care unit. Mr Mkhonza is being treated for inhalation of Methane fumes. The 34 miners who died and the others who were seriously injured, inhaled poisonous fumes.

Mr Harry Hill, of Genco's liaison department said yesterday that 16 miners were taken to hospital and of these, six had been discharged. He said the remaining 10 who were still in hospital were in a satisfactory condition.

Unconscious

Two miners are still under treatment at the Ermelo Hospital. Still on the critical list at the Rand Mutual Hospital are Mr Johannes Mahlabo and another miner only identified as Sam. Both men have been unconscious since the disaster last Thursday.

Two miners Mr Michael Shabangu and an unidentified man were still very much confused yesterday and their level of consciousness was rated very low. The unidentified miner is under sedation and has suffered a closed fracture of the left femur and a fractured pelvis. He has also been diagnosed as suffering from severe carbon monoxide poisoning.

To Page 2

Mine

disaster

From Page 1

Mr Sozapile Dampu, whose diagnosis is also of gas poisoning, also had a low level of consciousness yesterday.

Hot on the heels of the disaster at Ermelo Mines is the disclosure that the Chamber of Mines is to spend R500 million in underground self-rescue devices for miners in crises.

This will apply more so to mines like Ermelo where methane gas explosions have triggered off the release of carbon monoxide which has killed hundreds of miners in the past.

The Chamber of Mines intends that its coal mines be the first to issue the new self-rescue kits. So far all the methane gas explosions have been in coal mines.

MARKETING

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Sanctum 13/4/87

13/4/87

Miners out of intensive care 2/2

Only one of the six badly injured miners admitted to the Rand Mutual Hospital after the Ermelo mine accident last week was still in the intensive care unit, a hospital spokesman said today.

Five of the miners had now been moved to general wards. The patient still being treated in the intensive care unit was off the critical list, the spokesman said.

Thirty-four miners died and 16 were injured in a methane gas explosion last Thursday evening.

7 DIE IN MINE TRAGEDY

SEVEN miners were killed and four injured when a rockfall occurred at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine yesterday morning.

In the accident, the country's third major mine accident in less than a week, occurred underground on the 106 level,

of the Cooke number three shaft at about 10 30am

A spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidated Investments yesterday told Sapa that the rockfall occurred about 860 m below surface while 10 black machine operators were drilling holes to install supports in an under-

By SELLO RABOTHATA

ground workshop excavation
Albert Robinson Mine hospital for lacerations and heavy bruising.

The names of the dead will be released after the next-of-kin have been notified

Hospital

The injured workers were admitted to the Sir,

probably not be known until after an inquiry by the inspector of mines was conducted

A miner who did not wish to be identified, told the Sowetan that the rockfall occurred in a new section of the mine. He took one of the injured to hospital while a helicopter was also on stand-by

discovered dead hours after the accident. He had earlier been reported as missing. More than 150 tons of rocks collapsed while the men were working. Officials of the National Union of Mineworkers who investigated the incident could not be contacted for a comment

14/4/87 B/Way (2/2)

Seven more miners die

SEVEN miners died and three were injured by a massive rock fall at Johannesburg Consolidated Investment's Randfontein Estates gold mine yesterday morning.

This brings the total of dead to 41, with 35 victims injured in SA's third mine disaster in less than a week.

In yesterday's accident, about 130 tons of rock fell onto 10 black miners 860m underground at Cooke Number Three

HAMISH McINDOE

Shaft They were drilling holes to install supports in an underground workshop when the groundfall occurred

It took workers about five hours to complete the rescue operation with the last body brought to the surface shortly after 3.30p.m.

● To Page 2 →

Rock fall adds to mines' death toll

Last October, six workers were killed and 25 injured at the same mine when a cage and 120 tons of steel cable crashed onto workers during shaft sinking.

Those injured in yesterday's accident were being treated for arm lacerations, leg injuries and back and pelvis contusions at the mine's Sir Albert Robertson

(2/2) ← ● From Page 14/4/87 B/Way

hospital, JCI spokesman David Freemantle said

National Union of Mineworkers' safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni said the union would issue a statement today

212

ON Thursday last week, a disaster which claimed the lives of 34 miners hit the small town of Ermelo. But from appearances, it seemed as if nothing of earth-shaking proportions had occurred.

BY NAT
DISEKO

Ermelo still went the tenor of its way. One went there anticipating to find a funeral pall hanging over the place but there was nothing of the sort. The yokels went traipsing their weary way and some, who had too much of the grape, staggered along. Others wore smiles as they went. As for the whites, it looked like business as usual — nothing seemed to have disturbed the way of everyday life.

The only indication that there was something amiss was to be found at the entrance of Ermelo Mines where a big reception party of armed security officials waited to welcome the Press. We were asked to wait at the security office and after some patient waiting, read the rules by a security official.

We were to be driven in a mini-bus around the premises so that we could view the sights. We were not to speak to any mine employee, although we could take whatever pictures we wanted to. Those were the conditions.

It was a matter of Hobson's choice but all the same, we went on the bus more out of curiosity than anything

MINE disaster aftermatu

Survive

He said he remembered being swept off his feet by a gust of wind. He said he and some four workmates clung together in the darkness. He said that of the group two survived. Mr Samson Mohlah (24) also suffered a broken elbow. Mr Alson Mavim-bela was still dizzy days after the accident.

together with its lamp. "I was frightened and started running blindly. I am told I was found at the safe area where there is fresh air," Mr Ncube said.

else. As we went, our tour guide pointed out to us the mine's administration block, the training centre, the main shaft gear and the stores depot.

Explosion

Mr Nzuzo Mgwili (30), a driller, said he was busy at work when he heard a big explosion after which a big whoosh of air rushed in. "The lights went off and my hard hat flew off my head. We put on our gas masks and I lay flat on the ground with two others so that the poisonous gas went above us."

Smirk

It all took about six minutes. At the end, our tour guide, with a smirk on his face, said "That is all gentlemen." He could not answer any questions, he said.

Trans-Natal, the owners of the mine, would be issuing a Press statement later in the day and a gust of hot air rushed in. The force of

day he said. The Press was played an Olympic joke. Officials at the Ermelo Hospital were more helpful. We were allowed to speak to the survivors, but asked not to ask them questions that could upset them.

Mr Phineas Ncube (25), who is from Pongolo in Natal, told us he had been employed at Ermelo Mines for the past four years. He said he was busy working when he heard an explosion and saw a bright flash.

"The place was plunged into darkness the instant the air swept my tin hat off my head

"We belly-crawled to a safe section in the darkness. I later heard that my two colleagues died. A white electrician died as well," Mr Mgwili said.

Mr Lymon Siyaya (29), a coal-cutter operator, said all he remembered was hot air rushing into his work place and the place being plunged into darkness. "I don't know what happened afterwards. I found myself in hospital," he said.

He had bruises on his face and arm and had bitten his tongue. Mr Aaron Onyini, from Bushbuckridge

Miners died close to rescue kits — official

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG —

The 36 Ermelo miners who died after a methane gas explosion, suffocated within 30m of a cache of self-rescue emergency breathing kits, according to the mine's chief executive

An investigating team is waiting for the go-ahead to enter the area where the explosion took place

Meanwhile, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation managing director Mr Graham Thompson says the Ermelo Mines safety record has improved dramatically over the past three years

He says a voluntary decision by the mine to install self-rescue kits last June probably saved many lives in last week's accident

Self-rescue kits became compulsory from this year

Mr Thompson said "We reckon there were 170 miners in the area affected by the blast

DOING ANALYSIS

"Of those, about 50 were in the immediate vicinity of the explosion and the rest in ventilation areas which became contaminated

"It is our belief the majority escaped because they got to the self-rescue kits"

Mr Thompson said mine officials were doing a thorough analysis to establish how many men reached the self-rescue kits

He said the cause of the explosion would be investigated tomorrow or on Thursday

Meanwhile, the death toll at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine, where there was a groundfall yesterday, has risen to seven

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Seven

miners

2nd Trial 14/4/81

die in 212

rock-fall

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Seven miners died and three were injured by a massive rock-fall at Johannesburg Consolidated Investment's Randfontein Estates gold mine yesterday morning

This brings to 41 dead and 35 injured the number of victims in South Africa's third mine disaster in less than a week.

In yesterday's accident, about 130 tons of rock fell on to 10 miners 860 metres underground. They were drilling holes to install supports in an underground workshop when the ground-fall occurred.

It took workers about five hours to complete the rescue operation, with the last body of a miner brought to the surface soon after 3.30pm.

Last October, six workers were killed and 25 injured at the same mine when a cage and 120 tons of steel cable crashed on to workers during shaft-sinking.

National Union Mineworkers' safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said the union would issue a statement today.

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Three of five pilots on a training flight in a twin-engine Beechcraft died when it crashed into a Simmer and Jack mine hostel in Drehoek last night. At least 20 miners were injured.

Witnesses have described how they saw flames billowing from the aircraft shortly before impact at 7 pm.

Mr Annee van Belkom (45) of Malherbe Street, Albermarle, Germiston, broke his ankle and was severely shocked.

He and another pilot, Mr Anthony Jansen of Federal Street, Selcourt, Springs, survived the crash. Both were admitted to the Willem Cruywagen Hospital in Germiston where they are reported to be in a satisfactory condition. Mr Jansen has now been discharged. A number of the injured

Three die as light aircraft crashes into mine hostel

miners were taken by several ambulances to the ERPM Hospital in Boksburg.

Another two miners are in a critical condition in Johannesburg's Rand Mutual Hospital. They are being treated for severe burns, said a hospital spokesman.

A Germiston Fire Department spokesman said most of the injured miners had burns, lacerations and bruises.

Mrs Wendy van Belkom said today "My husband is still in a severe state of shock. He is very

confused and doesn't seem to know exactly what happened."

She said her husband would have X-rays today and would be examined by an orthopaedic surgeon.

Mr Tony Jansen said he did not want to say too much because a Department of Civil Aviation investigation was pending.

"We scrambled for the door. I tried to knock out a window. But the door must have opened on impact and I heard (Mr van Belkom) at the door

"There were black fumes and it was like a powder which got into my throat."

He said he could not remember much more.

Mr Jansen, an attorney and a student pilot, expressed his sadness "for those who didn't make it".

The names of the dead pilots are expected to be released later today.

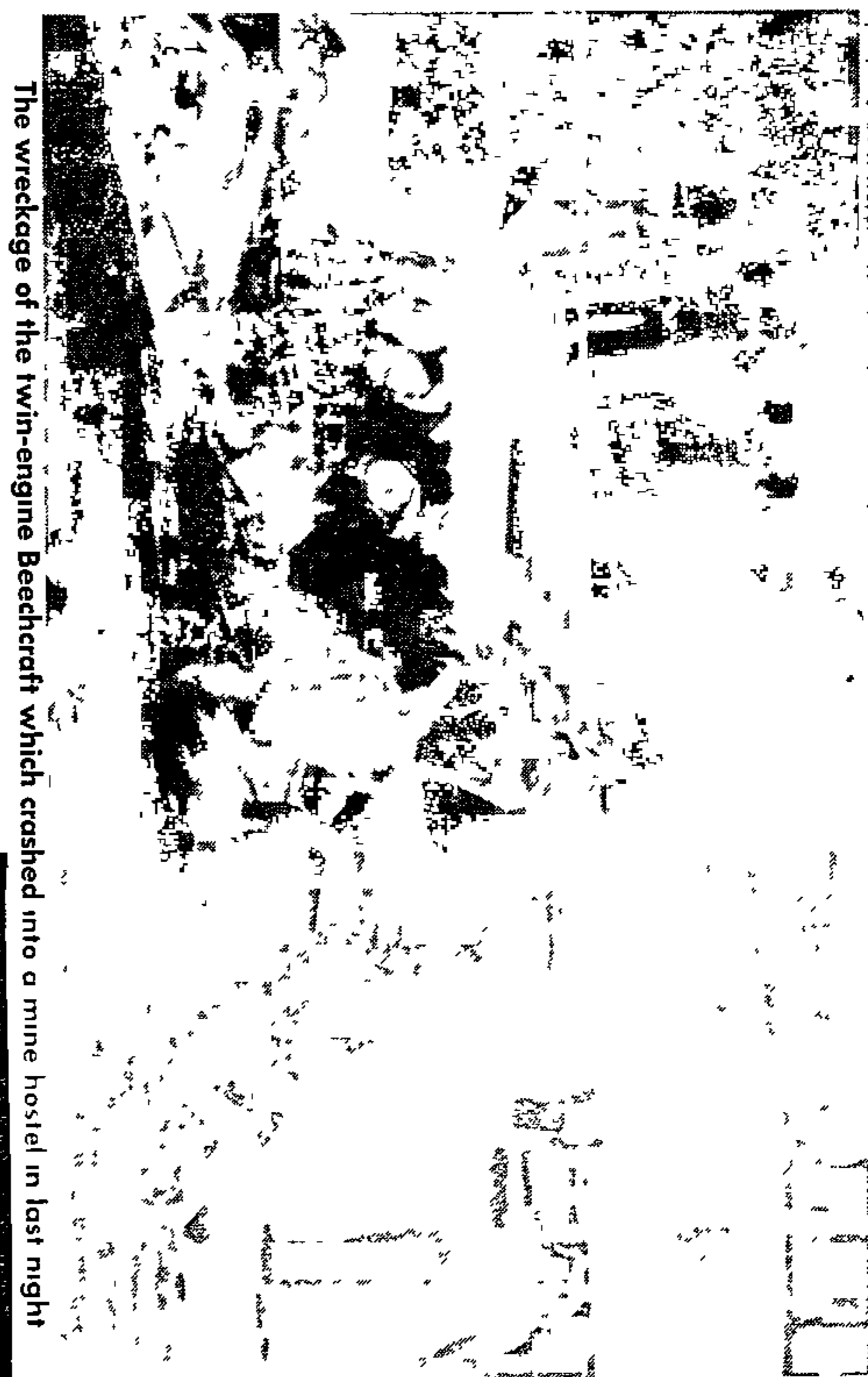
Two of them and Mr van Belkom were employed by Barlow Air, owners of the ill-fated aircraft.

A spokesman for Barlow Air today declined to comment.

The aircraft is a wreck and only the letters, ZPKMT, part of its registration, were visible on its badly damaged tail.

The army has cordoned off the area.

The cause of the crash is not yet known and civil aviation officials are expected to start investigations today.



The wreckage of the twin-engine Beechcraft which crashed into a mine hostel in last night

pression that people are...
stead of worshipping"

Pressure burst kills *212*

JOHANNESBURG — Two mineworkers died and 20 were injured in a pressure burst at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney yesterday, a spokesman for the mine reported last night. The spokesman said another employee, believed to be injured, was still underground "and efforts to reach him are continuing." The accident, which occurred at 11 40am at the mine's No 5 shaft and on the 70th level, was being investigated

1964 15/4/87
Three miners die at Orkney 212
JOHANNESBURG — Three miners died and 20
were injured in a pressure burst at Vaal Reefs
gold mine, Orkney, yesterday — Sapa

Two more miners die - ^{die - total} total for two weeks rises to 46

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll in last night's pressure burst at Anglo-American's Vaal Reef gold mine in the Western Transvaal has risen to five

An Anglo spokesman said this morning that two workers injured in the accident died overnight and

the body of a miner originally reported missing has been retrieved from the accident shaft

Last night Anglo reported two miners were killed and 20 injured in a pressure burst on the 70th level of the mine's No 5 shaft

"Those who have died

since yesterday include the employee who was trapped underground and two employees who were among the 20 injured in the accident," the spokesman said

The accident brings to 46 the number of workers killed in accidents on South African mines in the past two weeks

Last Tuesday, 16 miners were injured in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Bosjespruit Colliery about 120 kilometres east of Johannesburg

Last Wednesday, in one of South Africa's worst coal mining accidents, 34 miners died and 16 were injured at Gencor's Ermelo coal mine southwest of Johannesburg

On Monday this week, seven workers were killed and three injured in a rockfall at JCI's Randfontein Estate's gold mine about 40 kilometres west of Johannesburg' — Sapa

(212) 15/4/87 EP.

Miner from (212)
Alice dies DD 15/4/8

EAST LONDON — One of the miners who died in the Ermelo rock blast disaster which left 34 people dead last week, was from Alice in Ciskei

He was Mr Mzimasi Sityi, 33

No other details were available last night —
DDR

Three dead, 20 hurt in mine burst

Three mineworkers died and 20 were injured in a pressure burst at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine at Orkney yesterday, bringing to 43 the number of workers killed in four mine accidents in the past week

An Anglo American spokesman said last night that the burst occurred at about midday on 70th level of No 5 shaft

The injured had been admitted to the Vaal Reefs hospital

The spokesman said the incident was being investigated. Names of the dead workers would not be released until their next of kin had been

informed

● The National Union of Mineworkers has claimed that the death of seven workers on Monday at JCI's Randfontein Estates gold mine was due to failure to use the proper drilling machine

"The workers were not installing supports as stated by the company, but were drilling to blast an excavation to store equipment," said the union

It named the dead miners as Mr Mncedisi Silo, Mr Badikile Mabuyakulu, Mr Beki Ngwenya, Mr Jerry Dlamini, Mr Jacob Gumede, Mr Elliot Mamba and Mr Joseph Masiya

Suspected limpet mine blast wrecks vehicle in Langlaagte

Star 212
22/4/87

By Craig Kotze, Crime Reporter

A suspected limpet mine planted on a BMW car in Langlaagte, Johannesburg, exploded yesterday, wrecking the vehicle but causing little damage to nearby homes and property, eyewitnesses and the Government's Bureau for Information said.

No-one was injured

The blast came only hours after a policeman was killed and 64 injured after a grenade was flung on to the parade ground of the Tladi Municipal Police Training Centre in Soweto.

Yesterday's blast, which happened at about 2 50 pm outside the Western BMW garage on the corner of Robinson and Central avenues, set the car alight — only a few metres from Grosvenor Station.

A bureau spokesman said it was not yet known who planted the bomb, but declined to comment on whether it was aimed at the station.

Windows in nearby houses and flats were shattered and a wall surrounding the garage servicing area was cracked.

Riot police, traffic officials and the Johannesburg Fire Department were on the scene within minutes and the area was cordoned off. Traffic was not disrupted.

After the flames were extinguished, police bomb experts examined the BMW, which had its left front tyre blown off, its engine compartment extensively damaged and its windscreen shattered.

The car belongs to a car-hire firm and had been taken to the Western BMW garage for a service two weeks ago.

It was parked outside the Robinson Street workshop entrance when the suspected limpet mine detonated, Western BMW service manager Mr Joe Martinus (38) said.

He said the bomb had apparently been planted on the left front wheel.

"I lifted out of my chair when I heard the bang, which I first thought was in the workshop. When I ran outside I saw the BMW in flames, grabbed a fire extinguisher and tried to extinguish them."

Watch repairer Mr Donny Griffiths said when he heard the explosion he thought something had happened at Grosvenor Station across the road.

The BMW was only about 20 m from his shop.

"I thought my walls would collapse because the whole building shook. At first I thought something had happened to a train because one had just stopped at the station," he said.

Nico Marais (12), who was standing on the pavement about 20 m from the car when it exploded, said "he got a huge fright" when he heard the bang.

He ran to tell his mother, who immediately telephoned the Fire Brigade.

company's retrenchment programmes, a JCI spokesman said.

The strike was over JCI's retrenchment programme which had been under discussion with the National Union of Mineworkers since last August.

The spokesman said the retrenchments, affecting 2310 miners, would go ahead.

Comment from NUM could not be obtained.

Sapa. 24/4/87 (212)

ABOUT 23 000 workers at two Johannesburg Consolidated Investment mines were returning to work yesterday after downing tools three days ago in protest against the

DD 25/487 (212)

3 Kinross miners die

JOHANNESBURG — underground at the
Three miners died in a mine's Number Two
"fall of ground" at the shaft

Kinross gold mine at
Evander, yesterday
morning, the mine own-
ers, Gencor, said

Gencor said in a state-
ment the accident about
7 am took place 1 780 m

No further details
were immediately avail-
able, and Gencor said
more information would
be released when it be-
came available — Sapa

Cape Times 25/10/77
3 miners die in fall

212

JOHANNESBURG — Three miners died in a "fall of ground" 1 780m underground at Kinross gold mine's No 2 shaft at Evander about 7am yesterday, mine owner Gencor said. No further details were immediately available. The National Union of Mineworkers has condemned the accident and called for an "urgent commission of inquiry".

6 miners die in Evander faction fight

Six miners were killed and about 20 injured in fighting between groups of workers at Gencor's Bracken gold mine near Evander at the weekend

Gencor's chief executive for gold and uranium, Mr Bruce Evans, said four of the dead were from Bracken, one from Kinross and another from Winkelhaak gold mine. All three mines are owned by Gencor

Mr Evans said the six were killed yesterday behind a private shop near Bracken mine.

He said trouble had broken out over a woman and yesterday's fight was apparently in revenge for earlier assaults

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) organiser in the area, Mr Tshidiso Mothupi, said management had "refused to cooperate" on Saturday and yesterday when warned by the union of impending clashes between workers and a gang

A Gencor spokesman could not comment on the NUM claim at the time of going to press

DD 4/5/87 (33)

5 killed in mine fighting

212

JOHANNESBURG —
Five people were killed and 21 were injured after faction fighting between Pondo's and a group known as "The Russians" broke out on Gencor's Bracken Mine at the week-end.

Gencor's chief executive, Mr Bruce Evans, said in a statement that the miners were killed by another group of mine workers early yesterday morning at a shop adjacent to Bracken property.

"The miners were apparently taking revenge for assaults against their colleagues which occurred in the same place on Friday and Saturday nights," the statement said.

The trouble apparently started as a result of a brawl between two men over a woman.

The National Union of Mine Workers' (Num) organiser in the Secunda area, Mr Tshediso Mothupi claimed 21 miners had been hospitalised.

9 miners die in mudrush

Nine workers were killed and three are still missing after a mudrush at the Coalbrook Colliery, near Sasolburg yesterday, mine-owners Gold Fields of South Africa said today.

Year	Deaths	Missing	Total
1989	1	0	1
1988	1	0	1
1987	1	0	1
1986	1	0	1
1985	1	0	1
1984	1	0	1
1983	1	0	1
1982	1	0	1
1981	1	0	1
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1905	1	0	1
1904	1	0	1
1903	1	0	1
1902	1	0	1
1901	1	0	1
1900	1	0	1

OFS mining death toll rises to 12

JOHANNESBURG —The death toll in the mudslide at Gold Field's Coalbrook Colliery near Sasolburg in the Orange Free State has risen to 12

The Gold Fields public relations officer, Mr Attie Roets, said rescue teams had discovered three more bodies under coal and mud that had

flooded a tunnel just under the surface of the mine yesterday afternoon

Teams retrieved one body from the shaft yesterday afternoon and eight more bodies were found during the night

The workers died after a rush of coal and mud spilled into the shaft from a silo on the surface

used to store raw coal

Mr Roets said an inquiry into the cause of the accident in terms of the Mines and Works Act, would be made.

The mudslide was the third big colliery accident in the past two months. On April 8, 16 miners were injured in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Bosjespruit colli-

ery in the Eastern Transvaal. The next day 34 workers were killed when another methane gas blast ripped through Gencor's Ermelo mines

Coalbrook is also the site of the largest mine accident in South Africa's history where 435 miners were buried alive when parts of the mine collapsed in 1960 — Sapa

(212) DD 8/5/87

~~NUM~~ 2/2 5772 2/5/57.

Interdict granted after attack

MARITZBURG — An employee of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), bleeding from head wounds, was beaten by a member of a rival union at Coronation Mine, Vryheid.

This was stated in papers before the Supreme Court here yesterday. The court granted an interim interdict ordering members of the United Workers Union of South Africa (Uwusa) not to assault, threaten or intimidate members of NUM at the mine.

The interdict was granted after an urgent NUM application.

Uwusa intends to contest the application and denies NUM allegations.

The court heard that on May 5 Mr John Ntshangasa, a Natal regional organiser of NUM, was beaten with a kerrie by a man alleged to be a member of Uwusa. He died later. — Sapa.

Call Time 12/15/87
Kinross hearing
to be postponed

PRETORIA — Last year's Kinross mining disaster which claimed 177 lives will have a sequel in Witbank Regional Court this week when Gencor's Kinross Mines Ltd and senior employees will face allegations of culpable homicide and alternative, statutory charges

According to the Attorney-General's office in Pretoria, a "postponement date" will be fixed at a preliminary hearing on Friday

The statutory charges stem from alleged contraventions of the Mines, Works and Factories Act. — Sapa

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CAG TINTS 13/5/87

Kinross men to be charged *(212)*

JOHANNESBURG — Six Kinross mine managers and employees are to be charged with culpable homicide in Witbank Regional Court on Friday, following last year's Kinross disaster, when 177 workers died. The six are charged in their personal capacities and as representatives of the mine.

(214)
14K/87
B/Daw

Eersteling mine to deliver 5g/t of gold

PETER STACEY

SA'S oldest gold mine, which has been re-opened by the Severin group, will deliver a recovery grade of 5g/t over a 20-year life span, says MD Steen Severin.

Underground development and plant construction has already begun at Eersteling, near Pietersburg, on the site of SA's first gold find 116 years ago. Planned production is 10 000 tons a month and it expects to pour its first gold early next year.

The mine is the latest venture of Severin Mining and Development company (SMD) which last year successfully re-opened JSE-listed Rand Leases

Eersteling is one of 14 prospects — embracing a variety of different minerals — which SMD bought last year from the American Utah Mining company. It is the first of these prospects to be developed

Eersteling is an Archean Greenstone hydrothermal gold deposit consisting of four reefs that between them have over 15km of surface outcrop.

Initially these outcrops will be mined at low cost by open pit methods. The reefs vary in thickness between 1m and 2,5m, and exploration in recent years has shown *in situ* grades from 2g/t to more than 15g/t

Main areas of capex of the mine — at least initially — will be a carbon-in-pulp gold recovery plant, with a minimum capacity of 10 000 tons a month, and a main vertical shaft that will go down to 300m

So far, work at the mine has revolved around the sinking and equipping of three winzes, underground development, the provision of some surface infrastructure, including a hostel block and housing, and site clearing for the metallurgical plant

To date the Severins have personally funded its development. Negotiations are under way to raise further finance and a JSE listing is likely.

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Seven miners killed

JOHANNESBURG — Seven miners were killed and three were injured in accidents at two mines in the Transvaal yesterday.

Five miners died and three were slightly injured in an underground pressure burst at the ERPM Gold Mine, near Boksburg, a mine spokesman reported.

The burst occurred at 2.15 am about

3000 m underground in the 72 level of the mine's G shaft.

At the Transvaal Navigation Colliery near Middelburg yesterday afternoon two miners were killed after a "fall of roof".

A Transnataal Coal Corporation spokesman said no one else was injured in the accident. — Sapa

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16/5/87

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A Transnataal Coal Corporation spokesman said no one else was injured in the accident. — Sapa

roof in an attempt to — of his home in fourth, his uncle's building

12/15/87

CPM 7/15/16 10:11 AM
5 miners killed at ERPM 212

JOHANNESBURG — An underground pressure burst yesterday killed five miners at the ERPM gold mine in the sixth fatal mine accident in six weeks, a spokesman said. Three miners were injured in the accident. The spokesman said the rockburst occurred 3 000m underground at the 72nd level of the deep shaft near Boksburg. The latest fatalities bring to 51 the number of people killed in mining accidents since April 1.

Cap Times 16/8/87
Kinross men in court *212*

JOHANNESBURG — Seven employees of Kinross Mines appeared briefly in court yesterday charged with culpable homicide following the deaths last September of 177 miners in South Africa's worst gold-mining disaster. Those charged included a Kinross director, Mr John Burke, and mine manager Mr Jacobus Olivier. They were not asked to plead on the culpable homicide charges or a range of alternative charges under the Mines and Works Act. The case was remanded until September 22.

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or markings along the right edge of the page.]

1/16/58
SPOT NEWS

2/2

Mudslide death toll rises to 12

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll in the mudslide at Goldfields' Coalbrook Colliery near Sasolburg in the Orange Free State has risen to 12 — Sapa

Fear of more Sumatra landslides

Argus

21/5/87

SPOT NEWS

212

Two miners die in pressure burst

JOHANNESBURG — Two men were killed and three injured in a pressure burst 2 000m underground at Kloof Mine near Westonaria yesterday, a Goldfields spokesman said. The men were not named — The Argus Correspondent

DD
2/5/87

212
2/5/87

T'kei budgets record R1,6bn

By LAWRENCE NGOZI

UMTATA — Transkei has budgeted a record R1,6 billion for the 1987/88 fiscal year, according to the Appropriation Bill, 1987, read for the first time by the Minister of Finance, Mr G. K. Nota, in the National Assembly yesterday.

The total budget tabled, amounts to R1 604 435 000 and reflects an increase of R292 million over last year's budget.

The biggest slice of the budget goes to the Department of Education, which is asking for R343 million, followed by the Department of Finance, with R259 million, and the Department of Welfare and Pensions with R214 million.

Other budgets are Works and Energy — R194 million, Health — R163 million, Agriculture and Forestry — R113 million, Commerce, Industry and Tourism — R59 million, and Transport — R48 million.

The Department of Defence has asked for R41 million, Police — R36,7 million, Manpower, Planning and Utilization — R26 million, Posts and Telecommunications — R25 million, Prisons — R17 million, Justice — R15,7 million, Prime Minister — R12,4 million, Local Government and Land Tenure — R10,5 million, Foreign Affairs and Information — R7 million, Public Service Commission — R6 million, Interior — R5,8 million, and Auditor-General — R3 million.

According to the estimates, the revenue expected from local sources totals R840,7 million while R450 million will come from the Republic of South Africa as budgetary assistance.

The amount of budgetary assistance from South Africa has increased by R164,4 over that of last year.

This makes the total amount expected to be received R1 290,7 million, leaving a deficit of R414 million.

In a special session two months ago, the National Assembly voted for a total of R300 million as part appropriation for 1987/88 and an additional amount of R218,6 million to the 1986/87 financial year.

Part of R717 million, which comes as revenue from taxation, will be R382 million from the customs union agreement, R195 million from general sales tax, R28 million from income tax, R5,7 million from general levy, R4,8 million from vehicle tax, R3,75 million from the general stock tax and R1,7 million from special tax.

The project aid will be funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) — R95,4 million, KEOSSA — R53,7 million and own contributions — R44 million.

Mr Nota is expected to detail the country's fiscal policies and explain the budget in his budget speech today.

Mine explosion could lead to heavy claims

Dispatch Correspondent

DURBAN — Insurance claims for several thousand rands could be made against the Anglo American Corporation for shop and house windows broken during a massive explosion at the Western Holdings Mine between Welkom and Odendaalsrus in the northern Free State this week.

It appears no-one was hurt in the blast, which took place when a pile of explosives awaiting destruction was accidentally detonated during the routine blasting of old explosives.

The explosion was heard in Hennenman, 30 km from the mine.

Welkom glaziers said at least 60 shopfront windows in Welkom and Odendaalsrus, up to

15 km from the mine, were broken or cracked.

The manager of one of the glaziers, Mr Grant Foley, said the shop windows cost up to R500 each to replace.

Local insurance companies and brokers said yesterday that houses, particularly those in a suburb close to the mine, also had broken or cracked windows.

The receptionist at one insurance company said she had received "quite a few" calls about broken windows, mostly from homes in Reitz Park, close to the mine.

A spokesman for the Anglo-American Corporation in Johannesburg said the company was aware of reports of damage in the area.

EL family appeal return of missing

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — A young East London musician's violin has gone missing from his school, which may jeopardise his chances of playing in the Royal School of Music exam in two months time.

Lester Coe, a matric pupil at Selborne College, left his violin in its case in the school's chessroom last Wednesday. When he returned to collect it for a music lesson, it had disappeared.

His mother, Mrs Gloria Coe, said she had reported the matter to the police, who had opened a case concerning the missing instrument.

She said her husband had also phoned the headmaster of Selborne College, Mr Tim Gordon, who said he would announce the fact that the violin had "gone missing" at the school.

"The violin has been in the family for a number of years and cannot be replaced," Mrs Coe said.

Six still trapped in mine

At least six gold miners are still trapped underground after a rockfall at Gencor's Buffelsfontein Gold Mine in the Western Transvaal early yesterday.

By late yesterday, seven workers had been rescued. The body of one miner was recovered last night.

The men were trapped 2,5 km underground on 28 level at the mine's southern shaft.

A Gencor spokesman said a pressure burst at about 7 am yesterday caused the rockfall.

Rescue operations are continuing.

Two miners are in the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg.

"The five rescued workers who received treatment at the Duff Scott Memorial Hospital at Stilfontein have all been discharged," said Mr W B Bruce-Evans, chief executive officer Gold and Uranium Division of Gencor.

A spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers was not available for comment.

5 trapped, 7 rescued
after mine rockfall

JOHANNESBURG — At least five miners are still trapped underground after a rockfall hit Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal early yesterday morning

One miner is being treated for serious injuries after being freed from the mine

Mr W B Bruce-Evans, Gencor's chief executive officer Gold and Uranium Division, said about 12 workers had been trapped more than 2½km underground after the pressure burst occurred, but seven had been rescued by last night

"The rescued workers are receiving treatment for injuries and shock at the Duff Scott Memorial Hospital at Stilfontein. The condition of one is serious, while that of the others is satisfactory."

Rescue operations are continuing, and further information will be released when available. The rockfall occurred 2 490m underground about 7am on level 28 of the mine's southern shaft — Sapa

PATRICK BULGER

UP TO five miners were still trapped underground last night at Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine in Stilfontein after a rockfall yesterday morning.

A spokesman said it was not possible to say whether they were still alive

Rescue teams pulled five workers to safety by late afternoon. Two other workers had been rescued by early evening.

They were admitted to Duff Scott Memorial Hospital where they were treated for injuries and shock. One worker was in a serious condition and the others stable, Gencor chief executive of-

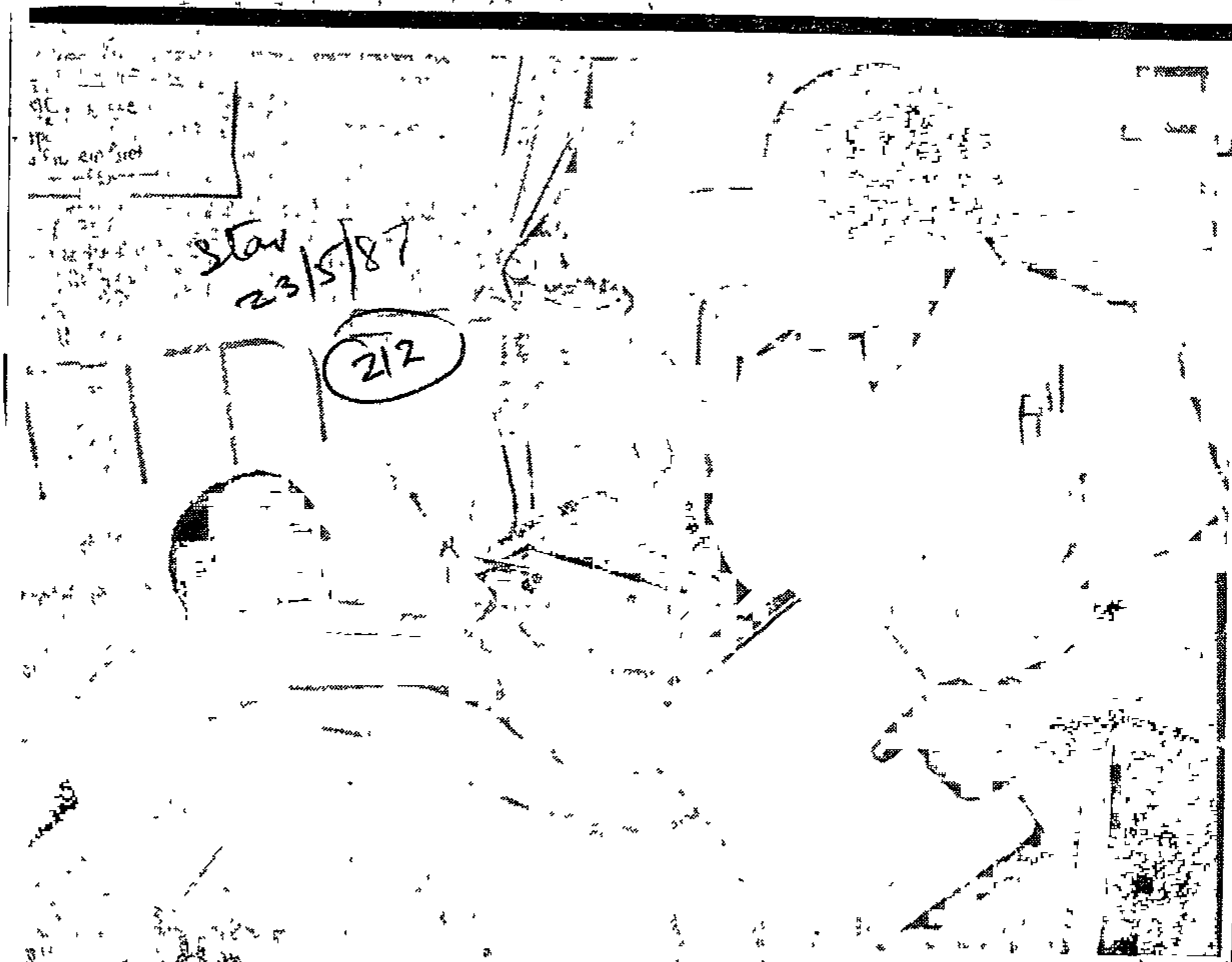
5/Day 22/98
2/2
**5 men trapped
in Gencor mine**

ficier, gold and uranium, W B Bruce-Evans said.

Rescue operations were continuing last night.

The accident occurred at 7am yesterday morning when a "seismic event" caused rockfalls which trapped the miners 2 490m underground on 28 level at the southern shaft.

No other workers appeared to be involved in the accident, Evans said.



RECOVERING. Mr Madinga Bongani in the Rand Mutual Hospital is helped by a member of the nursing staff.

Rescue workers yesterday recovered the bodies of two more miners killed in a rockfall at Gencor's Buffelsfontein Gold Mine in the Western Transvaal.

This brings to three the number of miners killed in the accident caused by a pressure burst 2,5 km underground on Thursday morning.

Last night four men were still unaccounted for.

Two miners, Mr Nelson Ngongo and Mr Madinga Bongani, are recovering in the Rand Mutual Hospital after being crushed by rock. Mr Ngongo is in the intensive care unit at the hospital and is in a serious condition, a hospital spokesman said.

Mr Bongani (27) from Pondoland, in Transkei, said "I disappeared underneath the rock. Others were trying to dig me out, but could not get to me. Two other men trapped with me died." He was part of a blasting team.

Five miners were treated at a Stilfontein hospital after the rockfall and later discharged.

TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DANA

CAPL TRIPS 25/5/87 212

Three bodies recovered

JOHANNESBURG — All the missing miners at the Buffelsfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal had been accounted for with the recovery of three bodies from the area affected by the rockfall on Thursday, a Gencor spokesman said yesterday. Seven miners died.

Miner dies

A MINER was killed when he plunged nearly 1 000 metres down a shaft after an explosion ripped a hole in the floor of a cage waiting to take workers down the Gencor-owned Beatrix gold mine in the Orange Free State.

Mr Bruce Evans, chief executive officer of Gencor's Gold and Uranium Division, said the man apparently fell into the shaft through a hole in the cage after a number of detonators exploded beneath it.

~~21~~
21
S/Tam
20/5/82

Miner plunges 1 000 m to his death

JOHANNESBURG — A miner was killed when he plunged nearly 1 000 metres down a shaft after an explosion ripped a hole in the floor of a cage waiting to take workers down the Gencor-owned Beatrix gold mine, in the Orange Free State.

The Chief Executive Officer of Gencor's Gold and Uranium Division, Mr Bruce Evans, said the man fell into the shaft through a hole in the cage after a number of detonators exploded beneath it.

The cage was waiting on the surface to take a team of workers down the mine's 970-metre-deep number one shaft.

Two other workers received severe foot injuries and were admitted to the nearby St Helena mine hospital. A further 20 were in the same hospital receiving treatment for light wounds and shock.

Mr Evans said the cause of the explosion has not been established and was being urgently investigated by management and the Department of Mines.

Last week seven bodies were recovered from Gencor's Buffelsfontein mine in the western Transvaal, after a pressure burst trapped a number of workers underground.

As a precaution, another five miners who were exposed to smoke from burning explosives, were sent to the Welkom hospital for observation.

— Sapa

NUM reiterates call for inquiry after miner's death

212

~~NUM~~

NUM

24/5/82

The National Union of Mineworkers has again demanded an independent commission of inquiry into mine accidents following the death of a miner who fell nearly 1 000 m down a shaft at Gencor's Beatrix gold mine

Gencor said yesterday the miner fell to his death after detonators blew a hole in the floor of a "cage" waiting to take

workers down the mine's Number One shaft

Gencor chief executive for gold and uranium, Mr Bruce Evans, said 22 workers, two with severe injuries, were admitted to the St Helena Mine Hospital. A further five workers had been sent to the the Welkom Hospital for observation after being exposed to smoke from burning explosives.

Am. Times 26/5/87 212
Miner's death plunge

JOHANNESBURG — A miner was killed when he fell 1 000m down a shaft after an explosion ripped a hole in the floor of a cage waiting to take workers down the Gencor-owned Beatrix gold mine in the Free State. Two other workers received serious injuries and 20 minor injuries. The cause of the blast is unknown and is being investigated.

ARGUS 26/5/87

Mine blast: New call for probe

The Argus Correspondent

212

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers has again demanded an independent commission of inquiry into mine accidents following the death of a miner who fell nearly 1 000m down a shaft at Gencor's Beatrix gold mine

Gencor said the miner fell after detonators blew a hole in the floor of a cage waiting to take workers down the mine. Twenty-seven workers, two with severe injuries, were admitted to hospital.

Five of those admitted were for observation after being exposed to smoke, said Gencor's chief executive for gold and uranium, Mr Bruce Evans.

Mr Evans said an urgent investigation was being held into the cause of the explosion.

NUM assistant general secretary Mr Marcel Golding said the Beatrix accident and the death of more than 57 miners in the past few months made management claims that South African mines were among the safest in the world appear "ludicrous".

He repeated the NUM's demand for talks between the union, the Chamber of Mines and mining houses on health and safety issues, as well as the introduction of safety stewards.

Last week seven workers were killed after being trapped underground following a pressure burst at Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine.

Union wants inquiry

3/15/78



2/12

THE National Union of Mineworkers has repeated calls for an independent commission of inquiry into mine accidents in the wake of the death of a worker who plunged nearly 1 000m down a mine shaft this week after an explosion blew a hole in a cage waiting to take miners down a Free State gold mine

NUM's assistant general-secretary, Marcell Golding, said that the accident on the Gencor-owned Beatrix Mine and the death of more than 57 miners in the past few months made management claims that their mines were among the safest in the world appear ludicrous.

Earlier, Bruce Evans, chief executive officer of Gencor's Gold and Uranium Division, said the man apparently fell into the shaft through a hole that had been blown into the floor of the cage after a number of explosions.

Two workers were injured—
Sapa

Eight weeks, eleven mining accidents

212
W/Vaal
29/5-4/61
87

Eight weeks, eleven mining accidents

●From PAGE 1

with the number of deaths recently it becomes quite imperative that close scrutiny of mine safety be made." Golding said the NUM's international safety experts are ready to come to South Africa in response to the claim by Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha that there is nothing to hide

In the past eight weeks

- Seven miners were killed and three injured in a groundfall at the Cooke Three Shaft of the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine on April 13.

- Five miners were killed and 20 injured in a pressure burst at the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine on April 15

- Three miners died in a groundfall at Kinross Gold Mine in Evander on April 24.

- Five miners were killed at the Bracken Gold Mine in the Eastern Transvaal on April 28

In the worst disaster this month, 12 mineworkers were killed and seven injured in a mudslide at the Coalbrook Colliery near Sasolburg in the Orange Free State

Coalbrook was the scene of the largest mine accident in South African history, 435 miners were buried alive when part of the mine collapsed in 1960.

During this month, as well

- Five miners died and three were slightly injured in an underground pressure burst at the ERPM Gold Mine near Boksburg in the East Rand.

- Two miners were killed at the Navigation Colliery near Middelburg on the same day

- Three miners were killed at the Matla Colliery in the Eastern Transvaal

- Seven mineworkers were killed at the Buffels Gold Mine last week

- On May 25, a miner fell to his death down a 1 000m shaft after an explosion blasted a hole in a cage at Gencor's Beatrix Gold Mine in the Orange Free State. Twenty-two others were injured

The death tally on coal mines presently stands at 51, more than doubling last year's total of 24.

The three major accidents in the Ermelo Mine were

- On April 9 this year, when 34 workers were killed when a methane gas blast ripped through the Ermelo mines

- In November 1982, when 11 workers died in an explosion

- In October 1984, when six miners died from carbon dioxide poisoning after a methane explosion

ELEVEN fatal mine accidents in eight weeks has thrust the issue of mine safety into the forefront as a major issue — and most of the attention is focused on Gencor, one of the three major mining houses

Two-thirds of the extraordinary spate of serious mining accidents in the last two months have occurred on Gencor-owned mines

In particular, the group's Ermelo Mine — with three fatal methane gas blasts claiming 51 lives in five years — has one of the poorest safety records in the world.

The number of mineworkers killed since April totals 84, more than 56 have been injured. On coal mines the death toll stands at 51, already more than double last year's total of 24

According to research engineer and safety expert Jean Leger of the Technical Advice Group, although methane explosions have always been one of the greatest sources of hazard faced by coal miners, modern technology has been able to control the hazards and explosions are very rare

When 34 miners were killed on April 9 in a methane gas blast which ripped through the Ermelo mine, the mine's chief executive, Graham

Thompson, said they had died within 30m of a cache of self-rescue emergency breathing kits

Writing in the *SA Labour Bulletin*, Leger points out that in 17 recent methane explosions were relatively rare events in South African collieries and did not contribute substantially to the overall fatality rate. Altogether 42 miners died in three accidents

But there has been a 400 per cent increase in the Eighties, at least 166 miners have died in methane explosions of fat.

Leger said a possible factor in the increase in colliery explosions is that the use of more productive machines has resulted in coal being mined at a faster rate

"This in turn may have caused methane to be released into the mines at a faster rate, thus becoming a more serious hazard"

Neither the Chamber of Mines nor Gencor has responded to repeated enquiries on the subject this week

The National Union of Mineworkers has called for a government appointed commission of enquiry

We call on the government to investigate these accidents fully and we believe that the involvement of workers in health and safety matters will have positive results in the industry," NUM's Health and Safety Officer, Hazi Sibanyoni, said this week

The union's assistant general secretary, Marcel Golding, supported Sibanyoni, noting that at the time of the 77 miners dead, the NUM called for a full-scale inquiry into safety measures in the mining industry

We pointed out then that safety measures in the mines are lacking and

●To PAGE 2

Mine closed after deaths

2/12
6/6/87

JOHANNESBURG — Anglo's Western Holdings Gold Mine in the Orange Free State closed its No 6 shaft today after two mine officials and six miners died in a clash between mineworkers and mine security yesterday.

The dead officials have been identified as Mr L J B De Wet, 49, and Mr Kevin Van Dyk, both of Welkom. The identities of the dead mineworkers will be released after their next of kin have been informed.

An Anglo spokesman confirmed that six miners had died in the clash and another 41 were injured. Last night police said five mineworkers had died.

The police spokesman said the officials were attacked after being called to the scene of a strike at the mine's No 6 shaft. They were then attacked by workers wielding pangas.

"The No 6 shaft is closed today and the mine is quiet. The cause of the violence is being further investigated," the Anglo spokesman said.

He could not confirm that a strike had sparked the clash and provided no further details.

The managing director of Freegold, Mr Lionel Hewitt, has expressed his deepest sympathy to the families of the employees of Western Holdings Gold Mine who died during yesterday's outbreak of violence.

Mr Hewitt said loss of life was tragic especially as all employees have access to procedures which are available to assist in the peaceful resolution of conflict situations.

Freegold is administered by the Anglo American Corporation. Police are investigating charges of murder and public violence and are being assisted by mine management.

Last night the police spokesman said it had been established that Mr De Wet was a member of mine security, but it was not clear at this stage whether Mr Van Dyk was a miner or a security official.

He said no force had been used by the police to restore order — Sapa

Mine death rate up in SA

By Jaap Boekkooi

The death rate in South Africa's gold mines is rising again, and the average black stope miner will have a one-out-of-six chance of dying in a rock-fall during a 30-year spell in the mines

Consultant mine engineer Mr Jack Curtis says this means fatalities inside South African gold mine workings are about on a par with trench warfare during the two World Wars

Mr Curtis has been studying gold mining fatality figures for the first five months of 1987, which he says are higher than in any year this decade

He predicts that about a hundred more miners in all categories will die in accidents this year compared with the previ-

ous mean 800 a year, some 650 of them in gold mines

Mr Curtis blames the rising death rate on the shortage of qualified mining engineers, both in the Government inspectorate and in the mines

He says in the earlier days of gold mining, inspectors made unannounced visits two or three times a year. Now they only came after accidents

He also believes that the position "can only deteriorate"

until the Scheduled Person clause of the Mines and Works Act, which discriminates against qualified blacks, is permanently removed to make black and white mine employees compete on merit

"The official fatality rate of 1,03 per thousand in 1985 is likely to rise by nearly half to 1,5 per thousand this year — this after a constant decrease in fatalities during the period 1905 to 1945 and a levelling off during the four decades be-

tween 1945 to 1985," he said. "The official fatality rate does give a misleading picture because it includes all mine personnel, such as kitchen staff, clerks and other surface workers

"The fatality rate of men in the stope is nearer to five or six per thousand," he added

"This worked out to one out of every six miners killed over a career of 30 years"

The gold mines were simply not coping with rockbursts, despite the fact that the Chamber of Mines constantly advertised the millions of rands spent into rockburst research

"The rockburst remains a result of mine design and is not a 'seismic event' interpreted as an act of God," Mr Curtis said

Shaft closed after killings

8/6/87
ANGLO'S Western Holdings Gold Mine in the Free State closed its number six shaft on Saturday after two white mine officials and six black miners died in a clash between mineworkers and mine security officers.

At the time of going to press it could not be confirmed whether the shaft had been re-opened or what the cause of the clash was.

Sapa reported a police spokesman

212
Business Day Reporter

said the white officials were attacked after being called to the scene of a strike at the number six shaft.

They were attacked by men wielding pangas.

Forty one other workers were injured in the incident.

An Anglo official described the mine as quiet on Saturday.

News in Brief

Cape Times 24/6/87
800 miners killed in '86 (212)

EIGHT HUNDRED workers were killed in 12 709 accidents on South African mines last year. Deaths increased from 706 in 1985, although the number of accidents dropped from 14 820, a report tabled in Parliament by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said. The vast majority of accidents were at gold mines.

212

Fatal rockburst caused by tremor

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — A rockburst, which killed nine mineworkers and injured 25 3 400m underground at the Western Deep Levels gold mine outside Carletonville yesterday, was caused by an earth tremor, owners of the mine said today.

An Anglo American Corporation spokesman, Mr John Kingsley-Jones, said the rockburst happened at 9 15am in the mine's No 3 shaft after an earth tremor measuring 3,8 on the Richter scale.

Among the dead were Mr Ivor Owens, 27, a stopper, of Tu-

gela Street in Carletonville He leaves a wife, Frances, and three children, Tyrone, 5, Edwin, 4, and Nordika, 1

Mr J P Engelbrecht, Mr Owens's stepfather, said funeral arrangements would be made today He said Mr Owens had worked at the mine for three years.

"He was happy there He enjoyed his work It is just sad that this terrible accident happened."

The identities of the other eight men who died are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed.

"This will take a while as some of the men are from rural areas," Mr Kingsley-Jones said

He said 10 of the injured had been discharged from hospital One man was flown to the Cottesloe Hospital in Johannesburg but his condition was described as not serious

The other injured are being treated at the mine hospital for various injuries, including bruises, cuts and broken bones Their general condition was described as "stable" today

So far 15 mineworkers have been killed in rockbursts at Western Deep Levels this year

For your information... the Queen's... amounted simply to a letter... er's off-heard hopes

is... of in dealing in country

Handwritten notes and scribbles at the bottom right of the page.

Nine die in rock burst

(212)
SMC
26/6/87

JOHANNESBURG —
Nine miners were killed
and 28 injured by a
massive rockburst yes-
terday morning at Anglo
American's Western
Deep Levels gold mine
near Carletonville

The rockburst was
caused by an earth-
tremor measuring 3,8 on
the Richter Scale, an
Anglo spokesman, Mr
John Kingsley-Jones,
said last night.

This brought to 15 the
number of mineworkers
killed — all in rockfalls
— at Western Deep this
year.

Anglo named one of
yesterday's dead as 27-
year-old Mr Ivor Owens.
The names of the other
eight will be released
when their next-of-kin
have been informed.

The rockburst oc-
curred at the mine's
Number Three shaft
about 3 400m under-
ground. None of the in-
jured were in a critical
condition.

CAPE TIMES 26/6/87
**9 miners killed in huge
underground rockburst**

Own Correspondent (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Nine miners were killed and 28 injured in a massive rockburst yesterday morning at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels gold mine near Carletonville

The rockburst was caused by an earth tremor measuring 3,8 on the Richter scale, Anglo spokesman Mr John Kingsley-Jones said last night. The rockburst occurred at the mine's No 3 shaft about 3 400 metres underground. None of the injured is in a critical condition.

Anglo named one of yesterday's dead as Mr Ivor Owens, 27. The names of the other eight will be released when their next-of-kin have been informed.

Trust.

Call Trans 7/7/87

Chamber to move on Aids

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Chamber of Mines is expected to release soon a new policy on the handling of Aids in the mining industry.

The chamber has come under extreme pressure from government to repatriate all Aids carriers and to cease recruiting from areas — particularly Malawi — where the disease is prevalent, since the matter was raised in Parliament last month by the Conservative Party.

The chamber has been discussing the issue at the highest levels within its structures and, according to a spokesman, has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Department of Health.

Present chamber policy is clinically to assess and counsel carriers. Their services would be terminated only when they were clinically unfit to work.

In addition, it is chamber policy to screen potential new employees from Aids-prevalent areas.

The spokesman says the chamber does not have any new data on the prevalence of Aids in the industry since a study in August, based on 300 000 blood tests, which showed that about 800 workers may be carriers. Of those, 760 were from Central Africa.

Too late for classification

TRUST

Chamber 2/7/87

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Five poisoned miners recovering

17/8/78 Stw

Highveld Bureau

~~17/8/78~~

212

Five coalminers are recovering in hospital today after eating insecticide-spiked lunchpacks when they went underground at Gencor's TNC Colliery, near Witbank, on Friday.

It is believed the men were among 120 out of the mine's complement of about 1 300, who broke the national mine strike.

They were taken to the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg where they are reported to be in a stable condition.

A Witbank NUM spokesman said union members were not responsible for the poisoning. He said it was a mystery how the men were poisoned because many lunchpacks had left the kitchen that morning.

do," Mr Muller said "I want to leave them with a free option, and not lead them with her

News in Brief

24/7/87

Two miners killed 212

JOHANNESBURG — Two miners were killed in a fall of ground at the Harmony Gold Mine at Virginia in the Free State yesterday, according to a statement by the mine.

Cosatu car stolen

COSATU'S Western Cape branch has appealed to three men who stole its office car — a 1986 white Toyota Corolla containing 150 Cosatu keyrings, four briefcases and 50 booklets containing reports from the second national congress — to "kindly return the goods".

Khayelitsha robbery

TWO armed men robbed a Khayelitsha security guard of his firearm on Wednesday. A police spokesman yesterday said Mr Julius Kololi, 59, a security guard for the Cape Provincial Administration's Community Services, was doing guard duty at Greenpoint, a tent town in Khayelitsha, at 11.30am when he was held up and robbed of his 9mm service pistol

Sisulu denied passport

JOHANNESBURG — Mrs Sheila Sisulu, a sister-in-law of Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu (editor of the New Nation newspaper who is detained under the state of emergency regulations), has been refused a passport to travel to the United States, the Sowetan reported yesterday.

Ferrari celebrate in style

2/2

24 MINERS DIE IN ACCIDENT

ABOUT 30 black mine workers have died — 24 of them in a bus accident — since the national strike by the National Union of Mineworkers started two weeks ago.

Another 300 have been injured

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

Num's deputy secretary, Mr Marcel Golding, yesterday said the union had sent messages of condolence to the bereaved families and promised to do everything possible to help them

At least 24 people were killed and 48 were injured in the bus accident at the Nico Malan pass near Cathcart. The bus, taking 72 miners home from the Free State gold fields for the weekend, went off the tarred road on a bend and crashed into a jagged, rocky bank one kilometre below the pass.

The death of a mineworker and serious

injury to 20 others at Goldfields of SA's Libanon mine last week indicated management's determination to break the legal strike action, Num said yesterday.

Two other miners have died and many injured on the mines since the strike started, the union announced.

Mr Golding said that big business — particularly financial institutions in the Western Transvaal and the Free State — were working with mine managements and the State in an attempt to browbeat workers into ending the strike.

He alleged that a number of banks and building societies in the Klerksdorp, Orkney and Free State regions had refused to give striking miners money.

Spokesmen for at least two financial institutions denied the Num allegations, adding that strong action would be taken if the allegations proved true about their bank or building society.

• The two-month-old strike by Postal workers remained unresolved yesterday.

• The Mercedes Benz of SA plant in East London remained closed yesterday as the dispute between the company and the National Union of Metalworkers of SA continued.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including the name "Klein" and a date "11".



LUNGS (Those of blacks) ARE NOT SMALLER

IF the results of an extensive lung function survey recently completed in Johannesburg are as the chief investigator of the research project, Dr Jonathan Goldin, expects them to be, medical opinion throughout the world may well have to do an about-face.

Doctors challenge Western belief

The survey, co-sponsored by First National Bank and conducted by doctors from the University of Cape Town's respiratory clinic, set out to challenge a long-accepted medical theory on the disparity between the lungs of black and white people.

Medical surveys conducted throughout the Western world in the last 50 years on the comparative lung functions of blacks and whites have indicated that black lungs are smaller in size than their white counterparts.

Western scientists believe that this factor is due to a genetic predisposition and have established a 15 percent average difference in the predicted normal lung volumes of black and white lungs.

Diseases

This finding has severe repercussions in countries with a large mining workforce. High percentage of chest diseases exists among miners, with miner's pneumoconiosis (or miner's dust disease?) a common condition in South Africa.

Miners with a clinical diagnosis of the above disease are eligible for compensation, providing their lung function testing is 13 percent lower than the predicted normal.

Hence, a black miner seeking compensation for lung damage is at a serious disadvantage as his lung function has to read a full 28 percent lower than the white predicted normal in order to qualify for compensation.

Researchers from the medical faculty of the

University of Cape Town believe that it is possible that the 15 percent disparity might well be due to socio-economic factors rather than genetic.

Reasons for this belief are:

- (1) No research has been published in South Africa on a broad cross-section of healthy lungs.
- (2) No research has ever

been conducted investigating the specific relationship between socio-economic factors and lung function

- (3.) Until recently, black children were thought to grow more slowly than white children — however, researchers discovered that this growth retardation was due to poor diet
- (4) It would not be

unreasonable to say that until recently, most blacks in the Western world have come from socio-economically deprived backgrounds

Dr Goldin believes that eventual lung function potential is determined by environmental and dietary conditions during childhood

Thus, in order to

obtain a truly objective analysis, it was necessary to find a cross-section of working middle-class people from both the white and black communities

The logistics involved almost made the project impossible, until First National Bank came to the rescue

In addition to a cash donation of R10 000,

First National Bank offered space in Barclaycard House as a home for the research project. They provided statistics of staff members of which some 900 were selected as suitable subjects

The bank provided transport to the lung function unit and the chest X-ray unit in Hillbrow. A complete test per person takes roughly 3 hours, so the manpower cost to the bank was considerable.

Black and white lungs under the microscope

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The bank provided statistics of staff members of which some 900 were selected as suitable subjects.

Subjects were required to complete an extensive questionnaire with the primary focus being on environmental factors during childhood.

They then had to undergo numerous lung function tests, utilising some of the most technologically advanced equipment in the world.

Preliminary results of the research should be available in December, with the final conclusive results scheduled for publication in February 1988.

A staggering 40-60 percent of all medicine consumed in the Western world is for chest problems.

CP/Pres
30/8/87

2/2

Explosion occurred as lift was descending at St Helena

89 workers missing in mine shaft blast

Staff Reporters

Eighty-nine workers are missing after an explosion at the St Helena Gold Mine near Welkom today.

Rescue workers are trying to contact the men who were descending in a lift at the mine's No 10 shaft when the blast occurred.

At the time of going to press there was no indication as to the fate of the workers.

A mine spokesman said that, at the time of the explosion, 434 workers were underground

"Management has accounted for 345 persons, leaving 89 unaccounted for. The capacity of the lift is 82 persons but the actual number of passengers is not known at this stage

"The shaft is so severely damaged that it is not known at this stage whether the lift is still attached to the winding rope," said the spokesman

Mine management was unable immediately to establish the cause of the explosion

Mr Gary Maude, a director of St Helena Gold Mines Ltd, said the explosion, which occurred while the lift was taking workers down at 7.15 am, had caused extensive damage to the shaft.

Rescue operations were under way but no contact had been made with the miners.

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said the union was still investigating the circumstances of the accident

The blast came as miners in the Transvaal and the Free State returned to work after the three-week NUM strike

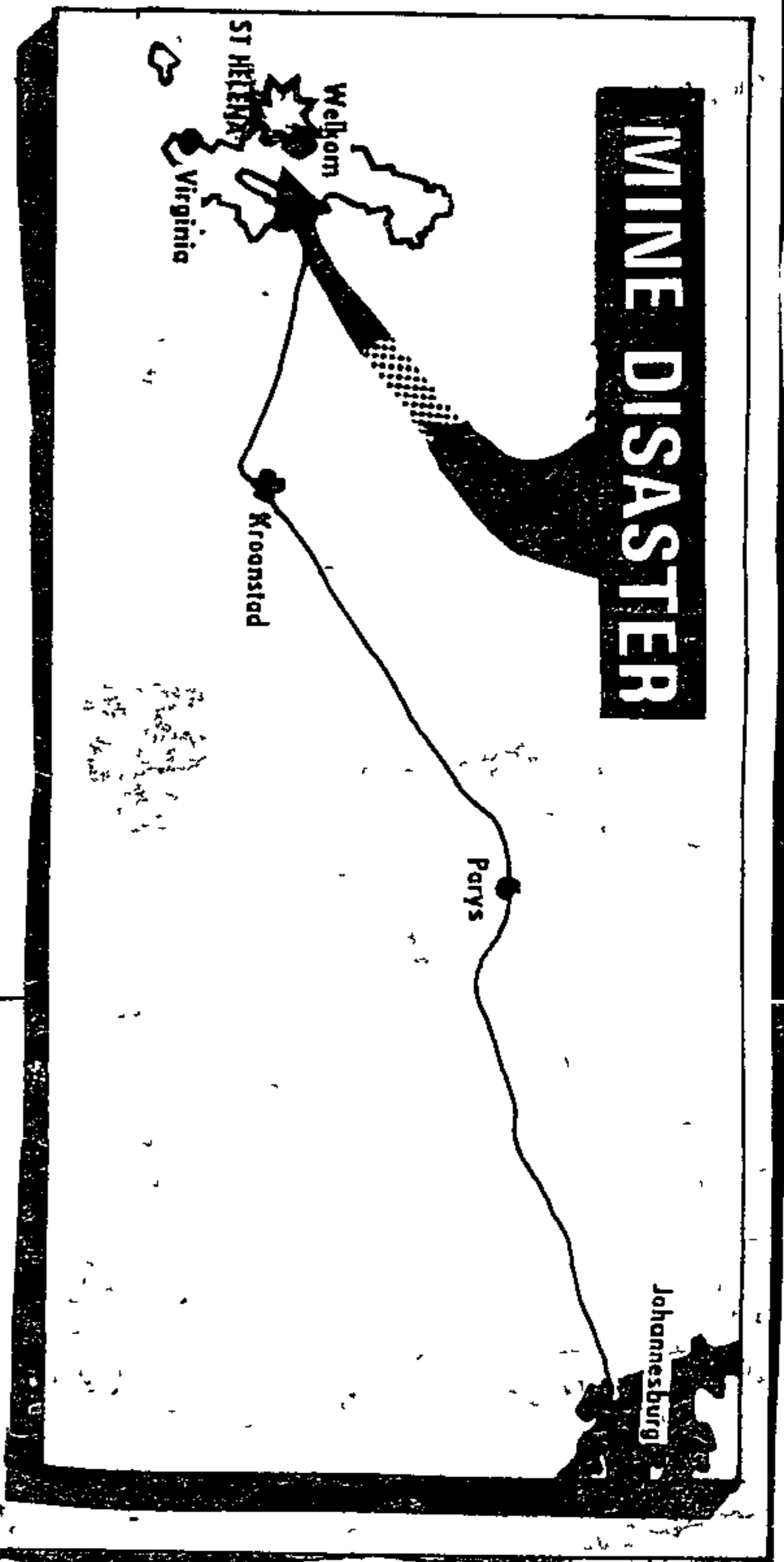
"Rescue operations are under way and, as soon as we make progress, we will distribute more information," a spokesman for Gencor, administrators of the mine, said

South Africa's worst mining disaster was in January 1960 when 438 miners died after being trapped 200 m underground at the Coalbrook coal mine

In August 1985, a methane explosion at Secunda's Middelbult colliery claimed 30 lives, with 29 injured, while 17 men were killed and 22 injured in a rock fall at the ERPM gold mine near Boksburg a month later.

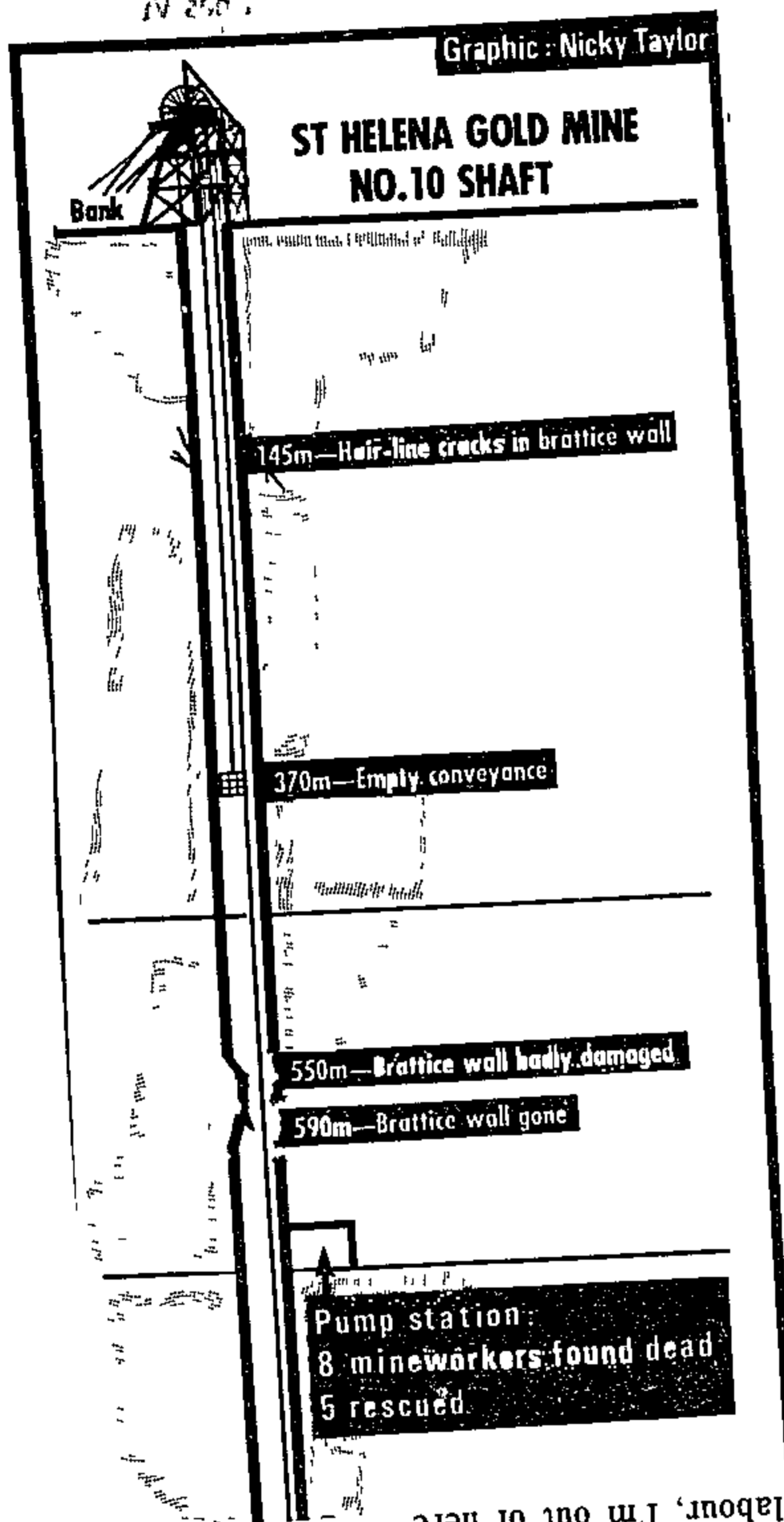
In September 1986, 177 miners died in an underground fire at the Kinross mine. The disaster pushed the gold mine fatality rate for 1986 up to 1.28 per 1 000 workers. The rate for coal mines dropped to 0.33 per 1 000

At Ermelo Mines in April this year, 34 miners were killed and 16 injured in a methane gas explosion.



I can't imagine anyone surviving a fall like that

Hope fading for 42 trapped miners



Hope is fading for the lives of the 42 men still missing at the St Helena Gold Mine.

Five injured mineworkers were dramatically rescued from the shaft last night. Eight bodies were located.

The mineworkers were in a lift which was being lowered down the 1637 m-deep No 10 shaft at 7.15 am yesterday when the mine was rocked by an explosion.

The lift plunged down the shaft.

It is possible that all 42 men unaccounted for are inside the lift cage, which is 3,43 m long and 1,68 m wide.

Asked about a chance of survivors in the lift, a mine spokesman said:

"I can't imagine anyone surviving a fall like that." Work began at 7 am today to recover the bodies of eight black miners who died underground. They were found at an intermediate pump station 695 m below the surface.

Another five blacks, who suffered first degree burns, were admitted to hospital last night after a dramatic rescue.

Two of them were in a serious condition at the 57-year-old lawyer of

Mr Jugnauth was expected to move ahead cleared the way for the poll. Mr Jugnauth's win cast a close result in the poll. Mr Jugnauth's win cleared the way for the poll.

Political analysts and poll watchers had forecast a close result in the poll. Mr Jugnauth's win cleared the way for the poll.

Assembly by being nominated to fill one of eight seats reserved for "best losers" under a constitutional formula aimed at maintaining a balance between the island's ethnic communities.

Mr Jugnauth's win cleared the way for the poll. Mr Jugnauth's win cleared the way for the poll.

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Handwritten notes and signatures: '212', 'SM', and a signature.

Welkom

RIGHT. Rescue workers prepare a rope to search below for the 42 miners at Welkom's St Helena Gold Mine.



Babies first, says McEnroe



Jackson mania: It's 'Bad'

NEW YORK — John McEnroe is prepared to default in the middle of a match if his actress wife, Tatum O'Neal goes into labour during the US Open. She is expecting their second child during the second week of the championships. Said McEnroe yesterday: "The minute Tatum goes into labour, I'm out of here."

NEW YORK — Record stores faced a new wave of Michael Jackson mania yesterday as fans flocked to buy "Bad", his first album in 4½ years. Store displays of the new album were sold out twice in an hour at some stores. The 16-minute title video was screened last night when a half-hour special on Jackson was shown on TV — AP.

visit The Rustus said "We hope very sincerely that Mathias will get a fair trial and a just verdict." Mrs Rust was asked by Mr Yakovlev to testify in her son's defence to give "family background" and information about his character, Dederichs said. She was informed she would not be allowed to view the legal proceedings in the Soviet Supreme Court until after she testified — Sapa-Reuters

the cafeteria of a factory run by the cult in Yongin, 80 km south of Seoul. Police officials said they were looking for three teenage girls reportedly seen on Sunday near the factory. The girls could be among the 17 people still missing from the factory, the officials said. Mrs Park, posing as a wealthy businesswoman-philanthropist, practiced an extreme form of Christianity that predicted the world was coming to an end, authorities said — Sapa-AP

in Mauritian poll

SOWETAN

SEPTEMBER 1, 1987

27c + 3c GST (PWV) Prices elsewhere on Back Page

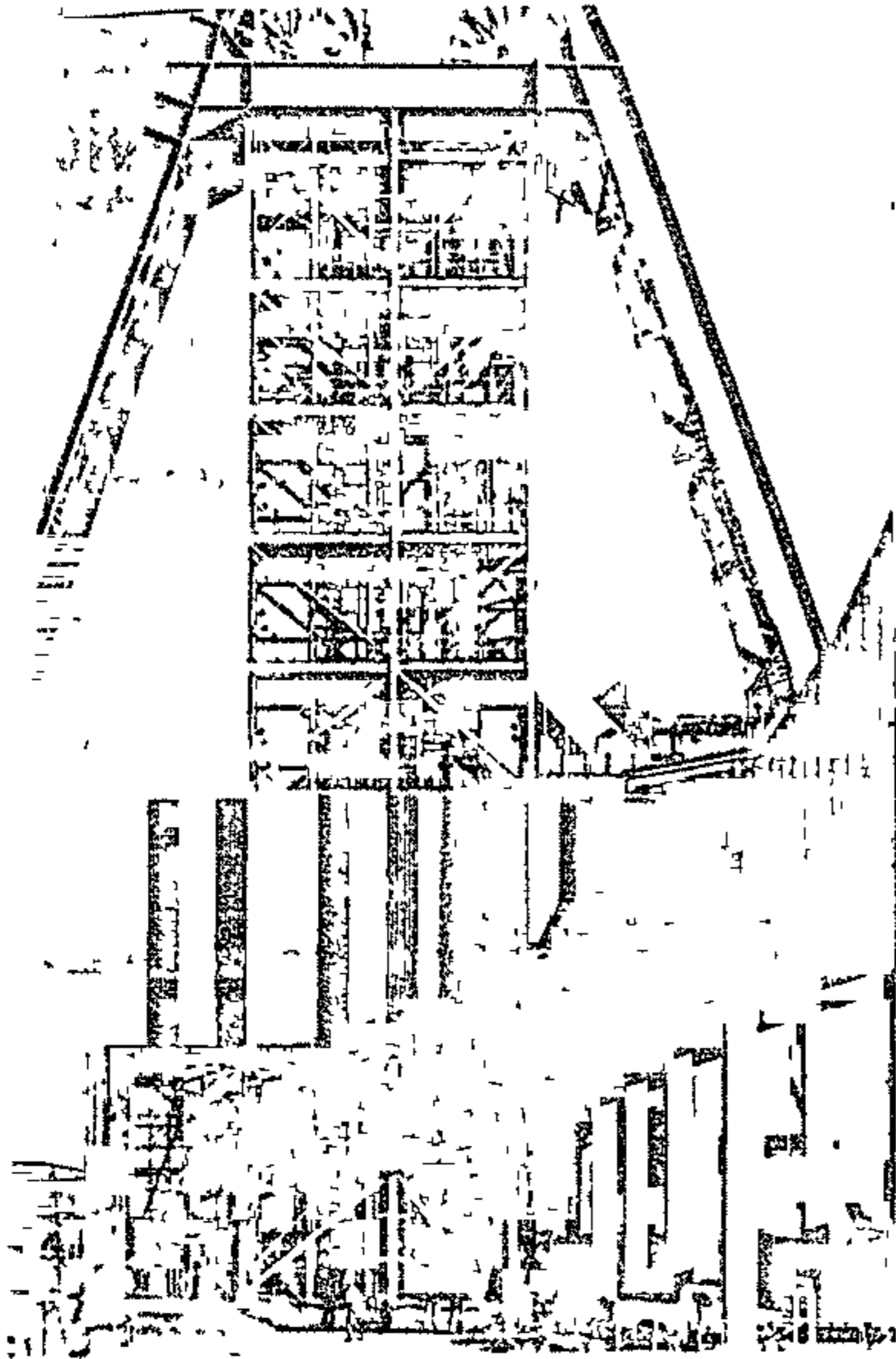
Tragedy as
workers
return to
their jobs

NINE BLAST

92 MISSING

A MINING company said 92 workers were missing following an explosion that rocked a gold mine shaft yesterday, trapping at least 80 in an elevator suspended 90 metres below ground

SA
Press
Association



MINE HEADGEAR Similar to the one in Welkom

The blast occurred as thousands of black miners were returning to their jobs following a massive three-week strike

Gencor said the explosion caused extensive damage to the No 10 shaft at its St Helena gold mine in Welkom, 225 km south west of Johannesburg

The company said more than 400 workers were underground at the time of the blast and more than 300 had been evacuated by crossing through excavation tunnels to a parallel No 8 shaft

Explosion

The cause of the explosion has not been established and mine company spokesmen said attempts to reach the elevator were hampered by heavy damage to steel work in the 1367 metre deep shaft

A company statement said the blast at about 7.15 am caused extensive damage to the shaft

Management at the

• To Page 2

The

Strike

• From Page 1

mine were unable to immediately establish the cause of the explosion

Mr G Maude, a director of St Helena Gold Mines Limited, said in a statement that at the time of the explosion, about 70 employees were believed to have been in the shaft's lift which was descending at the time

"Rescue operations have been started but no contact has yet been made with the employees in the lift"

A spokesman for the Gencor — administrators of St Helena — said later the mine had been "particularly" affected by the national gold and coal miners' strike which ended at the weekend following talks between the National Union of Mineworkers (Num) and the Chamber of Mines

"About 70 percent of St Helena's workers did not go on strike," the spokesman told Sapa

"Rescue operations are underway as soon as we make progress we will distribute more information," he said.

amous regiments.



what extent and (b) what quotas are applied at each of these technicians, (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- (1) Yes, talks are currently in progress with the rectors regarding a policy for the admission of non-Whites to the technicians which is in accordance with the provisions and the spirit of the Constitution and which serves the interests of the country. The discussions have not been concluded.
- (2) Yes, subject to the policy of admission
- (3) No pending completion of the discussions on policy in this regard (a) and (b) Fall away
- (4) No

TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1987

[†]Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

Newspaper proprietors/publishers, talks

*1 Mr D J DALLING asked the State President

Whether he or any person delegated by him recently held talks with any representatives of newspaper proprietors or publishers, if so, (a) when were these talks held in each case and (b) (i) who was present at (ii) what was the purpose of, and (iii) what resulted from, the talks in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION (for the State President)

I refer the hon member to my address in the House of Assembly on 17 August

HQA

1987 I have no further comments, considering that I do not supply details of my conversations with other parties, unless prior agreement has been reached with those parties

Mr P G SOAL Or they have been taped

Ministers

Waterpoort Police Force: representations

*1 Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order †

- (1) Whether the South African Police has received any (a) complaints and (b) representations in connection with certain members of the Police Force at Waterpoort, if so, (i) when, (ii) what was the nature of the (aa) complaints and (bb) representations and (iii) what was the response to the representations,

(2) whether the complainants have been investigated if so, (a) when and (b) what were the ranks of the investigating officers,

(3) whether he has received a report on this investigation, if so (a) when, (b) what was the purport thereof and (c) what were the findings,

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) (a) and (b) Yes

(i) 23 June 1987

(ii) and (iii) The complainants and representations dealt with departmental policy which I regard as an internal matter. I am therefore not prepared to furnish this information

(2) Yes

(a) From 7 until 31 July 1987

(b) The Divisional Commissioner of the Far Northern Transvaal Police Division investigated the complainants and representations

(3) Yes

(a) 21 August 1987

(b) I refer the hon member to my answer to paragraph (1) (ii) and (iii) above

(c) The complainants and representations were false

(4) Yes. The policy of the South African Police determines that members of the Force should serve all groups of the community impartially, irrespective of race, colour, religion and political affiliation. The security of South Africa and all its people is an absolute priority with the South African Police and it is for this reason, therefore, that I disapprove in the strongest terms of any attempt, whatsoever, to involve the Force or any member of the Force in petty party politicizing. In any event, Standing Orders prohibit members of the Force from becoming members of any leftist or rightist radical organizations such as the ANC or AWPB and from participating in party politics

Neuwenthuizer Report

*2 Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development †

(1) Whether any amendments have been effected to the White Paper on the Neuwenthuizer Report, if so, (a) when (b) by whom and (c) what amendments,

(2) whether these amendments are to be tabled in the present session of Parliament if so, when, if not (a) why not and (b) when they are expected to be tabled,

(3) whether all employers' and employees organizations will have an opportunity to discuss and/or comment on the proposed amendments, if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) Yes

(a) 19 March 1986

HQA

(b) Cabinet

(c) That.

(1) the instruction by the Government in the White Paper that the uniform occupational diseases dispensation should be based completely on the principles of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973, be amended.

(ii) the Interdepartmental working committee be authorized to prepare draft legislation whereby the administration of the compensation of irrevocable and incurable occupational diseases could be in tandem with the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941 of the Department of Manpower and

(iii) if necessary, separate draft legislation for occupational medicine be prepared

(2) No

(a) As the amendments have a small effect on the work of the Interdepartmental Committee and as the draft legislation prepared by the committee will be published for discussion by employers and employee institutions tabling of these minor amendments to the White Paper were not necessary

(b) Falls away

(3) Yes

†Mr F J LE ROUX Mr Speaker arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply. I should like to ask him whether he is aware that in the original Neuwenthuizer report the recommendation was that that payments in respect of accidents and so forth should be based on the pneumoconiosis legislation of 1973, and secondly, whether he knows that this matter now has been outstanding since the end of 1980

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, it is true that this proposed legislation has been outstanding since 1980 but the inter-depart-

Howard 1/9/87

mental committee experienced problems in preparing legislation to fit in with the original decision. In order to obtain a reply and to get legislation to this House, this decision has been taken by the Cabinet.

Sam Bloomberg

*3 Brig J F BOSMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order +

- (1) Whether a certain person whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purposes of the Minister's reply, is a Police reservist, if so, (a) what is the name of this person and (b) what salary does he receive from the State
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes
 - (a) Mr Samuel Gabriel Bloomberg
 - (b) In accordance with the conditions of service a reservist is not entitled to any remuneration and therefore he does not receive remuneration of any nature
- (2) Yes Mr Sam Bloomberg, who is also the hon member for Bezuidenhout is a member of the Reserve Police Force of the South African Police since 21 September 1961. As such he serves under the command of the Commissioner of the South African Police in terms of section 34 (2) of the Police Act of 1958 and is assigned to the District Commandant Johannesburg for duty and discipline. When he is on duty he is empowered with the same authority and renders the same duty in terms of section 5 of the Police Act 1958 as permanent members of the Force.

I wish to emphasize that members of the Reserve Police Force provide voluntary service without remuneration. They do indeed receive uniforms to enable them to perform their duties in uniform. When a reservist terminates his services, however, these

items of uniform must be returned. When under specific circumstances, essential expenses in respect of transport and meals are incurred, such expenses can be claimed, for example, where there is insufficient public transport and a reservist resides further than 5 kilometres from a police station and has to make use of private transport, etcetera.

However, provisions determine that in exceptional instances and for specific reasons members of the Reserve Police Force may be called up for special duty. Although such a member still has a choice and cannot be compelled to perform this duty, it is possible that in such instances remuneration and subsistence allowance can be paid at prescribed tariffs.

I wish to emphasize that in this particular case according to the records of the South African Police, the hon member received no remuneration for his services and submitted no claims in respect of subsistence allowance meals and/or transport.

The hon member for Bezuidenhout has since his appointment in the Reserve Police Force rendered excellent service. Consequently the State President awarded him the honorary rank of Colonel on 1 November 1983. Since his election to the House of Assembly on 6 May 1987 he still renders excellent service without remuneration when his circumstances and time permit.

From the aforementioned it is clear that under no circumstances can this instance be regarded as an office of profit under the Republic in terms of section 54 (e) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983, Act 110 of 1983.

Mr F J LE ROUX Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, I should just like to ask whether police reservists are insured against accidents.

The MINISTER Mr Speaker, unfortunately I do not know that I shall have the

matter investigated and furnish the hon member with a reply.

National security management system

*4 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services

- (1) Whether the Commission for Administration is at present involved in a review of the national security management system, if so, (a) what is the purpose of this review and (b) when is it anticipated that the Commission will report on this matter.
- (2) whether the (a) findings and (b) recommendations in this regard will be made available to the public, if not, (i) why not and (ii) who will have access to this information?

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (for the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services)

- (1) No
- (2) Falls away

Waverest township development project

*5 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) Whether the Cape Provincial Council commissioned an inquiry during the previous decade into the Waverest township development project in Port Elizabeth, if so, (a) when and (b) (i) who were the members and (ii) what were the terms of reference of this commission of inquiry,
- (2) whether this commission reported to the Administrator of the Cape, if not, why not, if so (a) when, (b) what were the findings and (c) what action was taken as a result,
- (3) whether this report has been made available to the public, if so, when, if not, why not,
- (4) whether he will make this report

available to the public, if not, why not, if so, when.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- (1) (a) A Committee to enquire into the Waverest development project at Jeffrey's Bay (not Port Elizabeth as suggested in the question) was appointed by the Administrator on 8 June 1973
- (b) (i) MFC's Messrs J H Heyns (Chairman), T Aronson, D H Rossouw, O A Saaman, P H S van Zijl
- (ii) The terms of reference were

“(aa) To determine whether there was any non-observance of any law, procedure, principles, policy or precedents relating to town planning and the authorisation of the establishment of a township, and if so,

- (bb) to establish which parties to such non-observance and
- (cc) to recommend what steps, if any should be taken in the matter.”

- (2) Yes

- (a) February 1974
- (b) The following are the conclusions, findings and recommendations of the Committee

(i) Your Committee completed the inquiry as a Departmental Committee and came to the conclusion and also found that there was no non-observance of any law, procedure, principles or policy relating to town plan-

1/9/87  Howard

Welkom blast: 51 miners missing

Five miners rescued, 8 found dead

212
B/day
11/9/87

RESCUE teams discovered eight dead and five injured miners at the intermediate pump station 695m below the surface at No 10 shaft at St Helena gold mine near Welkom last night

Fears were mounting for the safety of the remaining 51 miners missing after the blast at the mine yesterday morning. Proto teams discovered the cable by which the lift cage in which they were travelling had been severed at 900m

Gencor's GM operations for the Free State and Evander, Gerald Maude, said "It would be wonderful if we found a stuck cage with people in it"

But chances were regarded as slim that the cage had become lodged somewhere in the lift shaft and it was feared the cage may have dropped to the bottom of the 1 370m shaft

Rescuers reached the injured and dead miners by taking a service lift to within 30m of the pump station, and then lowering a "bosun's chair" attached to the bottom of the lift by rope. The five survivors were brought up one by one to a safe

By DAN SIMON and ALAN FINE

level, from where they were being taken to the surface

Preparations were being made to reach the cage last night, but work could not be started until there was no danger of more material falling down the shaft

It was earlier thought 92 men were missing, but 28 of them were discovered on the surface, in addition to the 342 evacuated through the adjacent No 8 shaft earlier in the day

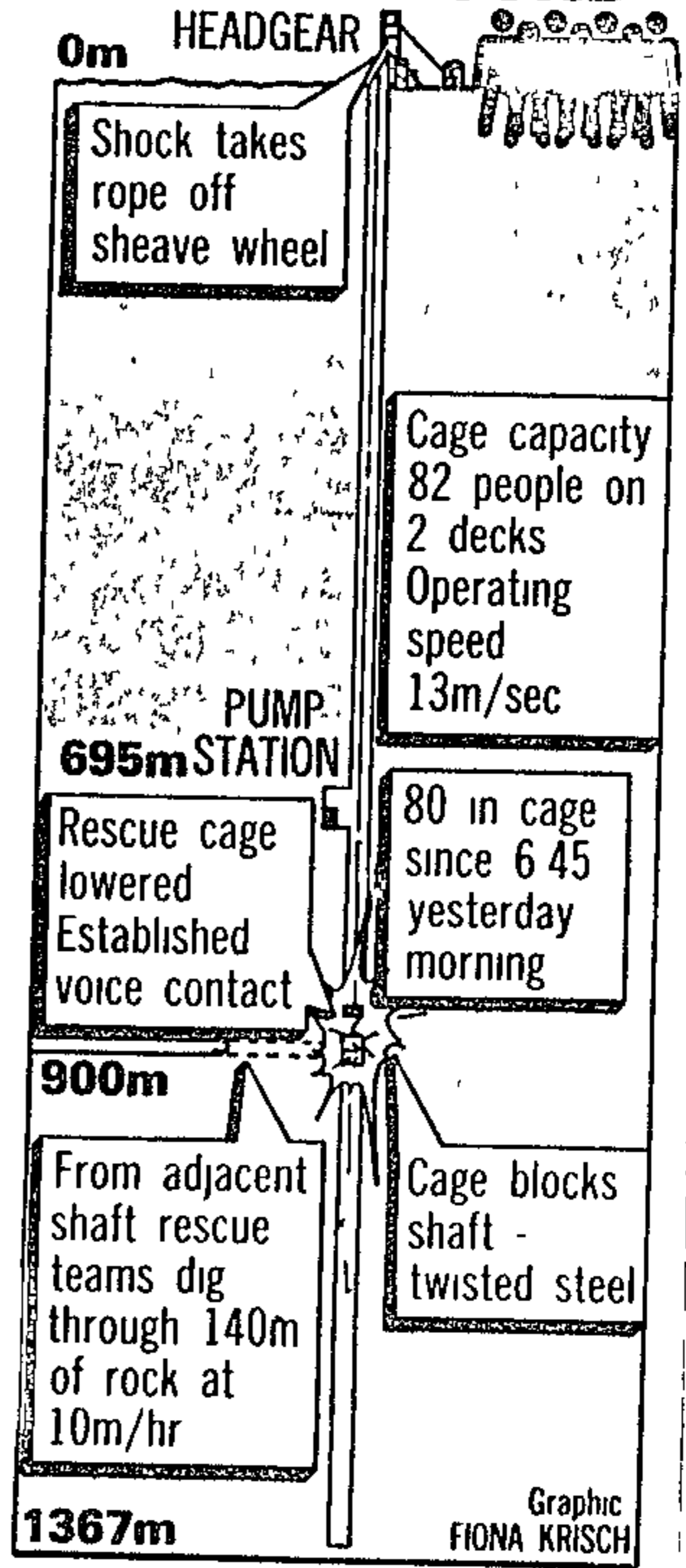
Gencor, which administers the mine, announced the blast in a statement saying that at 6 45 yesterday morning "what sounded like an explosion was heard at No 10 shaft"

A Gencor spokesman said last night the cause of the explosion remained unknown

One mining expert noted a prevalence of methane gas at certain levels of mines in the Welkom area

This is the third major accident at a Gencor mine in the past year Last Sep-

80 TRAPPED UNDERGROUND



tember 177 miners died in an underground fire at the Kinross gold mine. Another 34 died in a methane gas explosion at Ermelo in April

JOHANNESBURG
— Topping South Africa's list of mine accidents in the past 12 months is a gold mine fire and a coal mine explosion that together killed 211 men.

Both occurred in mines owned by Gencor, as did the explosion yesterday which trapped at least 70 workers underground in a gold mine shaft at Welkom, south of here

A Gencor spokesman, Mr Dawie de Beer, declined to comment yesterday on the run of three major accidents in company mines "I can't really say anything about it. It is as bad news to us as to anybody else," he said.

A fire at Gencor's Kinross gold mine east of here killed 177 men on September 16 last year. The deaths were blamed at the time on poisonous fumes from polyurethane foam used to line tunnel walls. It was the worst gold mine accident in the 100 years of gold mining in South Africa.

On April 9, methane gas exploded in Gencor's Ermelo coal mine east of here, killing 34

miners. A day earlier, 16 miners were injured in a methane gas explosion at another coal mine east of here, run by Sasol.

The Kinross disaster occurred a few days after the mining industry had reported its best safety figures ever.

The Chamber of Mines said in early September that deaths in gold mines in the first half of 1986 fell below one per 1 000 employees for the first time. It said that represented a 14,6 per cent improvement over the comparable period of 1985.

The Kinross fatalities helped push the 1986 death toll in South African mines to 800, up from 706 in 1985.

The Chamber of Mines said last year that deaths in gold mines had been cut by nearly 40 per cent in the previous 10 years, largely because an international safety rating system had been introduced in 1978.

The system, adapted from one used by the US Bureau of Mines, gives mines ratings of one to five stars, according to casualty figures, emergency preparedness and other factors.

Safety has been a persistent issue between

Third major accident for mining firm

1/9/87 (2/2) 20
Explosion traps 70 workers underground in mine shaft

mining companies and the mineworkers' union

The union has contended that production bonuses paid to white miners encourage them to put pressure on black miners to increase output regardless of safety. The union has also said safety is affected by poorly-trained blacks doing some jobs legally reserved for whites.

The chamber has acknowledged that some blacks are doing jobs white miners are trained to do, but has denied that safety was affected. It has said supervisors have an incen-

tive to maintain safety standards, since production losses cut their bonuses.

Mining companies say the nature of South African mines presents some of the stiffest safety challenges in the world. Shafts go deeper than in other countries and create difficult gas buildups and rockface pressures.

"The difficulties faced by the South African gold-mining industry have no comparable equivalents in industry anywhere in the world," the chamber said last year — Sapa-AP

Hope fades for 51 miners down shaft

Rescuers find 8 bodies

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue teams discovered eight dead and five injured miners at an intermediary pump station 695 metres below the surface at No 10 shaft at St Helena gold mine near Welkom last night.

Fears were mounting for the safety of the remaining 51 miners missing after a blast at the mine yesterday morning. Proto teams discovered the cable by which the lift cage in which they were travelling had been severed at 900 metres.

Gencor's general manager of operations for the Free State and Evander, Mr Gerald Maud, said "It would be wonderful if we found a stuck cage with people in it."

But chances were regarded as slim that the cage had become lodged somewhere in the lift shaft and it was feared it may have dropped to the bottom of the shaft at 1 370 metres.

Rescuers reached the injured and dead miners by taking a service lift to within 30 metres of the pump station, and then lowering

a bosun's chair" attached to the bottom of the lift by rope. The five survivors were brought up one by one to a safe level, from where they were being taken to the surface.

Preparations were being made to try to reach the cage last night, but work could not be started until there was no danger of more material falling down the shaft.

Officials said it could take several days to extract the cage.

Early this morning mine management released the names of four missing miners after informing their next kin

They are Mr B A Hayes, 37, a driller, married with one daughter, Mr O C Delaport, 23, a learner driller, unmarried, Mr D B Nothnagel, 56, a driller, married with five children, Mr R H Botha, 19, married with no children.

Names of the other miners killed, injured or missing will be released when their families have been informed.

Officials were initially mystified at the cause of the explosion. However they have now discounted sabotage and strongly suspect a methane explosion.

This suggestion was strengthened when the dead and injured at the intermediate pump station were found to have burns.

It was earlier thought 92 men were missing, but 28 of them were discovered on the surface in addition to the 342 evacuated through the adjacent No 8 shaft earlier in the day.

Gencor, which administrators the mine, announced the blast in a statement saying that at 6.45 yesterday morning "what sounded like an explosion was heard at No 10 shaft."

This is the third major accident at a Gencor mine in the past year. Last September 177 miners died in an underground fire at the Kinross gold mine. Another 34 died in a methane gas explosion at Ermelo in April.

St Helena had been partially affected by the miners' strike which ended on Sunday. Previous accidents

41 missing miners 'could be alive'

11/18/87 212
WJST

WELKOM — The body of a miner has been seen lying on concrete debris 40 metres deep that has filled the bottom of St Helena gold mine's Number 10 shaft, 1 370 metres down, a Gencor director, Mr Gary Maude, said today

This brings to nine the number of miners known to have been killed in yesterday's blast in the number 10 shaft of the mine

near Welkom in the Orange Free State

Mr Maude said rescue workers — who reached the 19th level, 1 275 metres below the surface via underground tunnels linked with the adjoining Number 8 shaft — saw the body of the miner after better lighting was installed in the shaft

The worker had presumably fallen down the shaft, Mr Maude said

He said rescue workers could not see all the way up the shaft from the 19th level, because "there is a further clogging of rubble higher up"

This meant there was "a slim possibility that the lift is caught in the higher up blockage," Mr Maude said

If this was the case, there was a chance that the 41 unaccounted for

were still alive, Mr Maude said

Mr Maude said the St Helena management were sure that most, if not all, of the 41 miners unaccounted for were in the lift

The explosion at 7 15am yesterday caused a lift to plummet down the shaft. Five people were rescued in the pump station and eight dead were found in the shaft last night

Of the five who were rescued two are in serious condition in hospital. The other three are in a satisfactory condition

The five were being treated for burn injuries, indicating that there had been an explosion

Mr Maude said St Helena was known to have methane gas underground "as do all Orange Free State mines"

"Rescue conditions are still extremely dangerous," he said

The names of four of the 41 missing miners have been released. They are Mr B A Hayes, 37, Mr O C Delaport, 23, Mr B Nothnagel, 56, and Mr R H Botha, 19 — Sapa

Rescue teams have worked non-stop at No 10 shaft at St Helena gold mine near Welkom since the underground explosion yesterday

RES. OFF. OFFICE



Miners wait for news at No 10 shaft of the St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom. Eight miners were killed in an explosion in the shaft and 42 are still missing.

ARGUS 1/9/87 212

TV camera probes shaft as search for miners continues

WELKOM. — Rescuers at St Helena gold mine have suspended a television camera hundreds of metres down the blast-damaged No 10 shaft to find the missing lift in which 42 miners are believed to be trapped.



Argus chart marks launch of Sputnik

THIRTY years ago the launch of the first Sputnik began the exploration of space. And on Friday The Argus, in association with BP SA, will publish a special chart to mark the anniversary of the launch.

The chart, in English and Afrikaans and printed on quality paper, is part of the popular Argus/BP Newspaper in Education series.

The charts are a valuable teaching aid for students and school pupils and a superb keepsake

The Space Voyages chart is the second of four this year, the others being South African Fishes (already published), Natural Disasters and The Environment.

Hopes of finding the men alive are remote "I can't imagine anyone surviving a fall like that," said Gencor director Mr Gary Maude

St Helena management were "fairly sure" that most, if not all, the 42 miners unaccounted for were in the lift cage, which is 3,43m by 1,68m and is believed to be about 900m below the surface

SPINNING

A Gencor spokesman said the camera was being used to determine the extent of the damage to the shaft and to search for the lift

"This examination has proved very difficult because of obstructions in the shaft and the camera spinning on its cable

"Rescue crews managed to lower the camera only 50m beyond the pump station, 720m below surface" This is well short of the lift

"A frame for the camera was rigged and examination work is continuing," the spokesman said

The explosion happened in the shaft early yesterday The cause and location of the blast have not been determined

Five people were rescued and eight bodies were found in the shaft last night

Two seriously injured men were taken to the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg during the night and the other

(Continued page 3 col 1)

ARGUS 1/9/87 212

Search for missing miners

(Continued from page 1)

three are in a satisfactory condition in the mine hospital

A start was made early today to recover the eight bodies from the intermediate pump station, said Mr Maude

He added "Rescue conditions are extremely dangerous The concrete shaft wall is badly damaged and at this stage we cannot allow rescue workers beyond the pump station because of falling debris"

He said recovery of the lift would be a long job, "possibly measured in days rather than hours"

According to depth indicator readings, the lift cage stopped about 900m underground, well short of the bottom of the shaft which is 1 367m deep

Mine management believes the cage is either between 915m and 1 075m down, or 40m under debris at the bottom of the shaft

Commenting on a National Union of Mineworkers' statement last night that "Gencor mines are death traps" giving Kinross and Ermelo as examples, Mr Maude said "For a third party to judge the cause of an accident before those involved have done so is not very helpful"

Mr Maude also confirmed that St Helena is known to contain methane gas "as do all Orange Free State mines"

● The families of trapped mineworkers are living and praying in hope as rescue work for the 42 missing men continues

The daughter of Mr D B Nothnagel, a 56-year old driller who was listed as one of those missing, said today the family had not given up believing that their father would come out alive

Although she had been told by the mine management that her father was missing in the accident, she said grimly "We still have hope that everything is all right"

Her face showing the tension, she said every ring of the telephone was an added strain as the family waited for news

The five children were with their mother at the Nothnagels' Odendaalsrus home — The Argus Correspondent and Sapa

● Shock figures on gold mine fatalities — page 11.

Lone rescuer saves 5 in death mine

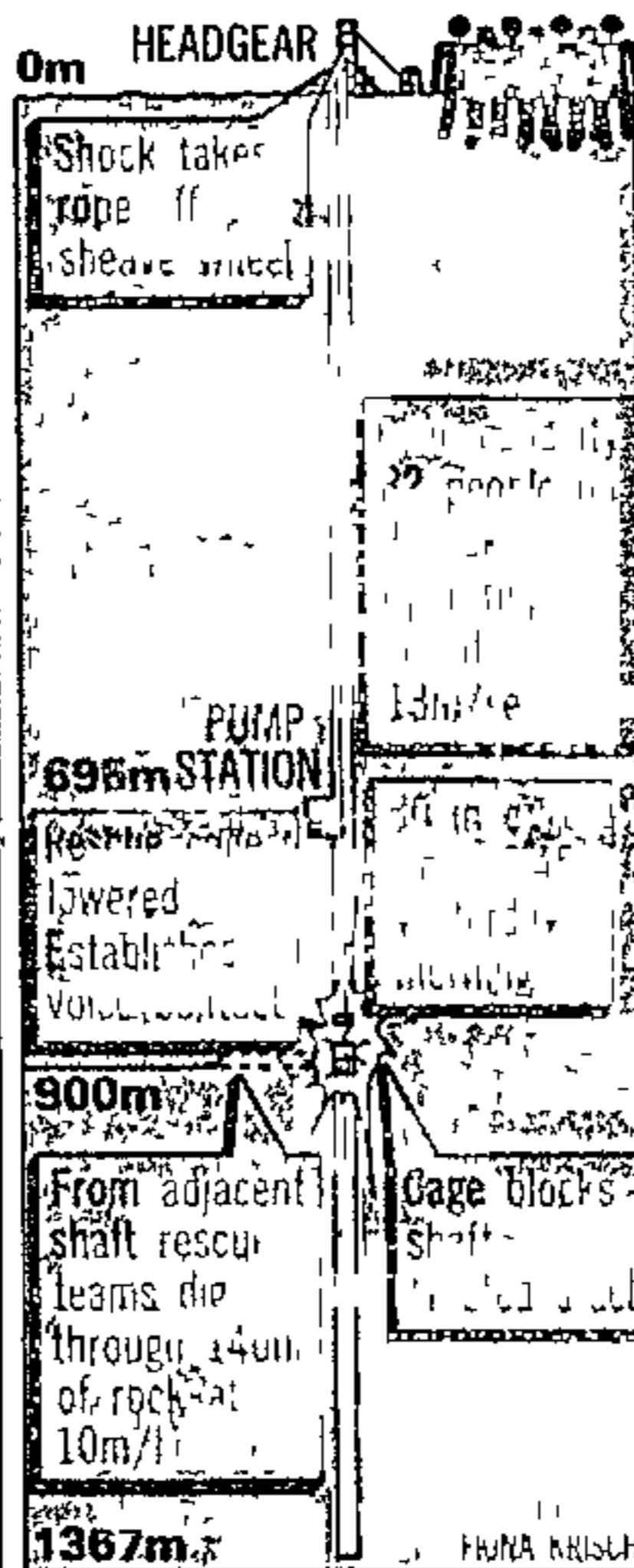
CA Temp 11/9/87 212

When the law is an ass — or a goat

WELLINGTON — New Zealand will review the deportation of a South African-bred racehorse following Prime Minister Mr David Lange's comment that he had allowed South African goats to stay in New Zealand.

Earlier the Customs Minister, Mr Trevor de Cleene, had ruled that Destroyer had to be shipped out because of its South African breeding.

However Mr Lange said yesterday he had once allowed goats with South African pedigrees into New Zealand because they were not in South Africa when New Zealand imposed its embargo against South African products. — Sapa Reuter



JOHANNESBURG — Five miners were found alive after an explosion apparently ripped through a gold mine shaft at Welkom yesterday. But 42 men are still missing.

The five survivors were found under a pile of rubble by a lone rescuer working from a rope. He found the men at the bottom of the 1370 metre deep No 10 shaft at the St Helena mine. The eight bodies were found at the same place.

Late last night evidence pointed to an explosion at the mine, according to the owners Gencor.

A company spokesman, Mr Gary Maude, said the five survivors had been brought to the surface and preparations were being made to bring up the eight bodies from an intermediary pump station at the 695 metre level.

No sabotage

"The injured miners were recovered by lowering a bosun's chair from a 100 metre cable sent down the shaft. Work was very slow and very dangerous. Recovery took half an hour per person," Mr Maude said.

Of those injured there is good medical evidence of burns which certainly seem to indicate an explosion," he said.

"According to a mine overseer who has seen the eight dead, some are also burnt. There is however nothing to indicate sabotage," he added.

Earlier it was estimated that 51 miners were still trapped.

Mr Maude said the five survivors had been admitted to hospital after receiving treatment for burns from doctors. One is in a serious condition.

Preparations were being made to examine the shaft below the intermediate pump station in order to assess the damage and locate the missing lift.

Mr Maude said the rescue team miner reached the pump station about 13 hours after the accident.

He told reporters that the lift cage thought to have been carrying more than 50 miners could be buried under 40 metres of rubble and twisted steel at the bottom of the shaft.

Cable which had supported the lift cage had been found by rescue teams.

Preparations were being made to try to find the cage last night but work could not be started until there was no danger of more material falling down the shaft.

St Helena had been partly affected by the miners' strike. — Own Correspondent and UPI

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crack of dawn



Skinny snakes

DURBAN — Two men, charged with cruelty to two snakes, were again remanded in the Durban Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Mr George Shezi, 30, and Mr Siphq Nxumalo, 20, will appear in court again on September 14. It is alleged that on August 14 they unlawfully starved or underfed two black mambas they had in their possession. — Sapa

BUSINESS BRIEF

Gold (NY close)	\$451.05
Rand	\$0.4900/07
BD 100	2372.20
Dow Jones	2664.00

Cart notes 2/9/87 212

Hope lost for 40 miners

WELKOM — All hope has been abandoned of saving 40 miners unaccounted for in the St Helena gold mine disaster

A second body was found at the main pump station 1 305m below surface at the mine here yesterday, bringing the known death toll in the blast to 10

Five miners were injured, two seriously, when an explosion occurred in the mine's number 10 shaft. Forty workers have not yet been accounted for

The mine's chairman, Mr Steve Ellis, said they were sure beyond doubt that the cage, probably containing all 40 of the workers unaccounted for, was not stuck in the shaft

It could only be at shaft bottom 1 370m down

"In these circumstances there is no hope that any of the 40 could be found alive," said Mr Ellis

Rescue workers have been unable to reach the cage buried below 40m of rubble and twisted metal

The bodies of the eight other people were still at an intermediate pump station 695m below surface

● A survivor of the blast described his 11-hour ordeal

Mr Mlamli Mavi, 38, a Transkei migrant worker, received burns to his head and arm

He was at the intermediary pump station in the shaft when he heard "an explosion followed by big fire, strong wind and then complete darkness", at which he lost consciousness for 11 hours

"When I finally came to my senses, I saw bodies sprawled around"

● An investigation into the causes of the accident at the St Helena mine would be conducted as soon as the spot where it occurred could be reached, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, said yesterday

Mr Steyn expressed his "deepest sympathy" for the next of kin and friends of those who had been killed — Political Correspondent and Sapa

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212

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Methane gas 'likely cause' of mine blast

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A methane gas explosion may have been responsible for the St Helena Gold Mine disaster in which 50 miners are believed to have died

The bodies of ten miners have been found and mine chairman Mr Steve Ellis said last night there was no hope that the 40 workers trapped in a cage beneath 40m of rubble were still alive

A Gencor director, Mr Gary

Maude, said yesterday that methane gas "was one of the more likely" causes of the blast which sent the cage plunging to the bottom of the 1 370m shaft

He declined to speculate on other possibilities

Of the five miners who were injured in the explosion, two are in a serious condition in hospital in Johannesburg

The explosion happened at St Helena's Number 10 shaft at 7 15am on Monday

Mr Maude said management would do its utmost to reach the cage, although this could take several weeks because of the debris covering it

He added that the bodies of eight of the dead miners were still at the intermediate pump station and would be recovered as soon as the shaft had been made safe

Mr Mkhuma, a National Union of Mineworkers official, was highly critical of the safe-

ty measures and standards at Gencor mines. However, he refused to speculate on the cause of the accident, saying he had no facts

Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology Mr Danie Steyn last night expressed his deepest sympathy with the family and friends of the deceased

An investigation into the cause of the accident is to be conducted as soon as inspectors can reach the scene

Sympathy for victims

THE Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, yesterday expressed his "deepest sympathy" for the families of the victims and a speedy recovery of those injured, in the Welkom mine disaster on Monday

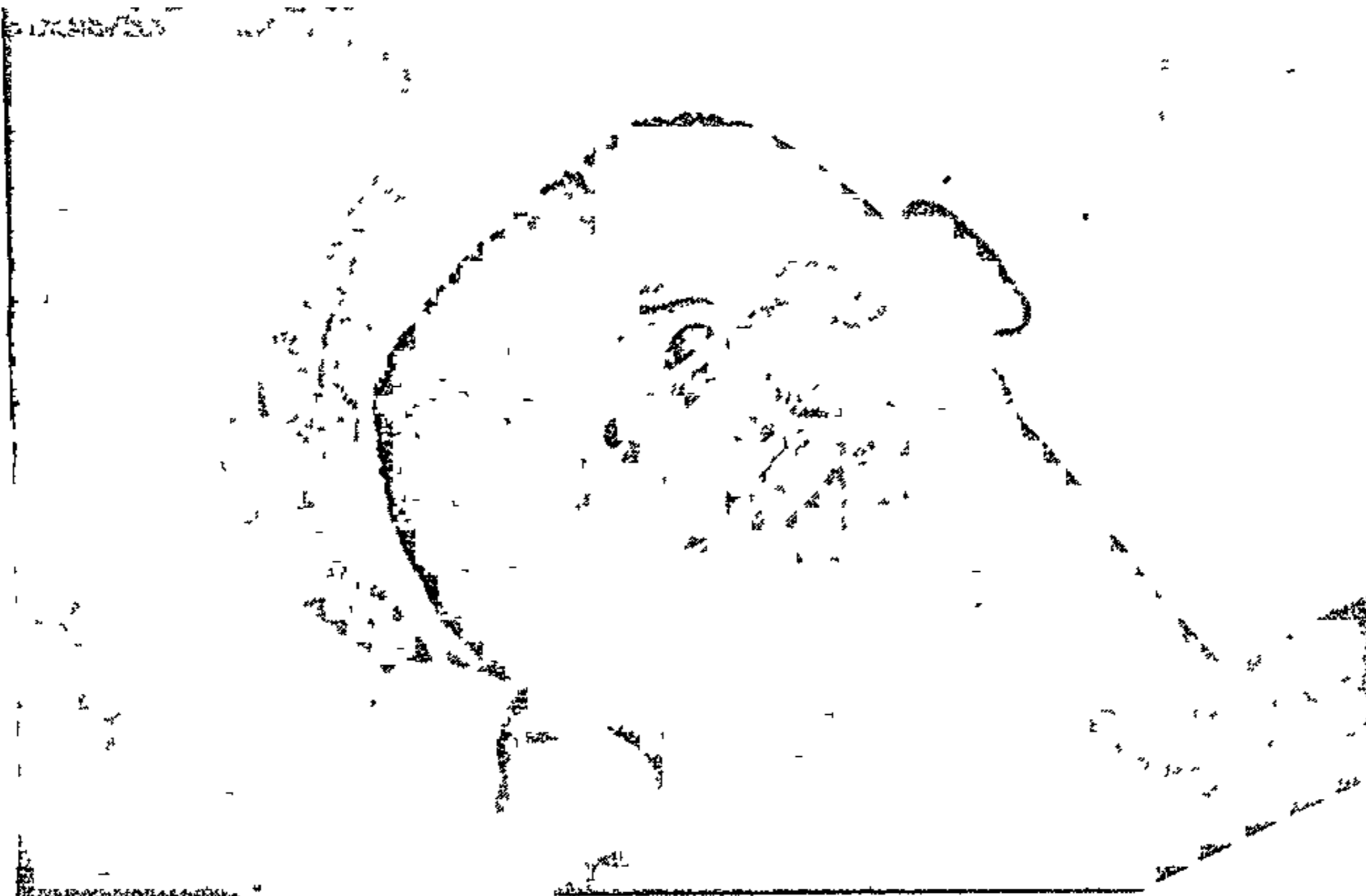
A spokesman for the Minister's office, said Mr Steyn was being kept informed at the highest level of developments at the mine

The Government mining engineer had been at the mine since the beginning of the disaster, the spokesman added yesterday

"Mr Steyn has expressed his deepest sympathy for the relatives of those who died and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured," the spokesman said.

212 Somatun

2/9/87



SURVIVOR Mlamli Mavi told reporters from his hospital bed that he heard an explosion followed by fire and winds. When he came round he saw bodies sprawled around him.

Trapped mineworkers

H O P E

L O S T

THERE IS NO hope that the 42 miners still not accounted for after Monday's St Helena Gold Mine disaster could still be alive after 36 hours below the surface, the mine's chairman Mr Steve Ellis said yesterday.

This announcement confirms the probable deaths of 52 miners killed in the mine's No 10 shaft, where an explosion occurred, plunging them down 1 370 metres.

Only five out of an initial figure of 92 mineworkers believed missing in the accident miraculously survived the disaster.

Mine management yesterday allowed a group of foreign and local journalists to interview one of the survivors, Mr Mlamli Mavi (38), of Transkei, who suffered head injuries and slight burns on the arms. He is in the mine's hospital.

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

Two others are in the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg where their condition was described as critical, but stable.

Explosion

Mr Mavi said "I was at the pump station when I heard the explosion, followed by fire, strong winds and darkness. I lost consciousness. When I fully recovered I saw bodies sprawled around me. I saw a torchlight about 12 hours later and shouted for help. I was then rescued after I thought I was going to die. I am feeling better now and I am glad I have survived."

In his message of condolence to the bereaved families, Mr Ellis said "In these circumstances there is no hope that any of the 40 people still unaccounted for could be

found alive in the conveyance. This is a very sad announcement to have to make.

"One had hoped against hope that there might still be a prospect of more survivors. But by now it is clear that we must accept that there are 10 confirmed deaths and up to 40 more unconfirmed."

The general manager of Gencor's OFS/Evander Goldmines, Mr Gerald Maude, said mine management would do its utmost to reach the lift as soon as possible, although this could take several weeks as a result of the debris covering it.

"The bodies of eight other people are still on the intermediate pump station and will be recovered as soon as the shaft has been made safe," Mr Maude said.

Meanwhile a second body was found at the main pump station 1305 m below surface yesterday, bringing the known death toll in the blast to 10.



Mr **STEVE ELLIS**.

Cage stuck

• From Page 1

Gencor director, Mr Gary Maude, told reporters the two workers whose bodies were found yesterday apparently fell down the shaft.

The exact position of a cage carrying an undisclosed number of workers when the blast rocked the shaft on Monday has not yet been ascertained, he said.

He said the cage was stuck either between 750 m and 1075 m below surface — where access could not be gained and visibility was just about nil — or was at the bottom of the shaft.

Efforts to locate the missing cage were being made by using increased lighting underground and a television camera.

Rescue workers would not attempt to remove the eight bodies found at the intermediate pump station until the shaft had been "made safe".

Recovery of bodies could take weeks

Methane gas may be cause of mine blast

212 8772 2/9/87

By Mudini Maivha

A methane gas explosion may have been responsible for the St Helena gold mine disaster which is feared to have claimed the lives of 50 miners.

Mine chairman Mr Steve Ellis said at the mine last night after 10 bodies had been found that there was no hope that the 40 workers trapped in a cage beneath 40 m of rubble were still alive.

A Gencor director, Mr Gary Maude, said yesterday that methane gas "was one of the more likely possibilities" for having caused the blast that sent the cage plunging to the bottom of the 1 370 m-deep shaft. He declined to speculate on other possibilities

Of the five miners who were injured in the explosion, which occurred at St Helena's No 10 shaft at 7.15 am on Monday, two are in a serious condition in a Johannesburg hospital.

The bodies of 10 miners were found but the 40 others are believed to be inside the cage at the bottom of the shaft

Four of the miners now believed dead have been identified

They are driller Mr B A Hayes (37), learner driller Mr O C Delaport (23), driller Mr D B Nothnagel, and Mr R H Botha (19)

The names of the others have not yet been released

Mr Ellis said.

"This is a very sad announcement to have to make. One had hoped against hope that there might still be a prospect of more survivors. But, by now, it is clear we must accept there are 10 confirmed deaths and up to 40 more unconfirmed."

He offered his condolences to the relatives of the victims.

Recovering the bodies

Mr Maude said management would do its utmost to reach the cage as soon as possible although this could take several weeks because of the debris covering it.

"Recovery operations will have to be done from the 19th level — 1 275 m below the surface," he said.

He added that the bodies of eight of the dead miners were still at the intermediate pump station and would be recovered as soon as the shaft had been made safe.

The Lesotho government contacted the mine to establish whether any of its citizens were victims of the disaster

The Lesotho labour representative in Welkom, Mr P Khoalane, visited the mine. He was given the names, addresses and other particulars of unaccounted for Basotho by Mr Carel Potgieter, the mine's manpower manager

Officials of the National Union of Mineworkers also made several attempts to meet management about the disaster

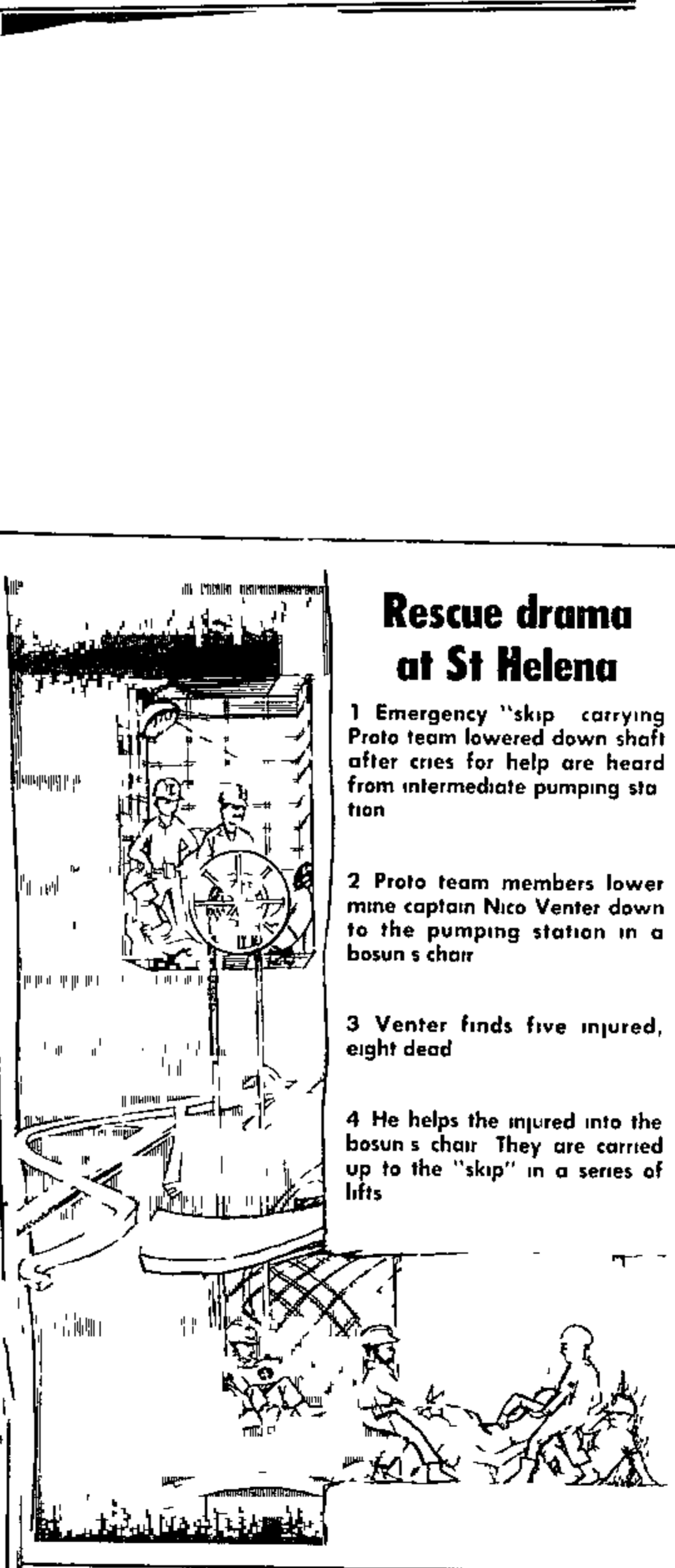
Safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni and Welkom regional organiser Mr Mzwandile Kundulu could not meet Mr Potgieter

Later five other officials, including Mr Simon Mkhuma, were allowed into Mr Potgieter's office

Mr Mkhuma was highly critical of the safety measures and standards at Gencor mines. He accused management of refusing to appoint safety stewards. But he refused to speculate on the cause of the accident, saying he had no facts

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, last night expressed his deepest sympathy on behalf of himself, the Government and his department with the next-of-kin and friends of the deceased. He wished the injured a speedy recovery

● See Page 3



Rescue drama at St Helena

1 Emergency "skip" carrying Proto team lowered down shaft after cries for help are heard from intermediate pumping station

2 Proto team members lower mine captain Nico Venter down to the pumping station in a bosun's chair

3 Venter finds five injured, eight dead

4 He helps the injured into the bosun's chair. They are carried up to the "skip" in a series of lifts

COMMENT

Telephone: (011) 673-4160

A MINE tragedy strikes deep in the hearts of people. It also conjures a picture of gallant workers pitting their strength against nature in the bosom of the earth.

The tragedy at St Helena Gold Mine in the Free State is particularly ironic as these miners had just been through the longest and most traumatic strike in the history of the industry.

So it is with sadness and with a deep sense of shock that we witness the drama unfold as men are being dug out from the depths of the mine. We are also thinking of families who might still not know what has happened and will then have to go through the throes of remorse we ourselves are experiencing.

We hope that the explosion was caused by nature. It would make us shudder even more if the suggestion that it could have been the result of sabotage is confirmed.

Miners all over the world are regarded as the unsung heroes of a country's economy and history.

We express our deepest sympathy to the families, the friends and those who knew the dead men.

2/2
S. M. M.
2/9/89

How 5 were saved

had not yet been determined

Reacting to the accident, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) described general mines as "death-traps"

Furious

NUM assistant general secretary Mr Mafico Golding said the accident confirmed the union's

belief "that South Africa's mines are the most unsafe in the world"

Recent accidents at Gencor mines include the Kinross disaster, which claimed 177 lives last September, and a methane gas explosion in April which killed 34 miners at Ermelo Mines

The NUM's safety

However, Mr Maude has repeatedly said they would not allow the NUM access unless they felt there was a need for the union to help He said the NUM was among seven other employee organisations who have been denied access but were being kept informed of the situation

The remaining four were lifted out in pairs, one badly injured and one less seriously hurt on the chair for each lift

Mr Venter said that at no stage did he feel he was in danger himself

Mr Gary Maude, general manager of operations, said it took the rescue team three hours to go down the first 350 m

After finally coming close to the pump station where the injured were lying, it took the team 30 minutes to hoist the injured miners to a temporary pump station 235 m above

Using safety belts he strapped one injured man into the chair

Injured

Mr Venter had been in constant radio contact with three other members of the team 15 m above him He helped the injured into a bosun's chair lowered from above

"I told them not to do or say too much as they could have internal injuries"

"I shouted at them and two of them came to me and said there were five of them

In the light of rescue lamps he found the five injured and eight bodies lying around in an area 60 m long and 10 m wide

He was lowered down the shaft in a bosun's chair to an intermediate pump station 695 m below surface Desperate shouts for help had been heard from the pump station

Speaking as rescue workers carried on the search for 42 mineworkers believed to have been in a lift which plunged down number 10 shaft after an explosion rocked the mine at 7 15am on Monday, Mr Venter described the dramatic fight to pull the five injured to the surface

MINE Captain Mr Nico Venter yesterday described how he and fellow rescuers battled almost 700 m underground to drag five injured mineworkers to safety after Monday's blast at Welkom's St Helena gold mine It is feared the death toll, now standing at 10, may rise to more than 50

WELKOM DISASTER

Asked about a chance of survivors in the lift, a mine spokesman said "I can't imagine anyone surviving a fall like that"

Four missing white miners have been named They are driller Mr Ba Hayes (37), learner

driller Mr O C Delaport (23), driller Mr D B Nothnagel (56) and Mr R H Botha (19)

Mr Maude yesterday confirmed that an explosion at the shaft had caused the tragedy

He said the cause and location of the explosion

The rescued men were suffering from burn wounds Two were airlifted to the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg on Monday night

One miner, identified only as David, was in a critical condition Dr Visser said He was "very extensively burned"

The other, identified only as Eric, was less extensively burned, Dr Visser said, adding his condition was "serious"

Eight bodies were recovered on Monday night and a ninth found yesterday at the bottom of the shaft as proto teams continued to search for the missing lift and the 42 mineworkers unaccounted for

The missing mineworkers were in the lift, which was being lowered down the 1637 m deep shaft when the mine was rocked by the explosion

The lift plunged down the shaft

SPEAK OUT!

Mine disaster puts spotlight on Gencor record

212

By Chris van Gass, Pretoria Bureau

The disaster at the St Helena mine near Welkom is the second major tragedy on Gencor gold mines in less than a year, putting the company's and the gold mining industry's safety record in the spotlight.

On September 16 last year, 177 mineworkers died at Gencor's Kinross mine in the Eastern Transvaal. During 1986 there were 263 deaths on Gencor-owned mines, according to a spokesman

The "fatality rate" which is expressed in the number of people killed in a thousand was 2,85 on its gold mines, according to Gencor

This rate for gold mining members of the Chamber of Mines had been 1,28 for 1986, according to the Chamber. This rate had been reduced in the South African gold mining industry from a high of 1,41 in 1977 to a low of 1,03 in 1985. Last year's industry figure of 1,28 had been due mainly to the Kinross disaster

For Gencor's coal mines the fatality rate had been 0,34, compared with the industry average of 0,33. In the United States this rate was 0,48, the United Kingdom 0,18 and Germany 0,24

The fatality rate for all Gencor group mines, which include mines other than gold and coal mines, was 1,73 in 1986, or a total of 285 deaths

Mr Steve Ellis, executive director of Gencor's mining division, said that although he could not talk away the accidents which had happened, he believed accidents could be prevented

"Gencor is extremely safety conscious and the matter is treated seriously even at the highest levels. Therefore, I don't even think that people who say that Gencor mines are disasters are worth replying to," said Mr Ellis.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said statistics for the South African gold mining industry could not be significantly compared with the rest of the world because of the unique conditions found in the South African industry

Gold mines in South Africa operated to depths approaching four km, providing problems with heat and pressure, said a Chamber spokesman

The quartzite rock in which the gold bearing ore was found was the hardest and the most abrasive in the world, which meant that working with it was very difficult.

Furthermore, the South African gold mining industry was highly labour intensive, which meant if there was a rockburst or other accident large numbers of people were involved, he said

SPEAK OUT!

CAK 7/15 3/19/87
212

12 more presumed dead in mine blast

Own Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG —

The presumed death toll from Monday's explosion at the St Helena gold mine near Welkom rose to 62 yesterday with the discovery that another 12 people were apparently in the lift cage which fell to the bottom of the No 10 shaft.

According to Gencor's Mr Gary Maude, the 12 were employees of a contracting company at the mine.

● The government and mining houses were yesterday sharply criticized by the Conservative Daily Telegraph newspaper in London for their poor safety record.

The newspaper said the government should ensure a tightening of safety regulations in mines. "Neither it nor the mining houses can claim to have the welfare of the black population at heart if they allow such an accident rate to continue," it said.

Mine death toll rises to 62

3/9/87

THE presumed death toll from Monday's explosion at the St Helena gold mine near Welkom rose to 62 yesterday with the discovery that another 12 people were apparently in the lift cage which fell to the bottom of the No 10 shaft

According to Gencor's Gary Maude, the 12 were employees of a contracting company at the mine

Their presence came to light after new information was received from the company.

Bleday ALAN FINE *212*

"Although we had been concerned throughout about the possibility of a miscount, we are nevertheless most distressed about this development," he said

He added eight bodies found at the intermediate pump station were brought to the surface yesterday.

He said work was continuing to make the shaft safe to enable mine personnel to reach the fallen conveyance. This could still take some weeks

DEATH TOLL

12 workers from a contracting firm among the victims

BIKO ANNIVERSARY - Page 2

BE 62

312
3/19/82
Santam

THE death toll of Monday's blast at St Helena gold mine near Welkom may have risen to 62 with Gencor's announcement that 12 workers from a contracting company were possibly in the cage that fell to the bottom of the shaft.

SA Press Association

And with the 12 contract workers who were presumed to be in the lift at the time of the blast, the toll has risen to a possible 62. St Helena management has said it was "beyond doubt" that the lift cage plummeted to the bottom of the 1370 m No. 10 shaft when the blast rocked the mine on Monday morning.

Eight bodies found at the intermediate pump station in the shaft were due to be brought to the surface yesterday according to a statement on behalf of St Helena by Gencor director Mr Gary Maude.

Another two bodies have been located — one at the main pump station and the other on top of debris at the bottom of the shaft. Although we had been concerned throughout about the possibility of a miscout, we are nevertheless most distressed about this development," Mr Maude said.

Work was continuing "to make the shaft safe" to enable mine personnel to reach the fallen conveyance as soon as possible, but would take some weeks, Mr Maude said.

Cause

He said there was still no certainty on the cause of the accident, which was the subject of an official investigation. Gencor spokesman Mr Harry Hill told Sapa in response to questioning that Gencor could not disclose the name of the contracting company involved. — Sapa.

Epidemic feared

NIGHT'S soil has not been collected in Bekkersdal township on the West Rand for the past five days following a strike by more than 300 municipal workers. Now there is fear of an epidemic. Residents in the area have also been left stranded because of their water supply and other essential services. The council has also been affected by the workers' action. The workers are all members of the African

Wages could not be increased because of the present economic climate in the country and the fact that the council had begun a number of projects to upgrade the township, he said.

Mr Knott confirmed that residents feared an epidemic. A spokesman for the local Parents' Association said they called on the council to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

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12 men feared dead in mine were pipefitting

By Dan Side

Twelve employees of an outside contractor, who are believed to have brought the final death toll of Monday's St Helena Gold Mine disaster at Welkom to 62, were involved in pipefitting operations at underground pump stations

According to Gencor PRO Mr Harry Hill today, the pipefitting crew was the last of the morning shift — along with the 40 St Helena miners who were also entombed in a lift cage under 40 m of debris at the bottom of the 1 367 m-deep No 10 Shaft — scheduled to descend to their work stations.

"I cannot reveal the name of the contracting company," said Mr Hill, "but I can say that the presence of their men in the cage has been rigorously checked and re-checked

CONCERNED ABOUT MIS-COUNT

"We said earlier that we were most concerned about the possibility of a mis-count of the casualties"

Mr Hill said there was as yet no official explanation for the cause or location of the explosion that severed the lift cable, causing the cage to plunge an estimated 457 m from its last reported position to the bottom of the shaft

"This is still the subject of investigation," he said.

The 52 passengers in the cage were buried under the tons of concrete and steel that rained down following the explosion. A statement released yesterday said it would take "weeks" to recover the bodies

The bodies of the eight miners killed at an intermediate pump station at an upper level of the mine have been recovered. One

dead miner was found at a lower pump station and another was found on top of rubble at the bottom of the shaft.

Five men were rescued in a dramatic operation, involving a small emergency lift called a "Mary-Ann" and a bosun's chair.

A team from the office of the Government Mining Engineer will investigate the accident. It is expected it will probe possible overloading of what was scheduled to be the last cage-load of the day for the morning shift

● Sapa reports that the President, Mr P W Botha sent a telegram to the general manager, saying "On behalf of my wife, myself, and the public of South Africa, I wish to express our deepest sympathy to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased, the injured, and the community of Welkom"

Contractor pipefitters in cage with last of the shift 12 more feared killed in Welkom mine plunge

Argus 3/9/87 212

These boots are made for jogging



COMFORTABLE WORKOUT?: These new jogging shoes called "Exerlopers" are being demonstrated at the 27th international sports equipment Fair in Munich. The manufacturers claim the shoes provide a soft, comfortable run while giving a greater workout in a shorter time than in conventional running.

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Twelve employees of an outside contractor who are believed to have brought the final death toll of Monday's St Helena gold-mine disaster at Welkom to 62, were fitting pipes at underground pump stations.

Genkor public relations officer Mr Harry Hill said today that the pipefitting crew was the last of the morning shift — with the 40 St Helena miners who were also entombed in a lift cage under 40 metres of debris at the bottom of the 1367m No 10 shaft — scheduled to descend to their work stations.

"I cannot reveal the name of the contracting company," said Mr Hill, "but I can say that the presence of their men in the cage has been rigorously checked and rechecked."

"We said earlier that we were most concerned about the possibility of a miscount of the casualties."

Investigation

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The bodies of the eight miners killed at an intermediate pump station at an upper level of the mine have been recovered. One dead miner was found at a lower pump station and another lying on top of the rubble at the bottom of the shaft.

Five men were rescued in a dramatic operation, involving a small emergency lift called a "Mary-Ann" and a bosun's chair.

Name released

A Government team will investigate the accident. It is expected to probe possible overloading of what was scheduled to be the last cage-load for the morning shift.

● The name of another miner killed in the disaster has been released.

He is Mr Anthony Miller, 28. His girlfriend, Miss Lindi van Deventer, said mine personnel had told her of his death this morning.

Mr Miller has a young daughter in Cape Town.

Mine toll rises as ²¹² 12 more ^{10/29/87} missing

JOHANNESBURG

The presumed death toll from Monday's explosion at the St Helena gold mine near Welkom rose to 62 yesterday with the discovery that another 12 people were apparently in the lift cage which fell to the bottom of the No 10 shaft

According to a spokesman for Gencor, Mr Gary Maude, the 12 were employees of a contracting company at the mine

Their probable presence came to light after new information was received by the company

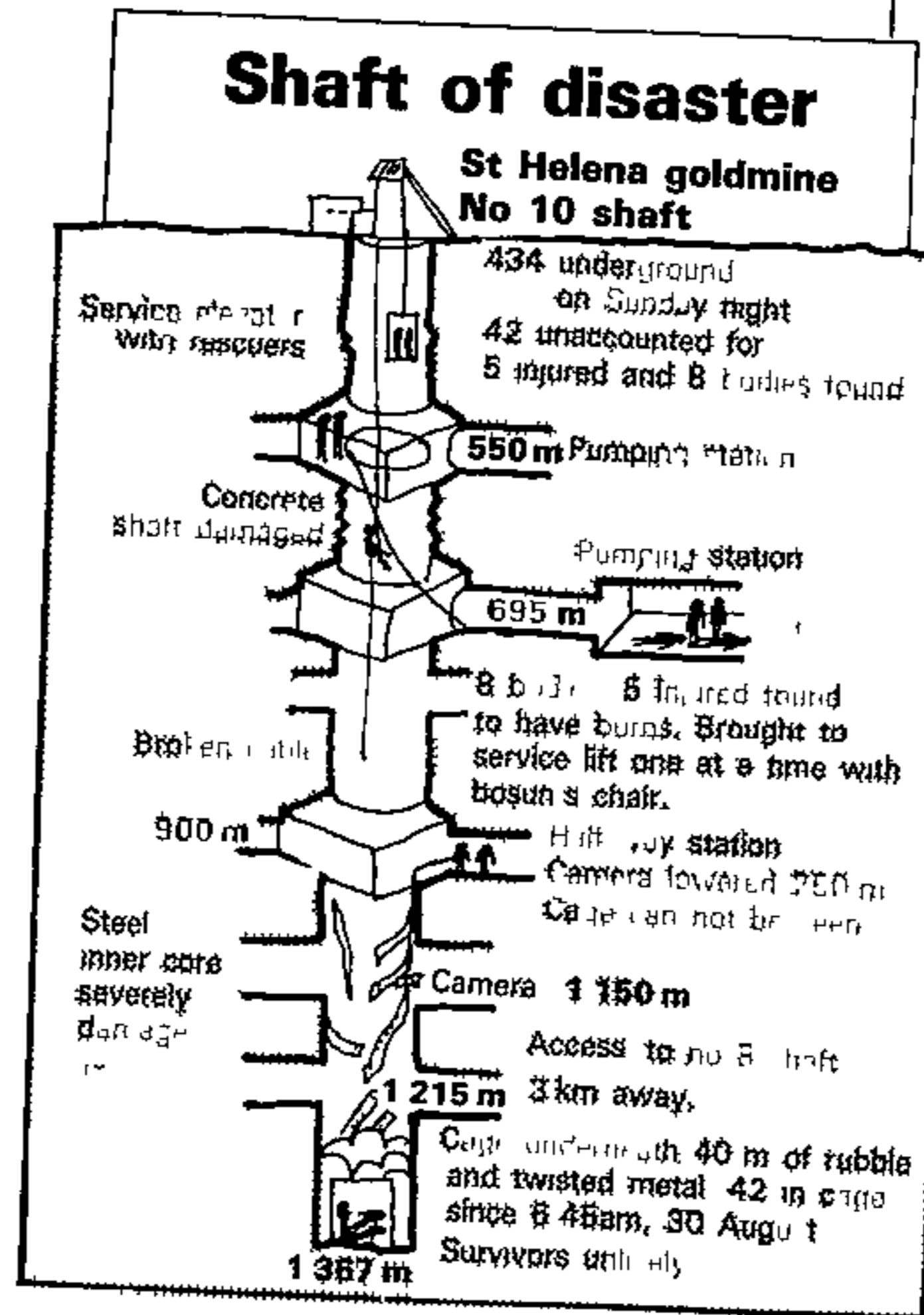
He added that eight bodies which had been found at the intermediate pump station were to be brought to the surface

Mr Maude said that, although work was continuing to make the shaft safe to enable mine personnel to reach the fallen conveyance as soon as possible, this could still take some weeks — DDC

simply not known where the blast happened, or what caused it

A methane explosion, which appears to be the cause of the tragedy in which 42 are feared dead, is unlikely at a main shaft, this would take a gas build-up in a closed space. For this reason, some question the alacrity with which the sabotage theory was ruled out. In any event, why was a build-up of methane not detected, they ask.

However, it's possible that the explosion occurred in an adjacent pump station, which damaged the shaft and caused the lift to plummet. The damage thus caused to its concrete wall and steel frame is making rescue work difficult and dangerous. The lift appears from the depth indicator to have



stopped at 900 m underground, it is likely to take days to bring it to the surface. The shaft is 1 367 m deep.

Gencor says five people were rescued from an intermediary pump station 695 m below surface on Monday. One is in a serious condition, the others were treated for burns, which "indicated an explosion." Eight bodies were found at the pump station, from which a camera was being lowered to determine the lift's position.

According to the company, all Free State mines are known to have methane gas present. Though there are regular checks, says a spokesman, methane is "very unpredictable."

The names of four white miners among the 42 unaccounted for are B A Hayes (37), a

driller, married with one daughter, O C Delaport (23), an unmarried learner driller, D B Nothnagel (56), a driller, and father of five children, R H Botha (19), married with no children. The names of the others, including another white miner, will be released when their families have been informed.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) describes Gencor mines as "death traps," after the blast. To back up the charge it points to last September 16's Kinross disaster, an underground fire in which 177 miners lost their lives, and the Ermelo colliery methane blast, which claimed 34 lives on April 9.

Gencor finds the charge "not very helpful," and tells the *FM* the company is "distressed by this sad and severe setback," but will stick to its resolve to make mines safer.

The disaster again raises the issue of mine safety, which the unions have repeatedly addressed with demands for more danger pay and increased death benefits.

Only days before last year's Kinross tragedy, the worst in SA gold mining history, the Chamber of Mines reported the industry's best ever safety figures, with deaths on gold mines in the first half of 1986 below one/1 000 miners for the first time. After Kinross, however, last year's mining death toll reached 800, compared to 706 in 1985.

ST HELENA DISASTER

Cause unknown

The precise circumstances of the blast at No 10 shaft of Gencor's St Helena gold mine at Welkom last Sunday night will probably only be known after an inquiry by the Government Mining Engineer. At this stage, it is

FM 4/9/87 (212)

6/9/67 *Cl Press*

TRAPPED MINERS

212

THE fifty-two bodies of the St Helena gold miners and contract workers whose lift plummeted 1370 metres underground on Monday, are likely to be buried there for several weeks, months or even forever.

The agony and anxiety of wives, children and other relatives of the victims, most of whom are believed to be Lesotho, Transkei and Ciskei citizens, will stay with them for the duration of attempts by rescue teams to reach the entombed bodies — some believed to be badly mutilated.

Several metres of rubble and rock piled on top of the damaged lift after its cable was severed first has to be removed.
So far eight bodies have

BY REVELATION NTOLUA

been recovered at the intermediate pump station, while two others have also been found between the surface and the doomed lift.

Earlier attempts by rescue workers to reach the bodies had been hampered by dangerous conditions arising from the thus far unexplained explosion.

The disaster is the second major mine tragedy after that of Kinross in the Eastern Transvaal last September when 177 workers died of methane poisoning.

The worst was the Coalbrook colliery disaster in the 60's when more than 400 miners were trapped underground after tons of

rock crumbled into one of the shafts in which the miners were working.

The bodies of the Coalbrook victims were never recovered and are still lying hundreds of metres below the ground.

The St Helena accident has once more switched the spotlight on the Gencor mining house.

According to official figures there were 263 deaths at Gencor-operated mines last year. The figure represented 2,85 workers killed out of 1 000.

A Chamber of Mines spokesman said the rate of deaths on South African mines could not be significantly compared to others elsewhere because of the

unique mining conditions.

According to the chamber one of the important differences in the mining structures in South Africa was the depth of the shafts, some of which are as long as four kilometres.

A typical example is the Western Deep Levels which has the world's deepest shafts. Common to such deep mines are heat and pressure problems.

Another unique South African problem is the quartzite rock, from which the gold is extracted. The rock is the hardest and the most abrasive in the world and therefore most difficult to work on.

The labour intensive nature of South African mines also made it highly likely for many people to be affected at the same spot in the case of a rock-burst or any other underground accident.

Gencor release names of dead

20
19/87

Daily Dispatch
Reporter

EAST LONDON —
Names of Transkeian miners involved in the explosion at number ten shaft of the St Helena gold mine in the Orange Free State last Monday have been released by the mining company, Gencor.

The three miners confirmed dead are, Mr Phakiso Matiea, 38, of Herschel, Mr Ntahane

Lejakene, 20, and Masupha Mokhaehane, 32, both of Lesotho

Seven Transkeians of a group of 23 presumed missing have been named as Mr David Khoatsane, 23, of Mount Fletcher, Mr Maleke Mokhamisa, 20, Mr Welkom Mluleki Tonisi, 22, of Kentane, Mr Joseph Yaso, 23, of Herschel, Mr Mxolisi Njemla, 28, of Umtata, Mr Mphumzi Nginase, 22, of Cofimvaba, and Mr Mzolisi Mphahleli, 22, of Idutywa.

The remainder of the 23 missing miners are from South Africa and the neighbouring southern African states

In a statement yesterday, Gencor said the names released were those of whose relatives had been notified. The remaining names would not be released until they had been confirmed dead or missing and their next of kin had been informed.

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Grim-faced rescue workers haul up cables in St Helena's No 10 shaft this week. Only five of their colleagues were brought to the surface alive. Most victims lie buried under a pile of rubble at the bottom of the shaft. (See page 5.)



(212)
W/Head
4-10/9/87

Picture: WALTER DHLADHLA, AFP

Mine victim dies

212

Sumner
18/9/87

GENCOR has not yet identified the miner who died in a hospital four days ago following the September 1 blast at St Helena gold mine in Welkom.

The miner, known only as David, died in the Rand Mutual Hospital, Johannesburg. He got severe burns in the disaster which claimed 63 lives at the mine's No 10 shaft.

He was one of the five survivors airlifted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Gencor has already announced the names of some of the people still in the lift which plunged 1 367 m below the earth.

Security authorities have

22 00 19/9/87

Two die in rock burst

JOHANNESBURG —
Two miners died and 12
were injured in a rock
burst at Western Deep
Levels gold mine, the
Anglo American Cor-
poration announced yes-
terday

THE COURAGE OF TWO FAMILIES . .

Mine put on alert after Colin taken seriously ill

COALWORKER Colin Fox, 34, has caught the feared legionnaire's disease — and his doctors believe it was contracted on the mine.

Fearing a mass outbreak of the killer disease, his physician immediately alerted Gencor's Matla Colliery, near Witbank, after Colin's condition was diagnosed.

The disease left Colin, an underground surveyor, critically ill for several weeks and plunged his family into dire financial straits.

Mr Fox must now convince Matla management that he caught the disease on the mine so that he can claim compensation for a stiff medical bill.

After a month in hospital, he is now back at work

His physician, who may not be named, told the Sunday Times there was a "strong possibility" that Mr Fox caught the disease on the mine

'Goner'

"I phoned the mine to tell them about the case because, if the mine was the source of infection, it could result in an epidemic."

The sometimes fatal but not contagious legionnaire's disease is a type of pneumonia.

Major symptoms are racking headaches, chest pains and fever.

It killed five patients in Johannesburg's J G Strijdom Hospital early last year after respirators sprayed infected water into some wards.

"I can tell you," said Mr Fox, "I thought I was a goner

By HAMISH McINDOE

when my lungs threatened to close up at one stage"

Fertile breeding grounds for the legionella pneumophile bacteria are found in moist, warm conditions, such as air-conditioning units and water tanks.

After a warning from the physician, the colliery cleaned out the air-conditioning units installed in all offices, according to Mr Fox.

"But I think it's more likely that I caught the disease underground.

"At the time, I had a thrombosis on my leg and my resistance was down."

A Matla colliery spokesman said: "The bacteria that causes the disease can be spread by centralised air-conditioning systems.

"Matla does not have a centralised system, but uses small individual units.



Though not completely recovered, Colin Fox is back at work but has huge medical bills to pay off
Picture: JOE HAFFNER

"The possibility that this disease can be spread by independent units, according to the physician, is extremely remote."

Mr Fox's illness, which he contracted two months ago, has left his family in a pitiful financial state.

Mr Fox will be entitled to State compensation if it can be proved he contracted the disease on the mine.

Problems

His case will be heard by the Bureau of Occupational Diseases on November 9.

Said his wife, Moira: "At least R3 000 will have to be shelled out after Colin's medical aid society has settled their side of the bill.

"We just don't have that sort of money.

"I don't work and we're not the sort of people who live in

debt. Everything we have is paid for.

"Worse, my husband has gone back to work too quickly because he cannot afford to lose time from work.

"It's like the Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads."

The disease was first diagnosed in the US eleven years ago — it killed 29 people attending a convention of American war veterans.

In the deadliest outbreak so far, 39 Britons died in a Stafford hospital three year's ago.

Microbiologist at the SA Institute of Medical Research, Dr Hendrik Koornhof, made it clear that legionnaire's disease is now relatively common.

"A lot of cases are mild and the disease is only a killer in exceptional circumstances. About ten proven cases are diagnosed in Johannesburg every year."

20/9/87 SIT (212)

ground). None of the 135 people aboard was injured.

Argus 21/9/87 (212)

Kinross mine disaster trial may last months

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Seven Gencor employees were due to appear again in the Witbank Regional Court today in connection with the death of 177 miners in the Kinross mine disaster on September 16 last year

It is understood that the hearing will be postponed to October 5 and could run for as long three months

MINES ACT

The Kinross men, who were not asked to plead when they appeared earlier this year, are charged with culpable homicide and 13 alternative charges which all fall under the Mines and Works Act and mining regulations

The seven are Mr John Henry James Burke, a director of

Kinross Mines, Mr Jacobus Ignatius Olivier, formerly general manager of Kinross Mines, Mr Daniel Johannes Bothma, Mr Johannes Albertus Louw, Mr Donovan John Browne, Mr Thomas Joseph Coombe, and Mr Frederick Christoffel Vivers

Mr Burke is representing Kinross Mines Limited. The others are accused in their professional and private capacities

● The National Union of Mineworkers' assistant general secretary, Mr Marcel Golding, said the union would have attorneys and NUM officials present throughout the hearing

The union is to hold a memorial service on October 1 near Evander for the members who died in the disaster

52 bodies still trapped

FIFTY-TWO miners' bodies are still trapped in the lift which plunged to the bottom of the St Helena Gold Mine's number 10 shaft 22 days ago.

The State mining engineer, Mr G P Badenhorst, said in Johannesburg yesterday that the shaft had been badly damaged and that it would have to be stabilised before the lift could be reached.

He said it would take some time before his investigation into the cause of the accident was completed.

"The biggest priority at this stage is to get the bodies out of the shaft," he said.

Mr Badenhorst said he could not speculate on the cause of the accident.

2/2
S. J. van
2-3/9/87

33 mineworkers murdered

24/9/87

Staff Reporters

212

At least 33 men who defied the miners' strike have been murdered on 13 gold and coal mines since the return to work, Mr Ken Maxwell, chairman of JCI's Gold and Uranium Division, said last night

He said mine owners had information that 20 of those killed died because they had ignored the strike call, and suspected that this was the motive for the others as well

"We are in a very difficult situation," said Mr Maxwell "The workers are absolutely terrified Systematically people are being killed outside the hostels Panga are being used"

He said JCI had information that the murders were carried out by workers who had obeyed the strike call

Victims who had survived attacks — which started with three killings at ERPM on August 31



The JCI electrician whose nose was almost sliced off.

Man's nose almost severed

A JCI electrician said last night he had been assaulted by a group of mineworkers looking for Shangaans who did not take part in the strike

The miner, who asked not to be named, had his nose almost severed during the attack last Friday He was treated at Rand Mutual Hospital

He said many Shangaans did not take part in the strike and he was apparently mistakenly identified as a member of the tribe He said he believed the group of miners intended to assault Shangaans for not taking part in the strike

He was attacked while walking near mine property The four attackers, whom he did not recognise, then demanded to know what nationality he was "When I said I was a Xhosa they left me alone"

said they were assaulted by people who had supported the strike

A spokesman for Rand Mutual Hospital confirmed last night that there had been an upward trend in panga attacks since the strike ended

Rand Mutual Hospital deals only with serious injuries received by members of the mining industry

The spokesman said three JCI miners had been admitted recently with severe injuries Two of them died

However the head of the South African Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria, Colonel Vic Haynes, said last night that he was not aware of any orchestrated attempt to murder miners who had not participated in the three-week strike

"I am not aware of this matter The facts must first be checked out before I can comment," he said

The National Union of Mineworkers could not be contacted for comment today

The killings have taken place at Randfontein, ERPM, Stilfontein, West Rand Consolidated, East Driefontein, Blyvooruitzicht, Grootvlei, Harmony, Durban Deep, Hartebeesfontein, St Helena, Kloof and Libanon

These are JCI, Gencor, Gold Fields and Rand Mines complexes

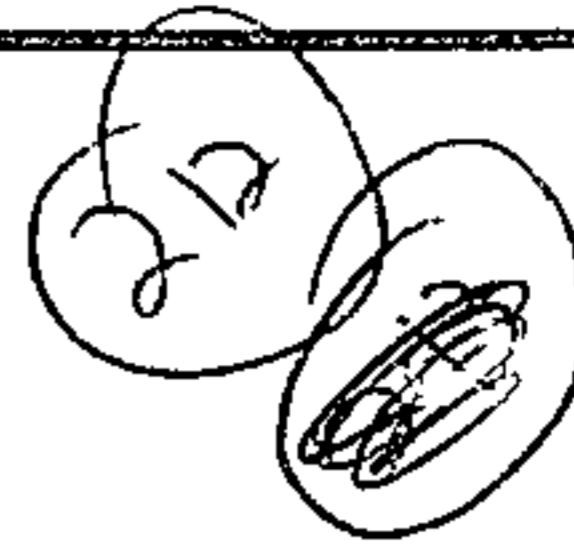
JCI said it had also learnt of threats to engineer accidents underground to deal with strike breakers, and threats of stage-managed ethnic clashes An instruction was issued by people allegedly responsible for the killings to get Shangaans from Mozambique particularly because many had broken the strike

The attacks included:

- A man who was assaulted in his house He died later
- A man was dragged out of his car and attacked with pangas He died in hospital the next day
- A miner had his nose slashed off outside his hostel

Bodies have been found in swamps, on the roadside, in residential areas and in the veld.

The Star



Carnage of workers must be stopped

EVIDENCE is still largely circumstantial but mine managements believe that at least some of the extraordinary number of miners killed since the strike ended on August 30 paid horribly for refusing to take part. Thirty-two have already died violently on 13 mines, their bodies found in swamps, at the roadside, in residential areas and in the veld. Groups have dragged workers out of a house and out of a car in attacks that could not have been spontaneous.

In a normal society, these horrible killings would raise a huge alarm. Inured as South Africans have become to a violent society, they should nevertheless seek urgent ways to put an end to this brutal revenge. If reign of terror it is, as it appears, however, it will indeed be difficult to gain the evidence needed to bring the culprits to book.

Mine managements have reason to believe reprisals will continue. They quote a source as saying, "We are getting them one by one. We must get all the people who worked during the strike." They fear there are plans to engineer fatal accidents or to stage-manage

ethnic fights.

This appalling situation is like the scenario from a horror movie: it is not the behaviour that should be expected from workers who have fought an honourable battle for improved conditions and have reached a truce with their employers. Spreading terror is a crude way of achieving "unity", a throwback to gangster tactics.

Because the murderous panga attacks are said to be stage-managed as ordinary fights, the police are correctly not jumping to conclusions, but the mines believe they can link the killings with the recent strike. Without locking up potential victims, they would have only limited means of ensuring their protection.

Suspicious of management motives, the National Union of Mineworkers rejects the allegation, pointing out that some of the killings took place at mines where there was no strike. However, the NUM is investigating. If it should find substance in the accusations, we hope it will not hesitate to condemn "executions" or other forms of physical revenge as a form of union discipline.

NUM to probe mine killings

Staff Reporters

SAC
212
25/9/87

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), pledging to investigate allegations that 33 miners had been killed for defying last month's strike, said today it had not been approached by the mining houses.

The union said the allegations, made by JCI gold and uranium chairman Mr Ken Maxwell, were wild and unsubstantiated.

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said today that although Mr Maxwell had claimed that the alleged killings were related to the strike, some of the mines mentioned did not even have strike action.

NUM members had been told to adhere to their code of conduct.

He said the union was unaware of the deaths, but would try to get more detailed information

According to Mr Maxwell, mine owners had information that 20 of those killed died because they had ignored the strike call.

They suspected that this was the motive for the other killings as well.

● A spokesman for Anglovaal said today there had been no strike-related murders at any of the group's mines.

In yesterday's editions of The Star, Mr Maxwell was quoted as saying that Anglovaal's Hartebeestfontein was one of the mines where a strike-related murder had taken place.

● The Chamber of Mines says it will look into violence during last month's mineworkers' strike.

False start turns race into fiasco

The Grooms' Plate over 1 000 m at Newmarket yesterday became a fiasco when the outside bank of five stalls did not open as the race was to have been started.

Thirteen of the 19 ran down the track and most failed to note that the flagman was signalling a false start.

A disappointed Wolzak, a groom for trainer C J van Baalen, rode what would have been an excellent race on That's a Deal to score a four-length win over 2-1 favourite Home of Kings, only to learn that a false start had been declared.

The race-meeting stewards had no option but to abandon the race — last of the day. They said that every effort would be made to run the race at a future date.

● See Page 20.

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Bytes to the rescue

Recent mine disasters in SA might have given the impression that gold and coal mines are not as safe as they should be, and that mine managements and the Chamber of Mines are not doing enough to rectify the situation.

It is therefore surprising to discover a project that has been running for some months now in the Klerksdorp area, which can pinpoint rockbursts and seismic shifts in a mine to within 20 m to 100 m of the centre of activity

Such accuracy has cut response time down from four to five hours to five minutes, which means that rescue teams can be on their way to the right spot almost immediately. It also means that mine managers can move nearby workers to safe areas and avert the possibility of further injuries

The system was developed by the Chamber, in collaboration with Central Data Systems (CDS), and operates on a Masscomp 5400 computer linked to 32 underground geophones scattered throughout four mining areas

The phones continuously monitor the intensity of seismic activity at a rate of 1m samples (2m bytes) a second. As soon as a tremor is detected, a signal is transmitted via UHF (ultra high frequency) radio to the central computer in Stilfontein, where it is recorded on disc

The signals are displayed on a graphic workstation, allowing the operator to use three dimensional triangulation to calculate the position of the hypocentre with a high degree of accuracy.

Says CDS's Andrew Ainslie. "The computer is capable of both sampling and calculating at remarkable speed, which means the mines can alert rescue squads and send them out to the correct place within minutes instead of hours

27
10/10/16
Kinross mine disaster
seven men facing charges

Highveld Bureau

The Kinross mine disaster hearing begins today in the Witbank Regional Court.

Seven Gencor employees are to face charges of culpable homicide or 13 alternative charges under the Mines and Works Act and mining regulations.

The case arises from the underground fire at the Kinross Mine on September 16 last year when 177 miners died.

The men charged are: Mr John Henry James Burke, a director of Kinross Mines; Mr Jacobus Ignatius Olivier, general manager at the time of the accident; Mr Daniel Johannes Botma, Mr Johannes Albertus Louw, Mr Donovan John Brown, Mr Thomas Joseph Coombe and Mr Frederick Christoffel Viviers.

Mr Burke is representing Kinross Mines Limited. The last six are charged in their personal and professional capacities.

Homicide charges over deaths

Kinross Mines disaster: plea of not guilty

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212
6/10/87
B/long

KINROSS Mines Ltd, represented by director John Burke, and six others yesterday pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide and a number of other charges arising from the disaster last September in which 177 people died.

The case is being heard by J V R Pietersen in the Witbank Regional Court.

The alternative to the main charge is that the accused endangered the safety of underground staff by applying and/or keeping combustible or inflammable material in a works area and then omitting to take proper precautions to prevent fire.

In a further alternative, the mine manager at the time, Jacobus Olivier, is charged with omitting to take all reasonable precautions to provide for the safety of people employed by the mine.

The alternatives are framed in terms of the Mines and Works Act.

In statements to the court Burke (on behalf of the mine), Olivier and underground managers Daniel Bothma and Johannes Louw, said they would base their defence on the assertion that if any offence was committed by any individual they had taken all reasonable precautions to prevent it.

All seven are charged with failing to

ALAN FINE

provide and maintain suitable fire-fighting equipment; efficient means of conveying water to all or parts of the underground workings; and permitting welding, flame-cutting or flame heating to take place and omitting to ensure adequate means were immediately available for the extinguishing of any fire which may have resulted.

Frederick Viviers is charged with using welding apparatus without testing for the presence of inflammable gas, while Donovan Browne and Thomas Coombe are accused of failing to test for the presence of gas.

There are a further seven alleged contraventions of the regulations to the Act. All but Kinross and Viviers are charged with omitting to ensure the regulations mentioned in the charges were complied with.

The first witness was Highveld district surgeon Dr Jacobus Greyling who performed post mortems on 86 victims. He said the vast majority died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Under cross-examination he said this could be a cause of death in any combustible fire.

The hearing is set to continue through October and resume early next year. A prosecution spokesman said he expected 100 witnesses to be called.

Mine blasts research rethink call

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A major rethink in the research approach to gas and coal-dust explosions in SA seemed unavoidable, if progress was been made, Horst Wagner of the Chamber of Mines research organisation said yesterday

Addressing the "Safety in Coal Mining" symposium at the CSIR, he said a move towards field research from laboratory studies should be encouraged

A revitalised coal mining research control council (CMRCC), with a clearly defined mechanism, could fulfil a co-ordinating role.

In his keynote address, Professor T Atkinsons of Nottingham University said a systems approach to new designs to eliminate potential hazards was essential

Political comment in this issue by Ken Owen, Newsbills by Michael Acott Headlines and sub editing by Michael Allwright All of Times Media Ltd, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg

212 5992 6/10/87



Kinross Mines director Mr John Henry James Burke (left) and the former general manager of the mine, Mr Jacobus Ignatius Olivier, at the Witbank Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Kinross employees face charges in wake of mining disaster

By Duncan Guy

Seven Kinross mine employees pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide yesterday in the Witbank Regional Court in a sequel to the Kinross mine disaster, which left 177 miners dead on September 16 last year.

They also pleaded not guilty to 13 alternative charges.

Kinross Mines Ltd director, Mr John Henry James Burke, represented the company. Six others, the general manager at the time, Mr Jacobus Ignatius Olivier; subordinate manager, Mr Daniel Johannes Botma, underground manager, Mr Johannes Albertus Louw; Mr Donovan John Browne; Mr Thomas Joseph Coombe and Mr Frederick Christoffel Viviers appeared in their personal capacities.

All seven allegedly placed the safety of mine personnel in danger by having inflammable materials in a work area and/or not taking adequate precautions to prevent the spread or start of the fire and/or gas, and failing to extinguish the fire and/or spread of the gases in good

time.

It is further alleged they failed to maintain fire-fighting equipment, materials and suitable containers of water for fire-fighting underground.

They are also charged with using welding and cutting equipment without ensuring they had fire-fighting equipment.

Mr Olivier faces an alternative charge of failing to take necessary precautions to secure the safety of workers.

With Mr Botma, Mr Louw, Mr Brown and Mr Coombe, he is charged with failing to comply with safety regulations laid down.

Mr Viviers is accused of failing to comply with a number of mine safety regulations.

The director, Mr Burke, said in a statement his association with the mining industry was confined to accounting functions.

He and the general manager, Mr Olivier, said they could not have taken steps to avoid the fire. Mr Olivier said the fire was in a place where there was sufficient water.

The hearing continues.

Ventilation is blamed for mining disasters

THREE recent coalmining disasters could be attributed to breakdowns in ventilation systems which at best were barely adequate, government mining engineer G P Badenhorst said in Pretoria yesterday.

Speaking at an international "Safety in Coal Mining" symposium at the CSIR, Badenhorst asked:

- Was the approach and commitment of management adequate?
- Were the supervisors properly trained, or was production pressure forcing management and supervisors alike to turn a blind eye to the suspect conditions?

There was little doubt that coal dust had played a role in some of the accidents. Three conditions could contribute to explosions — inadequate ventilation, failure to detect methane gas, and ignition source.

GERALD REILLY

The main reason for the establishment of the Klopperbos test facilities stemmed from the spate of methane gas explosions in recent years which had resulted in numerous deaths and injuries, and had cast a shadow on the safety of SA coal mines.

The facility 40km north of Pretoria, and built at a cost of R3,5m, is intended for fundamental research on underground explosion hazards. It was opened yesterday.

CSIR president C F Gabers said coal was South Africa's second biggest foreign exchange earner next to gold. Locally it played the role of prima donna in the energy, liquid fuels and chemical sectors. Production had risen at an annual rate of 9% for the past ten years, with last years production at 173-million tons.

R44,766 million and R34,644 million, respectively, of which R41,214 million and R31,244 million, respectively, were allocated to the SBDC. In addition, *ad hoc* allocations are made from time to time for particular purposes. For example, up to 31 March 1987 a total amount of R155 million had been allocated to the SBDC for special job creation programmes.

The funds allocated to the SBDC are used by the Corporation to assist small business in various ways. Details of the assistance programmes which the SBDC has developed, (as well as of the Corporation's other sources of finance), are contained in its latest Annual Report which was tabled in Parliament on 9 June 1987. The assistance includes the granting of loans to meritorious small business enterprises and is provided irrespective of population group. It is therefore, not the policy of the SBDC to furnish particulars of its clients on a basis of colour. Since its establishment in 1981 until 30 June 1987 the SBDC granted direct loans to 15 246 entrepreneurs involving a total amount R380 8 million. Furthermore the programmes of the SBDC have resulted in approximately 158 310 jobs being created and maintained.

(a) and (b) (i) and (ii) Fall away

Kleinkrans, George

525 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

(1) Whether a residential area known as Kleinkrans and situated near Wilderness in the George constituency has been advertised for occupation by the Coloured population group if so (a) why (b) on what dates and (c) in what publications

(2) (a) what has been the cost to his Department of developing this area (b) (i) how many houses have been constructed and (ii) at what price per house (c) (i) how many houses have been sold and (ii) at what price per house, (d) how many houses (i) are

being rented and (ii) are vacant and (e) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

(3) (a) who is responsible for the sale of these houses and (b) what was the motivation for the decision to build them?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(1) No, but a Coloured group area proposal was advertised

(a) Proposals for the establishment of group areas in Wilderness and environs, including a Coloured group area at Kleinkrans, were received from the Divisional Council of George

(b) On 18 November 1966 and 10 February 1967

(c) In the "George and Knysna Herald"

(2) The construction and sale of homes are not functions of the Department of Development Planning

(3) Falls away

St Helena Mine' accident

527 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

(1) Whether inspectors from his Department have visited the St Helena Mine in connection with the recent accident at its No 10 shaft if so, on what dates,

(2) whether there was any evidence of negligence on the part of any persons concerned with this mine, if so on whose part

(3) what were the other findings of these inspectors?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

(1) Yes. Shortly after the accident at 06h45 on 31 August 1987 the Assistant Government Mining Engineer, O F S region, and both the Chief In-

spector of Mines and the Chief Inspector of Machinery, Welkom, visited the shaft. Operations are still in progress to recover bodies from the cage at the shaft bottom, and the abovementioned Chief Inspectors have since the accident visited the shaft more or less on a daily basis.

The Government Mining Engineer and one of his Deputies visited the shaft on 31 August and 1 September 1987 and the Government Mining Engineer again visited the scene on 3 and 4 September 1987.

(2) The investigation into the cause of the accident has not been completed and as yet no findings could, therefore, be made

(3) Falls away

Central Energy Fund

528 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

(a) By whom and (b) on what basis is the Central Energy Fund being administered?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) The Board of CEF (Pty) Ltd appointed in terms of the Central Energy Fund Act, 1977 (Act No 38 of 1977)

Presently the Board of Directors of CEF (Pty) Ltd is composed as follows

Mr D R Vorster IDC, Chairman
Mr S P Ellis General Mining Corporation

Mr G C Croeser Department of Finance

Dr J A Lamprechts Department of Trade and Industry

Mr M Macdonald IDC

Mr E S Paddock Formerly attached to Mobil Oil Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Mr L N J Engelbrecht Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs

Dr D C Neethling Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs

(b) In accordance with directions in terms of the Central Energy Fund Act, 1977 (Act No 38 of 1977)

Contribution to SWA-budget

529 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Finance

(a) What was the contribution made by the South African Government to the budget of South West Africa in the 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 financial years, respectively, and (b) how was this contribution made up in respect of each such year?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(a) and (b) The contribution made by the South African Government to the budget of South West Africa in the undermentioned financial years was made up as follows

Financial year	Budgetary assistance	R	Customs and Excise duties paid in terms of section 22(1)(d) of the South West Africa Affairs Act, 1969 (Act 25 of 1969)	R
1983-84	284 538 400	250 000 000		
1984-85	372 000 000	250 000 000		
1985-86	318 700 000	300 000 000		
1986-87	466 970 000	350 000 000		

Regional services councils

530 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Whether any regional services councils (a) have been granted and/or (b) are about to be granted interest-free loans by any Government institutions or bodies, if so (i) which councils and (ii) (aa) what are the amounts involved and (bb) for what purposes are these loans intended in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(a) Yes

Kinross miner tells court of underground fire

2/2
SM 8/10/87

By Duncan Guy

WITBANK — A Kinross miner yesterday described how he and a colleague tried to push over a burning gas bottle with a crowbar to stop the 3 m flame from making contact with flammable "sponge" lining a tunnel 1 000 m underground.

Labour gang leader Mr Kisisi Mbuthuma was giving evidence under cross-examination in the Witbank Regional Court in the trial of seven Kinross Mine employees

The men have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide, alternatively 13 charges under the Mine and Works Act and Mining Regulations under which they face respective charges

The court also heard of the discovery of the body of a Kinross Mine worker, known as "Picannin Daniel" found 450 m from where a fire started on September 16 1986. The fire claimed 177 lives

Mr Mbuthuma said Daniel was working as a personal assistant to one of the accused, Mr

Frederik Christoffel Viviers, when a gas bottle leak emitting 3 m of flame set fire to a tunnel lined with inflammable "sponge". They had been repairing a rail track

Mr Mbuthuma said "Mr Viviers ordered Daniel to stop a locomotive at the mine's Shaft Number Two which was downwind from us

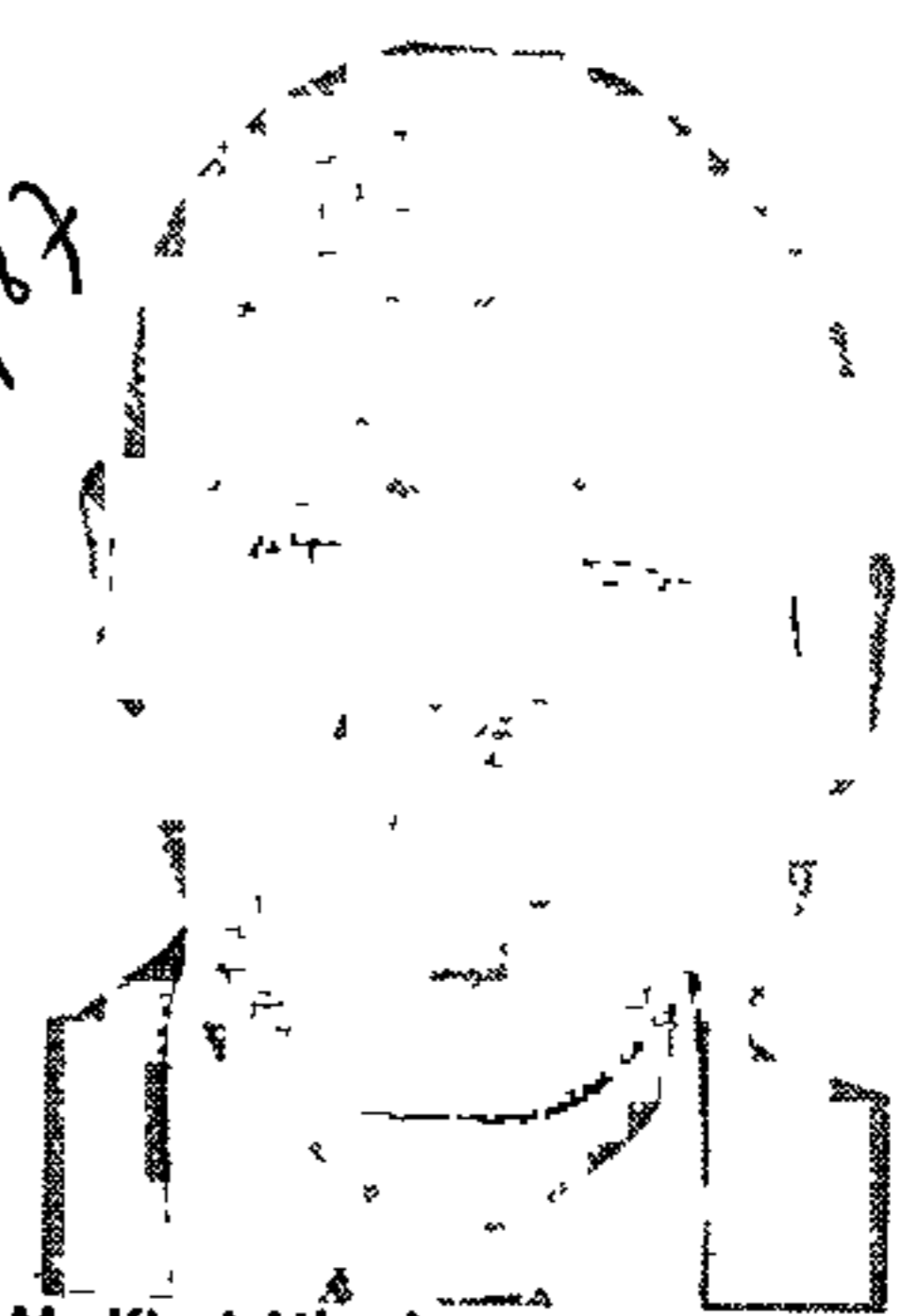
"At the same time, Mr Viviers fled the other way to Shaft No 1"

He added that had Mr Viviers asked him to do what he asked Daniel, he would have refused because of the danger involved.

Advocate Hennie de Vos, for Mr Viviers, asked Mr Mbuthuma whether Daniel should have known that he, too, did not have to obey such commands. Mr Mbuthuma agreed

Mr de Vos said that, contrary to Mr Mbuthuma's evidence-in-chief, Mr Viviers had not run away from the fire but tried to shut off the leaking gas with a key

Mr Mbuthuma denied this



Mr Kisisi Mbuthuma . . . says he tried to stop gas flame from touching the tunnel wall.

saying that Mr Viviers only ordered him to try and close it, speaking Fanagalo

Mr Mbuthuma added that later he and another worker attempted to push the bottle over using a crowbar so that its flame would not spray against the tunnel wall

The accused are Mr John Henry James Bourke, who represents Kinross Mines, of which he is a director; the general manager at the time of the accident, Mr Jacobus Ignatius Olivier; subordinate manager Mr Daniel Johannes Bothma, underground manager Mr Johannes Albertus Louw, Mr Donovan John Browne and Mr Thomas Joseph Coombe

Mr JWR Pietersen is on the bench. The prosecutor is Advocate Louw Pienaar. Advocate C Plewman SC appears for Mr Burke, Mr Olivier, Mr Louw and Mr Bothma while Mr John Bird appears for Mr Coombe and Mr Browne

The hearing continues

Engineer testifies on the Kinross tragedy

'Fire fighting at mine was sound'

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

WITBANK — An assistant government mining engineer told the Witbank regional court yesterday that he had no criticism of the measures used to fight the underground fire at Kinross Mine in which 177 men died

Mr Reginald Feather was giving evidence on the seventh day of evidence about the Kinross disaster. Seven Gencor employees have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide and not guilty to charges under the Mines and Works Act and Mining Regulations.

Under cross-examination, Mr Feather said as far as he could make out every effort was made to care for the injured

He said one of the accused, Mr Jacobus Egnasus Olivier, who was mine general manager at the time, was in control of the rescue effort.

Mr Feather said Mr Olivier's decision not to erect a brattice curtain on the 15th level where the fire was burning, and so divert the gases, was sensible

"There was an urgency to rescue people and with hindsight the decision was not wrong," said Mr Feather

Under cross examination from Mr Henny de Vos, representing accused miner Mr Frederick

Christoffel Viviers, Mr Feather said he had seen fire hoses on the 15th level store room on the day after the fire

Mr de Vos said Mr Viviers would tell the court the hoses and two gas bottles found in his store room belonged to people who had repaired the site after the fire.

Mr James Stuart Moag, from the South African Bureau of Standards, told the court flame cutting was inherently dangerous and extinguishing equipment should always be on hand

The hearing continues

Star reporter barred from mine disaster inspection

SML 212
15/10/87

A Star reporter has been barred from attending an in loco inspection in the Kinross mine disaster trial

Senior counsel for Gencor in the trial, Mr C Plewman, yesterday refused to allow Mrs Therese Anders permission to accompany the court underground

Mr Plewman said today if Mrs Anders wanted a reason why she had been barred, she would "get it in a complaint to The Star"

Magistrate Mr J W R Pieterse had given his approval for the reporter to attend the inspection, but said although he had no objection to the press being present, he was unable to give permission on behalf of the owner of the property

An attorney has told The Star that while a property owner could not prevent the court from attending an in loco inspection, he could bar the public or press

Mr Plewman said his decision was based on "concern for Mrs Anders's safety underground"

"The mine is not obliged to undertake her safety, either above ground or underground, or to convey her underground. Mining is a hazardous business," he said

The magistrate, accused and lawyers are going underground at the Kinross mine today to the level where a fire, in which 177 miners died, broke out

Transvaal Law Society president Mr Stan Treisman said it was "regrettable" that Gencor had barred the press

"It is desirable that all court proceedings should be open to the public and press and we feel no one should be barred from reporting the facts

"But in strict law the magistrate does not have the authority to allow individuals to go on to private property for an inspection in loco or for any other reason"

The only people with a right to attend an inspection were the magistrate, accused, accused's legal representatives, State representatives and relevant witnesses

● See Page 6.

212 16/10/87 SM

No mine report as The Star is barred

A reporter from The Star was barred from attending yesterday's *in loco* inspection in the Kinross mine disaster trial

Senior counsel for Gencor, Mr C Plewman, refused yesterday to allow Mrs Therese Anders permission to accompany the court underground

The Star is, as a result, unable to record the proceedings of the eighth day of the trial.

Magistrate Mr J W R Pieterse had given

his approval for the reporter to attend the inspection, but said that although he had no objection to the press being present, he was unable to give permission on behalf of the property's owner

Transvaal Law Society president Mr Stan Treisman said it was "regrettable" that Gencor had barred the press, "but in strict law the magistrate does not have the authority to allow individuals to go on to private property for an inspection *in loco*.

or for any other reason"

The only people with a right to attend an inspection were the magistrate, accused, an accused's legal representatives, State representatives and relevant witnesses.

When The Star's reporter arrived at Kinross Mine yesterday, she was politely told by the senior mine manager on duty, Mr Alan Field, that the decision to bar her stood. Mine management took the decision in consultation with Mr Plewman, he said

N. Tyl mine blast relived

MESSINA — Two farmers from the Letaba district described in the Messina Circuit Court yesterday how members of their families were killed and five injured when the bakkie they were travelling in detonated a landmine just south of the SA/Zimbabwe border in December 1985

Joahannes de Nysschen was giving evidence in the trial of two men — Mthetheli Zephania Mncube, 27, of Diepkloof, Soweto, and Mzondeleli Euclid Nondula, 24, of Queenstown — facing 41 charges including murder, attempted murder, terrorism and treason.

Describing the blast, he said: "I heard an explosion, and lost unconscious for a few seconds. I was told we had hit a landmine and could not get out of the door.

"The bakkie was in flames. there was a clump of trees also on fire. Eric van Eck was helped through the left side window. I got out the same way."

De Nysschen said he lost his wife and daughter.

Van-Eck lost his wife Kobie, daughter, Nelmarie, and son Ignatius. — Sapa.

Miners killed

Soweto

19/10/87

272

SIX miners were killed and two injured in an underground pressure blast at the ERPM gold mine at Boksburg on Saturday, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday.

He said the accident occurred 3000 m below the surface at 10am on the 80 level of the H shaft on the mine's central section.

The names of the dead and injured were being withheld until their next-of-kin had been informed, the spokesman said.

— Sapa.

Miners 'fairly serious' ⁽¹²⁾

19/10/87
5800
Two miners injured in a rock fall 3 km underground at ERPM in Boksburg on Saturday morning were "out of danger but still fairly serious", a company spokesman said today

Six miners were killed at the 80 m level of H shaft

The spokesman said no further information on the incident was available and the names of the dead and injured were being withheld until their next of kin had been informed

The incident was the latest in a series of accidents

Sixty-three miners were killed in August when a lift cage plunged down a shaft at Gencor's St Helena Gold Mine in the Free State and a total of 800 died in 1986

Call for mine safety

212 (212) *Sowetan* 20/10/87.

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

THE National Union of Mineworkers yesterday reiterated its call for a commission of inquiry into South Africa's mine safety measures following the weekend death of six miners in a rock fall in Boksburg.

Num assistant general secretary Mr Marcel Golding said in an interview yesterday

that the disaster at H shaft of the REPM mine on Saturday confirmed the union's belief that the country's mines were the world's most dangerous.

"This incident was totally not unexpected. Not enough precau-

tions are being taken to decrease mine deaths in South Africa.

"The Num has repeatedly called for a commission of inquiry into mine safety measures in the industry in order to address the problem. Very little is being done," Mr Golding said.

Two miners injured in the rockfall 3km underground at ERPM were "out of danger" but still fairly serious, a company spokesman said yesterday.

The miners were killed at the 80m level of the shaft.

- Sixty-three mine-workers were killed in August when a lift cage plunged to 1370m below surface at Gencor's St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom.
- A total 800 mine-workers have died in mine disasters in 1986.

Killer cage still buried

MINERS working around the clock to reach the bottom of the shaft at the St Helena Mine, near Welkom, where 62 miners died on August 31, this year, when the lift cage fell, could still be working for up to a month to clear debris. (212)

The Government mining engineer, Mr G P "Badie" Badenhorst, said yesterday the investigation into the

disaster was continuing, but that it could obviously be finalised only once the bodies of those killed were retrieved and identified.

Miners who were clearing the estimated 40-metre thick layer of broken concrete and twisted steel girders had to work "piece by piece" in a very slow process due to the danger and lack of space

Sowetan 3/11/87 "We hope they will reach the cage soon, but it could take up to a month still, depending on circumstances."

Work on clearing the debris started only about 10 days ago because the entire mine shaft had first had to be stabilised after the disaster and made as safe as possible for miners going down.—
Sapa

212

7/16/85 3/11/87
**Still a month
before bodies
in mine found**

JOHANNESBURG —
Miners working around the clock to reach the bottom of the shaft at the St Helena mine near Welkom where 62 miners died on August 31 when the lift cage plummeted, could still be working for up to a month to clear debris.

The Government Mining Engineer, Mr G P Badenhorst, said the investigation into the disaster obviously could be finalised only once the bodies of those killed were retrieved — Sapa

August mine lift tragedy: More bodies brought to the surface

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The remains of 53 miners killed 1 360m underground in August when a lift plunged down a shaft at St Helena gold mine in the Free State have been brought to the surface

A spokesman for Gencor, which owns the mine, said at the weekend none could be identified

He said the final death toll in the disaster was 63.

The accident happened on August 31 as an explosion ripped through a pump-chamber halfway down the shaft as the lift containing the miners passed it.

Only nine bodies were recovered in the first three days after the tragedy

The spokesman said the explosion severely damaged the No 10 shaft

The men were buried under 40m of cement rubble and steel girders. The shaft had to be stabilised and made as safe as possible to prevent any further accidents.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

"Working conditions were difficult for the recovery teams. That is why it took so long to get down the shaft.

"When the lift plummeted down the shaft it took a lot of material with it.

"A shaft covers a large area. Workers found the remains of the miners last week as they sifted through the steel and concrete."

He said the weekend statement was issued at the "first and best opportunity we had."

St Helena's management would consult the next-of-kin about the erection of a memorial at the shaft.

The spokesman said as soon as the issue had been decided, an announcement would be made as when the dedication service would be held.

A public inquiry into the disaster is expected to start in Welkom early next year.

53 BODIES

(212)

28/12/87
Mintam

Miners trapped underground since August explosion

THE bodies of 54 miners who have been trapped 1,3 km underground at St Helena Gold Mine's No 10 shaft, Welkom, since August have been recovered — but all are decomposed beyond recognition.

Gencor, which owns the mine, said at the weekend that the final death toll following an explosion at the shaft was 63. Only nine bodies were recovered by rescue teams on August 31 when the lift carrying the men plunged 1 370 m below surface.

A Gencor spokesman, Mr Harry Hill, said it was with regret that St Helena's management announced that "no recognisable remains of the miners were found."

He said the lift had totally disintegrated and only five workers were saved. One of them died at the Rand Mutual Hospital, Johannesburg, after

FOUNDED

BY THEMBA MOLEFE

being airlifted there.

Mr Hill said the disaster was now the subject of an official inquiry and that a memorial service would be held at the mine as soon as the men's next-of-kin had been notified.

Migrant workers

Gencor earlier released the names of the dead miners but refused to release their addresses to the Press.

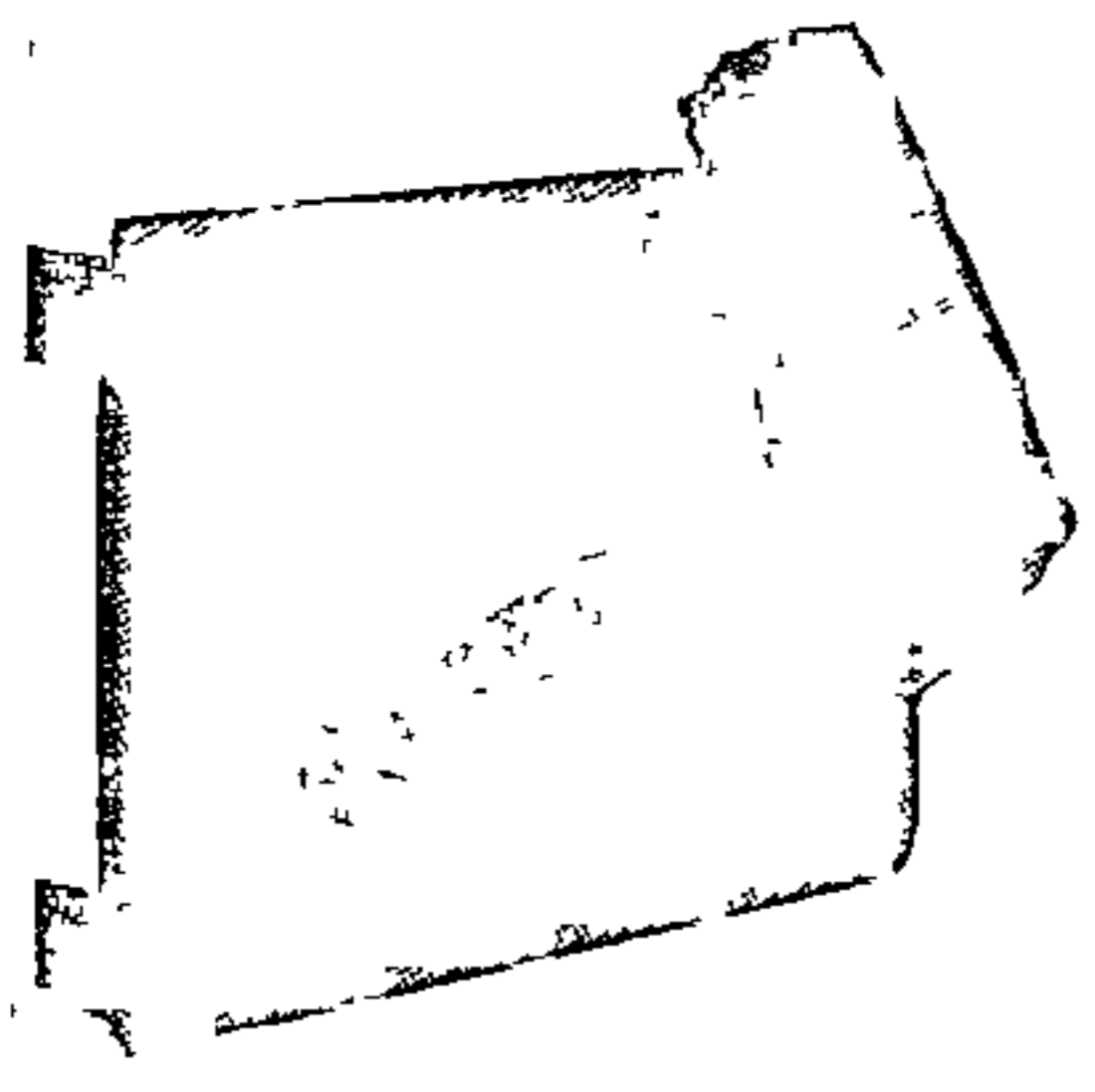
The workers were migrant employees.

The St Helena disaster was one of the most serious following the Kinross mine accident which claimed 177 lives last year.

Most of the miners were members of the National Union of Mineworkers which has called for an investigation into mine safety measures in South Africa.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

TOP QUALITY
PAINT ROLLER AND
TRAY SET



199

53 mine disaster bodies recovered

(212) 21/12/87 SMM

The remains of 53 miners killed 1 360 m underground in August when a lift plunged down a shaft at St Helena Gold Mine in the Free State have been recovered. None can be identified.

Gencor, which owns the mine, said at the weekend that the final death toll following an explosion in the pump chamber — which occurred half-way down the shaft as the cage containing the miners passed it — was 63.

Only nine bodies were recovered by rescue teams in the first three days after the tragedy on August 31.

Gencor spokesman Mr Harry Hill said the explosion had severely damaged the number 10 shaft, where the men were buried under 40 m of cement rubble and steel girders. The shaft had to be stabilised and made as safe as possible to prevent any further accidents.

"Working conditions were extremely difficult for the recovery teams — that is why it took so long," he said.

He said that it was with regret that St Helena's management announced that "no identifiable remains of the miners" were recovered.

"When the cage fell it took a lot of material with it

"A shaft covers a large area. As work teams sifted through the steel and concrete during the course of last week they came across the remains of the miners," he added.

In reply to a query from The Star, Gencor said last week that the recovery team was still removing debris in search of the bodies of miners.

The remains of the miners were found during the course of last week, said Gencor.

Spokesman Mr Harry Hill said the statement "was issued at the first and best opportunity we had — when we were in a position to release any new information which we had not released before".

St Helena's management would consult with the next-of-kin about the erection of a memorial at the shaft and in connection with the dedication of the memorial.

Mr Hill said as soon as the issue had been decided, an announcement would be made on when the dedication service would be held.

A public inquiry into the disaster is expected to start in Welkom early in the new year.

MINING - ACCIDENTS

1988

[Faint handwritten notes]

Warrant Office
at 45 3003.

Argus 6/1/88
**Gold mine toll
rises to six 212**

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll at Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney has risen to six after yesterday's rockfall

Nine miners were injured and one is still missing.

The rockfall, at the 71st level of No 3 shaft, was triggered by an earth tremor measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale, Anglo American spokesman Mr Paul C. Chier said today.

He said rescue teams at Vaal Reefs would work around the clock until the missing miner had been found.

"Three of the injured have been admitted to hospital and the others were treated for minor injuries," he said.

The names of the dead would be given after families had been told.

CALL Times 6/1/88 (2/2)

Mine rockfall: 2 die, 4 missing, 9 hurt

JOHANNESBURG — Two miners died, four are missing and nine injured after a rock fall at Vaal Reefs No 3 shaft yesterday following a seismic event measuring 4,3 on the Richter scale

A statement from mine owner Anglo American Corporation said the fall occurred on the 71 level and search and rescue operations were continuing

Three of the injured were admitted to hospital while the others were treated for minor injuries

The names of the dead will not be released till next of kin have been informed

“Three of the injured have been admitted to hospital and the others were treated for minor injuries” — Sapa

W Tvl mine claims 7 lives

THE death toll in the Vaal Reefs mine disaster shot up to seven yesterday when a member of a rescue team trying to retrieve the buried miners was crushed to death in another rockfall, writes MZIKAYISE EDOM.

Six miners were killed in the first rockfall at the Western Transvaal mine on Tuesday night

A spokesman for Anglo American said the rescue team member was killed during a second tremor at the mine yesterday

"A further seismic event measuring 2,9 on the Richter scale occurred at

the mine's No 3 shaft about 10am. One member of the team was injured and two others are missing," the spokesman said

The spokesman said the tremor also caused rockfall in the mine's No 2 shaft at 72 level where six miners were seriously injured

The spokesman said a second rescue team was now trying to find the missing team members and the miners who are missing after Tuesday's fall

"Search and rescue operations are continuing," the spokesman said

212 Summary 7/1/88

CAL Times 7/1/88 212

Earth tremor kills 2 more at Vaal mine

JOHANNESBURG — A second earth tremor at Vaal Reefs mine killed two miners and injured 19 yesterday, bringing the fatality toll to eight in two days

Rescue operations were continuing at number three shaft for the man who went missing after Tuesday's earth tremor that killed six miners and injured nine

A total of 28 men have been injured in two days

"The names of the deceased will be released once their next of kin have been notified," a spokesman for Anglo American Corporation said

Two years ago, eight miners died and 30 were hurt in an explosion at Vaal Reefs number eight shaft

In 1980, 31 people died when a lift cage fell — Sapa

Miners tell of rockfall rescue horror

The Argus Correspondent

AKGAS 8/188 (2/2)

JOHANNESBURG. — A miner who survived one of two rockfalls which claimed eight lives at Vaal Reefs gold mine in Orkney has described how he listened helplessly to an eerie voice calling for help while his leg was trapped in rubble.

Mr Lesia Jobo was speaking in the West Vaal Mine Hospital where he was being treated for a scarred face and a fractured neck.

He was with other miners, who had gone to rescue those trapped in the mine's No 3 shaft after Tuesday's rockfall, when rocks fell on him.

Mr Jobo said a fellow worker, known as Mhlophe, was buried in a pile of rocks and he could hear him calling for help but was unable to assist as one of his legs was trapped.

"My fingertips could reach him, but that was as far as I could move. When I eventually freed myself his voice had faded. His weakening voice is still ringing in my ears."

"It took me about 15 minutes to free my leg. It was very painful," he said.

Mr Nonofe Gongoefela said he survived the rockfall because a small rock hit him, knocking him out of the way, seconds before a

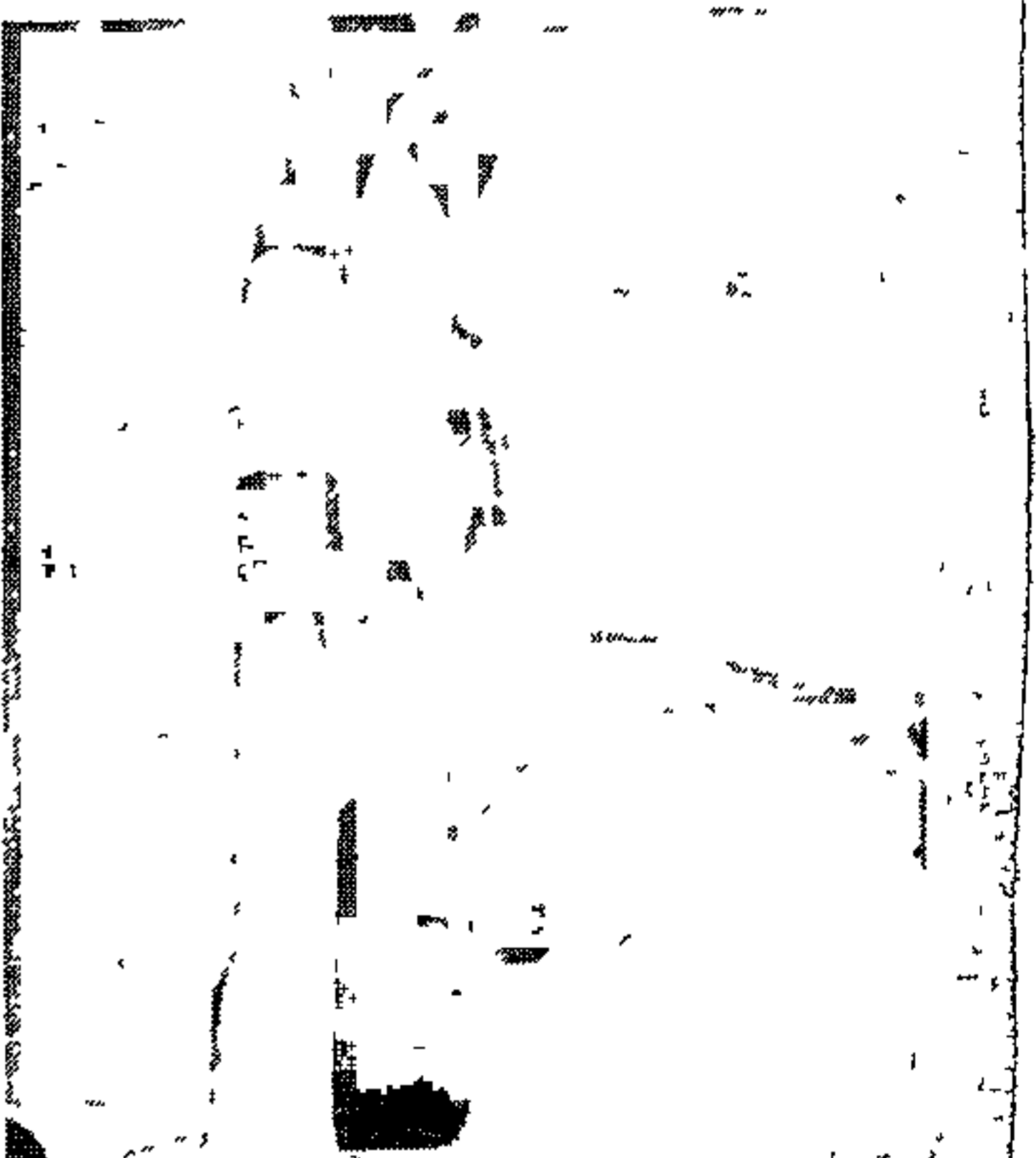
huge one dropped on the spot where he had been standing.

"I owe my life to that rock. Otherwise, I would have been buried under the huge one," he said.

Five miners were discharged from the hospital and others have been transferred to the Rand Hospital in Johannesburg.

Tuesday's rockfall, which brought the death toll at the mine over the past two days to eight, was said to have resulted from a "seismic event" measuring 2.9 on the Richter scale.

The names of the dead have not been released.



Survivor Mr Nonofe Gongoefela.

Labour Update

Vaal Reefs toll rises

THE dead toll in this week's Vaal Reefs mine accident has risen to eight, with 28 injured and one miner missing.

The eighth miner was killed in a rockfall at the mine's No 2 shaft on Wednesday morning

Six miners were killed in the first tremor at the Western Transvaal mine on Tuesday night. A rescue team member was killed in the second rockfall the same night, bringing the death toll to seven, Anglo American

Corporation said in an earlier statement

Spokesman Mr Paul Clothier said search and rescue operations were continuing and that the stricken area was fairly dangerous

Mr Clothier declined to release the names of the victims before their next-of-kin were notified

Spokesmen for the National Union of Mineworkers which organises at Vaal Reefs could not be reached for comment yesterday

AREA: Within a radius of 56 km from the Welkom Railway Station, excluding that portion of Kroonstad falling within this area.

L.

— Reuter

212
Miners search on

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue teams are still searching for one miner missing after two earth tremors caused rockfalls killing eight miners and injuring 28 at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney

Six were killed in the first rockfall on Tuesday night and on Wednesday, a rescuer and a miner were killed by a further "seismic event" — Sapa

212

Mine accidents claim eight lives in 2 days

By REVELATION NTOULA

A SECOND tremor at Vaal Reefs gold mine on Wednesday killed two more miners, bringing the death toll of this year's first mining disaster to eight.

</pres 10/1/88

The first dead man was part of a search and rescue team seeking miners trapped by rockfalls caused by the first tremor on Tuesday.

A second man went missing and was presumed dead. Seven men were injured in the incident, according to Anglo American spokesman Paul Clothia.

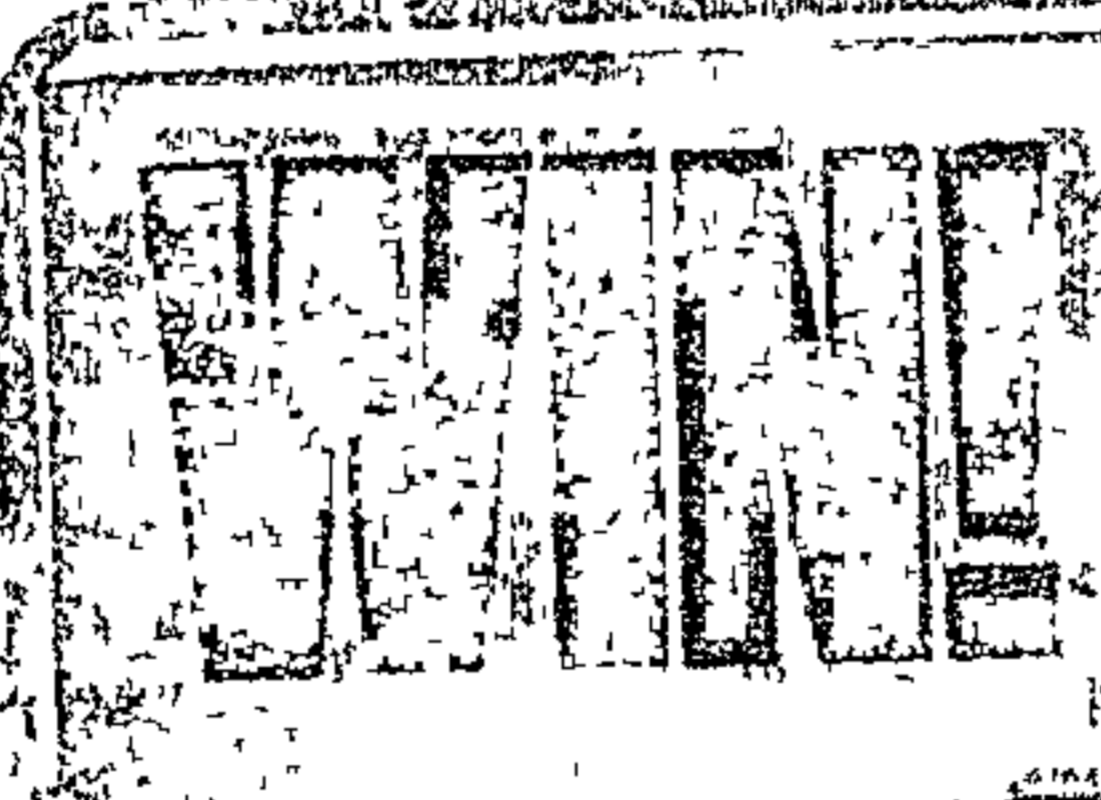
The same tremor resulted in rock falls 2 200m underground at the mine's No 2 shaft.

This resulted in the death of the other miner and the injury to 12 others. Eight of them were hospitalised.

A total of 28 men have been injured in the two days.

The spokesman said the names of the dead would be released once their next of kin had been informed.

The National Union of Mineworkers was not available for comment.



If you haven't won a prize in the CITY PRESS BIG GAME competition... there's still time... it's all so easy. All you have to do is to... a competition card... in... its store, countrywide, or

"For example, an un-

167 injured in violence at Randfontein mine

MURDER AT

SHAFT NO. 3

FOUR miners were killed and 67 injured when a group of more than 400 allegedly attacked others who were drinking at a Randfontein Estates Mines Cooke 3 shaft beerhall that is being boycotted. The incident took place on Wednesday evening, the mine's management said.

Hundreds of miners at Cooke 1 and 2 shafts yesterday refused to work demanding to know circumstances leading to the incident at Cooke 3 shaft. The general manager at Cooke 1 shaft, Mr W.J. van der Meulen, issued notices in the morning urging all striking employees participating in an illegal strike to refrain from this action.

Mr Bob Bertram, consulting engineer of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI) the mine's owners, said three of the 67 injured miners were in a serious condition. They have all been admitted to the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg.

He said between 400 and 500 miners attacked about 150 others as they were drinking at a liquor outlet. The attackers wanted the others to leave because that outlet was being boycotted.

By SELLO RABOTHATA

Mr Bertram said order was later restored and everything was calm.

A miner who spoke on condition that his identity is not revealed said the problem started on Tuesday when some of their colleagues were told not to go underground. No reason was given. When miners had changed shifts on Wednesday evening those who had been underground were told that other miners were waiting to fight them.

He said the group was attacked by those on the surface and they fought back. Two miners were killed during the confrontation. A number were injured.

Grievances

It was later established that two others had died.

The miner said yesterday morning they were refused entry to the mine and told that only Zulu and Shangaan workers could go underground.

Mr van der Meulen said: "All striking workers are therefore informed that if they do not return to duty on their next normal shift they will be summarily dismissed and will have to vacate hostel accommodation forthwith."

He said management was prepared to discuss and resolve grievances but would not tolerate further disruptions to production.

The National union of Mineworkers was not available for comment.



SOWETO pensioner, Mrs Elizabeth Xaba, was evicted from her house in Pimville, by the Soweto City Council yesterday. See Page 3.

Pick n Pay
Southern Transvaal Discount Supermarkets

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212 Sanelwa 22/1/88

3 die, 1 hurt in mine rockburst

JOHANNESBURG. — Three men were killed and one was injured in a rockburst at the Anglo American-administered Western Deep Levels gold mine, about 60km west of here, early yesterday.

Anglo said in a statement that the rockburst occurred on 118 level, 3 500m below surface, at the mine's No 3 Shaft, at 2.30am yesterday.

"Rescue operations are under way to find one person still missing," the statement said.

The names of the dead will be released once their next of kin have been informed.

The accident occurred in a stope gully adjacent to a dike, Anglo added. — Sapa

Consumer Council calls for boycott

Staff Reporter

THE SA Consumer Council suggested yesterday that consumers should hit back and boycott certain commodities.

Council director Mr Jan Cronje said it was ironic that President P W Botha's announcement of a public sector salary freeze was followed by a whole spate of price rise threats

Among them were a projected meat price rise of 15%, 20% for medicines and the threat of higher fuel and electricity, car, dairy and many other product prices.

This meant that consumers, especially those who were not granted a salary adjustment, would be dealt a further financial blow, Mr Cronje said.

"Is the time not ripe for consumers to organize themselves and refuse to buy certain commodities?" he asked

The council warned industry not to price itself out of the market and compel consumers to use substitutes or to press for the importation of products at competitive prices.

It was ironic, too, that in spite of the lower feed maize price, the price of chickens continued to rise

President Botha's anti-inflationary measures would be futile if all sectors and industries failed to co-operate in curbing price increases, Mr Cronje said.

City Hall revamp: R10m plan

Municipal Reporter

ARCHITECTS who studied the City Hall for over a year have recommended that R1 million a year for 10 years be budgeted for its renovation and restoration.

But a spokesman for the city treasurer's department said yesterday that it was unlikely that more than R200 000 would be set aside for this purpose in the coming financial year

The City Hall, which dates back to 1905, was "basically remarkably sound", according to the study, by Mr John Rennie and Mr Pat Riley

Its exterior is a national monument, as are the Grand Hall and two marble stairways

Certain repairs — such as the patching of leaks — were urgently needed, according to the report. It recommended "total re-roofing" after the parapet balustrades were restored, but leaks

3 miners killed

THREE men were killed and one injured following a rockburst at the Anglo American administered Western Deep Levels gold mine, about 60 km west of Johannesburg, early yesterday.

Anglo said in a statement to Sapa the rockburst occurred on 118 level, 3 500 m below surface at the mine's number three shaft, at 2 30 am yesterday

"Rescue operations are underway to find one person still missing," the statement said

The names of the deceased will be released once the next of kin have been informed

The accident occurred in a stope gulley adjacent to a dike, Anglo added

19/2/88

flame stove set fire to two rooms of a house at
Tsolo

CAPE TOWN 20/2/88 (212)

Four killed in rock burst

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll in Thursday's rock burst at the Western Deep Levels mine near Carletonville has risen to four with the discovery of the body of a missing worker

Union-mine safety pact 'first' for SA

CT. 22/2/88 Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has announced the signing of what it claims is the first ever health and safety agreement between a mine and a union in South Africa

The NUM described the agreement, reached late last year with the Palaborwa Mining Company (PMC), as a breakthrough, and criticised members of the Chamber of Mines for their failure to enter into similar accords. PMC is not a member of the chamber.

According to the union, the agreement provides for the recognition of about 100 safety stewards as representatives of workers' interests in the field of health and safety.

Safety stewards will be informed immediately in the event of any accident and will participate in any inspection and inquiry held thereafter. After the inquiry the stewards and management will meet to discuss the lessons of the accident.

Elected stewards will receive time-off for training by both management and the union.

212 (circled) (circled) (circled) B/Boy 22/2/88

Safety agreement for mine

PALABORA Mining Company (PMC) GM George Deyzel said on Friday he believed the health and safety agreement, recently signed with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), would help make the mine's operations even safer and more efficient than at present.

The NUM last week applauded the agreement — the first between a union and a mine — as an important breakthrough

It provides, among other things, for the recognition of elected safety stewards, their training and regular consultations between them and management

ALAN FINE

Deyzel said PMC believed that safety, loss control, productivity, efficiency and profitability went hand in hand. Safety had therefore always been given high priority.

He added any safety programme had to be driven from the top. But its success depended on the state of mind and involvement of every employee.

Deyzel said the election and training of safety stewards was scheduled to take place during the first half of this year, after which the agreement would be fully implemented.

Mine casualty rates queried

ALAN FINE

SOUTH African mine fatality and injury statistics tend to create a more favourable picture of mine safety than is warranted by the actual facts

This is the contention of UK mine safety expert Hubert Eisner and Wits University researcher Jean Leger in an article published in the latest edition of the Journal of the SA Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

The authors say the usually-published accident rates on SA mines do not distinguish between surface and underground accidents. Because most deaths and injuries occur underground, it is necessary to differentiate in order to monitor the actual risk involved in underground work

In the six years to 1983, the 1.69 per thousand average annual underground fatality rate was some 25% higher on gold mines and about one third higher on collieries than the overall figure

The authors say while SA gold mine figures are not comparable with overseas operations, underground coal-mining fatality rates are. In that period, the death rate on South African collieries was twice as high as that in the US and eight times the fatality rate on UK collieries

Eisner and Leger also argue that the substantial fall in reportable injuries from 1970 to 1985 (by more than

half on gold mines and nearly 75% on collieries) could partially be due to factors other than a decline in the number of accidents

They note that while this substantial fall in injury rates occurred, the fatality rate declined only marginally. They suggest this may be due to pressure on injured miners for an early return to work. Injuries become reportable when 14 or more days are lost

Among other things, they say, this could have been caused by concerted efforts by managements to achieve the five star safety rating.

A chamber spokesman comment on the article would be supplied once it had been studied

Opec calls for stability in prices

AMSTERDAM — An official of Opec yesterday called for co-operation between oil producing countries, oil companies and consumers in stabilising world oil prices

In an address to an oil industry conference, — Petrotech '88 — Opec chief spokesman James Audu said the "net outcome" of oil price-shocks, both upward and downward over the past 15 years, "revolves around the futility of conflict" within the oil industry

He said attempts by oil consuming countries to drive down oil prices as low as possible are as counterproductive as past attempts by producer nations to maintain unrealistically high price levels.

Imbalances

Audu said the current softness of world oil prices following the 1986 world oil price collapse represents "a new set of imbalances in the oil industry" that eventually will be corrected. But he did not indicate the likely time period in which this could occur.

Without being specific, Audu said Opec had noticed a "maturing of attitude" toward a general willingness to try to stabilise volatile oil markets even from unexpected quarters. Noting that over the past year Opec had sacrificed its production to bring oil prices back up to more realistic levels, Audu said the oil cartel was "confident that tools exist for a stable oil industry" — AP-DJ.

... CONTINUES

Kinross: dramatic turn as charges dropped ^{17/3/88 Star} (2/2)

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

WITBANK — The Kinross Mine disaster trial took a dramatic turn yesterday when it was announced that the State would drop some of the charges

And as the State closed its case, the defence team applied for the accused to be discharged on most of the remaining charges

A decision on the application will be given today

Yesterday was the 15th day of the Kinross trial in which seven Gencor employees have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide, alternatively 13 charges under the Mines and Works Act and mining regulations

The accused are Mr John Henry James Burke, a director of Kinross Mines, Mr Jacobus Egnasius Olivier general manager at the time of the accident subordinate manager Mr Daniel Johannes Bothma underground manager Mr Johannes Albertus Louw Mr Donovan John Browne, Mr Thomas Joseph Coombe and Mr Frederick Christoffel Viviers

Mr Burke is representing Kinross Mines Limited and the other six are charged in their professional and private capacities

A total of 177 men died in the Kinross fire on September 16, 1986

After consulting the Attorney-General on Tuesday, the prosecution announced yesterday that the State would

not be proceeding with three of the charges against the first four accused

The charges dropped were those of failing to comply with mining regulations and statutory requirements laid down by the inspector of mines in connection with safety, failing to provide and maintain suitable fire-fighting equipment, and permitting welding, flame cutting or flame heating to take place and omitting to ensure adequate means were immediately available for the extinguishing of any fire which may have resulted

Mr C Plewman SC, acting for the first four accused, then applied to have the main charge of culpable homicide withdrawn

All charges against Messrs Browne and Coombe were withdrawn except for two counts — failing to have adequate means immediately available to extinguish a fire when using flame cutting equipment, and failing to test for gas when cutting work was being done

The seventh accused, miner Mr Frederick Christoffel Viviers, is to have all charges withdrawn except the main charge of culpable homicide and further counts of using a welding apparatus without testing for inflammable gas and using welding equipment without a written authorisation

212

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, March 24 1988

ALAN FINE

THE dependants of 108 victims of the September 1986 Kinross

Kinross fund: 108 benefit

disaster have so far received payments from the disaster fund established by Gencor after the accident in which 177 miners died

Chairman of the board of trustees of the fund Adriaan du Plessis said yesterday the fund paid according to a formula of 12 times the annual salary of the deceased, with a minimum of R10 000. He was unable to supply the amount of the total payout thus far.

The fund is processing claims by dependants of another 27 victims said Du Plessis, who is also Gencor CEO human resources, mining. It was still experiencing difficulties in contacting dependants of the remaining victims.

After the accident, Gencor announced it was putting R2m into the fund. Du Plessis said the group's gold mines were continuing to make contributions on a monthly basis.

D/D 24/3/88 (212)

Disaster dependants paid out

JOHANNESBURG — The dependants of 108 victims of the September 1986 Kinross disaster have so far received payments from the disaster fund established by Gencor after the accident in which 177 miners died

The chairman of the board of trustees of the

fund, Mr Adriaan du Plessis, said yesterday the fund paid according to a formula of 12 times the annual salary of the deceased, with a minimum of R10 000

He was unable to supply the amount of the total payout so far

The fund is presently

processing claims by dependants of another 27 victims said Mr Du Plessis, who is also Gencor chief executive officer, human resources, mining

He said the fund was still experiencing difficulties in contacting dependants of the remaining victims — DDC

Disaster payout tops R1-m

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

Gencor has paid out more than R1 million to the families of the men who died in the Kinross Mine tragedy on September 16 1986

This announcement came on the eve of today's judgement in the Kinross Mine case in Witbank. Seven Gencor employees are charged with culpable homicide.

A total of 177 men — 173 of whom were black — died in the disaster which occurred when the foam walls of Kinross's 15th level were set on fire by a burning acetylene tank.

Gencor's mining division chief executive

of human resources, Mr Adriaan du Plessis, said yesterday that the Kinross Initiative Trust — set up days after the tragedy by Gencor with a contribution of R2 million — had so far paid out amounts to 108 of the dead miners' families.

Another 27 claims were currently being processed.

Mr du Plessis added that the amount paid to each family was 12 times the deceased's monthly salary, with a minimum payment of R10 000.

One of the trustees is the National Union of Mineworkers' Evander regional organiser, Mr Tshidiso Mothupi. All of the black workers who died in the fire were NUM members.

St. J. 2/2/88
2/2



NUM appeal against court imposed fine

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is to petition the Attorney-General to support the union in a request for an appeal against yesterday's Kinross disaster accident finding, which it described as "scandalous"

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said the union would pay the fine for Frederick Christoffel Viviers, the miner found guilty of contravening the Mines and Works Act

"We will pay his fine because we feel that the entire Kinross management should have been found guilty. There is no sense in placing blame for the disaster on one welder who is way down in the mine's hierarchy and has little authority.

"The magistrate has pegged the lives of the deceased miners at R1,77 each. This is scandalous," said Mr Ramaphosa.

OK rejects union

demand for services

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D/D 25/3/88
**Gencor homicide
acquittals** (212)

WITBANK — Seven Gencor employees were acquitted in the Regional Court here yesterday on charges of culpable homicide following the Kinross Mine disaster in 1986 in which 177 men died

However one of the accused, a miner, Mr Frederick Christoffel Viviers, was found guilty of two contraventions under the Mines and Works Act — failing to test for gas and failing to get written permission before doing welding work underground

In his judgment the magistrate, Mr J V R Pietersen, said the state had failed to prove that the accused could have reasonably foreseen the "catastrophic situation" which occurred after a

defective acetylene tank had set fire to a foam wall underground

He said Kinross Mine had been misled to believe that fire retardant polyisocyanurate foam — which it had contracted for — had been supplied, when in fact the more flammable polyeurethane had been installed

At the time of the installation in 1981 fears had been expressed about the safety of using the foam underground

However, tests were conducted from samples and results gave no reason for concern.

Mr Pietersen fined Mr Vivier R50 on each of the two charges of contravening the Mines and Works Act — Sapa

D.D. 29/3/88
3 miners die

212

JOHANNESBURG —
Three mineworkers died
and two were still miss-
ing yesterday evening
after a rock burst at the
Doornfontein Gold
Mine, near Carleton-
ville, yesterday

A spokesman for Gold
Fields South Africa said
51 other miners were in-
jured in the incident,
2 500 m underground
Two were serious and
21 were discharged from
hospital — DDC

This charred pamphlet proclaiming that "Victory is Certain" and "Long Live Umkhonto we Sizwe" — the armed wing of the ANC — was found in the burnt-out house in Gaborone.

Race against clock to find trapped miners

By Gien Elsas, West Rand Bureau

Rescue teams are fighting against the clock in an attempt to find two miners who are trapped more than 2 km underground after a rockburst killed three people and injured 51 at Doornfontein Mine near Carletonville yesterday.

Mr Attie Roets, public relations officer at Goldfields, said today the rockburst occurred at 11.20 am at a section of the mine which is 2 500 m underground. He said the intensity of the burst measured 3,3 on the Richter scale.

The burst killed three men instantly and injured 51, most of whom were taken to the Goldfields' group hospital in Carletonville.

Two of the men were admitted in a serious condition while 21 were discharged after being treated for minor injuries. The condition of the two seriously injured miners had stabilised by today.

Initially four miners were trapped underground, but late last night two of them were rescued uninjured.

STRUGGLED

Several rescue teams struggled throughout the night through fallen rock and mining rubble in a desperate attempt to locate the two missing men.

"We cannot say whether these men are still alive, but we do not hold out much hope that they are still living," Mr Roets said.

He added that the names of the dead and injured would only be released later.

cent people at a stage, according to Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan.

In Gaborone, a spokesman for the office of Botswana President Quett Masire identified the man killed as a "South African refugee".

Two of the three killed were Botswana citizens. Security sources in Africa were today sceptical about published claims that a "target house" was used. Hein Grosskopf, wanted in connection with the Krugersdorp bomb blast.

The home was described as the SADF as an African National Congress transit house.

Brigadier Herman Steyn of the Security Police said the house was attacked after a clash between insurgents on the Botswana border on Friday.

Three insurgents were killed and a fourth was captured. The Gaborone raid was launched on the basis of information about the captive, he confirmed.

In a statement, General Malan said the SADF congratulated the army for its pre-emptive action in the east of the Southern African region.

It is the policy of the government to combat terrorism wherever it may occur.

In the case, terrorists originating from Zimbabwe and Zambia used Botswana as a transit zone.

President Masire's spokesman said yesterday the identity of the third woman who died when the commandos attacked the home on the outskirts of Gaborone

3 miners die in rock burst

CAPE TOWN 27/3/88 Own Correspondent (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Three miners died and four were still missing early yesterday evening after a rock burst at the Doornfontein gold mine, near Carletonville, yesterday

Gold Fields SA senior public affairs spokesman Mr Attie Roets said at least 51 other miners were injured. Rescue teams had failed to find the four missing workers eight hours after the accident

The injured, two of whom are in a serious condition, are being treated at the Leslie Williams Hospital in Carletonville

Missing miner rescued

THE fourth miner who was missing after Monday's rockburst at the Doornfontein Gold Mine near Carletonville has been rescued suffering only minor injuries, a spokesman for Goldfields said yesterday. *Senetour 20/3/88*

PRO Mr Attie Roets said the miner — who survived for 30 hours at two kilometres underground after the rockburst was brought to the surface "more dazed" than injured.

The body of another miner was recovered earlier yesterday.

Four miners were killed and 52 injured in the rockburst at the 27/25 longwall faces of the mine. The intensity of the burst measured 3,3 on the Richter Scale.

Most of the injured were taken to the Leslie Williams Hospital. Two men had serious injuries while 21 were discharged after being treated for minor injuries.

Originally, four miners were missing in the burst. Late on Monday night, two were rescued, uninjured — Sapa

3/13/08
star
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Rescued miner has injury to his spine

West Rand Bureau

The Doornfontein, Carletonville, miner who was rescued, apparently virtually unscathed, after spending more than 24 hours trapped in a tunnel underground, is being treated for a spinal injury in the intensive care unit of the Leslie Williams Hospital

Mr Attie Roets, PRO for Goldfields, said the miner, whose identity has not yet been released, appeared to be unhurt when he was found. He had been trapped in an air pocket about 2 500 m underground after a rockburst at the Doornfontein mine on Monday.

Four people were killed in the incident and 52 were injured, most of them not seriously. The last trapped miner was found on Tuesday afternoon and appeared to be unhurt.

He was taken to the Goldfields' Group Hospital for a check-up as he was suffering from shock. Closer examination showed that the man suffered a spinal injury.

D/D 9/4/88

Statistics of Aids carrying miners released

212

JOHANNESBURG — The number of Malawian mineworkers identified as Aids carriers had more than doubled since 1986, the Chamber of Mines said yesterday

A major study of the disease's prevalence on the mines was carried out among a general sample of mineworkers in 1986

A Chamber spokesman said in a statement that 2 000 Malawians were identified as carriers, but "many of these had completed their contracts and left the country"

"Non-Malawians identified as HIV positive total about 90, of which

about 40 are South Africans," the spokesman said

Reports that there were 4 000 HIV carriers in the mining industry, including 500 non-Malawians, were incorrect, he said

The spokesman said it was not yet possible to say what the increase in the incidence of the disease was among non-Malawians since the Chamber's 1986 study

He said it could, however, be assumed that some increase had occurred in non-Malawians

There are about 20 000 Malawians in the mining industry's workforce of 756 000 — Sapa

Standaert

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) No, because it is confidential commercial information of a private sector company which is not at the disposal of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs and it is suggested that you direct your enquiry directly to Sasol

(b) Falls away

(c) (i) and (ii) Fall away

Overseas visitors: guests of Bureau for Information

684 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Deputy Minister of Information

With reference to his reply to Question No 547 on 7 October 1987, how many overseas visitors who were guests of the Bureau for Information in 1987 were unable to meet representatives of (a) the National Party, (b) the Progressive Federal Party, (c) the Conservative Party, (d) Inkatha and (e) the Soweto Civic Association as a result of the itineraries of these guests not permitting of such meetings?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION

The Bureau for Information does not have a foreign guests programme but handles guests of the Department of Foreign Affairs on an agency basis. The basic guideline for each guest programme is however compiled by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

No records are kept of meetings that did not take place as a result of itineraries that could not accommodate them

(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) Fall away

Accident at No 10 shaft of St Helena Mine: investigation

713 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 527 on 7 October 1987, the investigation into the cause of the accident at the No 10 shaft of the St Helena Mine on 31 August 1987 has been completed, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that the investigation will be completed, if so,

2/2

these cards, and (iv) who was responsible for printing them, in each case,

(2) whether postage stamps were used to send out these Christmas cards, if not, how were they distributed?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS

(1) (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(i) 1 275

(ii) In the discretion of the Minister and the Head of Department

(iii) R1 573,25

(iv) The Government Printer

(2) The Minister's Christmas cards were distributed as official postal material

In the case of the Head of the Department only Christmas cards, by virtue of his office, were distributed as official postal material.

NUM petition over Kinross

Sowetan 27/11/86

THE National Union of Mineworkers has circulated 250 000 pamphlets asking its members to support a petition asking the Attorney-General to appeal against the Kinross Mine disaster judgment.

Last month seven Gencor employees were acquitted of culpable homicide and other related allegations following the Kinross fire in October 1986. The fire, the worst disaster at a South African gold mine, killed 177 men.

NUM's safety officer, Dr Denis Rubel, said the

union wanted to appeal against the judgment. Petitions were being circulated at mines throughout the country, and he said it was hoped most of the union's 250 000 members as well as friends and supporters would give their signatures.

The pamphlet says "An appeal against the finding of the magistrate can be made, but the families of the dead cannot appeal and the NUM cannot appeal.

"Only the State can make an appeal because it brought the case to court." — *Sowetan Correspondent*

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Plight of paralysed heroes of the war waged underground

THE plight of workers paralysed in mining accidents has become the focus of a new drive by the National Union of Mineworkers (Num) for safety levels in the industry to be improved.

Dennis Rubel, a doctor in Num's Health and Safety Department, says some 100 workers become paraplegics as a result of mine accidents every year.

To deal with the range of problems facing these men who, Rubel says, should be treated as "war heroes", the union plans to hold a national paraplegics' conference before June.

The task of the conference, says Rubel, will be to draft a programme demanding that mining houses, hospitals and the government improve the conditions paraplegics live under.

Peter Bunkell, representative for the Chamber of Mines, said the mining industry has also begun an inquiry into the conditions in which paraplegic miners live and the possibility of making improvements to these.

An interim report has been produced by the board of inquiry, he said, but cannot be made public at this stage because of its provisional nature.

Research by Jean Leger, of the University of the Witwatersrand, and Shelley Arkles, an industrial sociologist, shows that the mining industry accounts for two-thirds of all black workers who are permanently injured each year in industrial accidents.

They argue that the compensation system for mineworkers, administered by the Rand Mutual Association on behalf of the government, is grossly inadequate.

"Since compensation is based on wages, wage levels are crucial for determining whether compensation will provide adequate support for disabled workers and their families," says Arkles. "Despite the 300 percent rise in real wages between 1971 and 1985, the majority of miners continue to earn wages less than or close to the poverty datum line."

The vast gap between white and black miners' wages also accounts

More than 12 000 men are injured and 600 killed in mining accidents each year. Of these, 100 workers become paraplegics. EDDIE KOCH reports on moves to improve conditions in the industry

for the large disparity in the compensation each group receives. Leger estimates that the average black miner with 100 percent disability will receive R254 a month, while an average white miner with the same disability will receive about R1 500.

This, together with a rate of inflation that has cut the buying power of pensions in half over the past 10 years, has shifted the real costs of supporting the casualties of the mining industry on to the already impoverished rural communities they come from, say the researchers.

Arkles points out that in South Africa compensation is based only on an assessment of the degree of physical impairment suffered by an injured worker. Thus a black worker who earns the average wage of R254 a month and suffers 31 percent degree of impairment will receive a pension of only R79 a month — even though, like a totally disabled worker, he will probably never be able to work underground again.

The researchers argue that compensation should take into account not only the degree of physical damage caused to a worker but the actual and projected loss of earnings — especially as compensation legislation removes workers' common law rights to sue for these costs.

"The system of compensation is in need of a major overhaul," says Arkles. "While the care and facilities provided at rehabilitation centres are extremely good, the presence of such centres should not obscure the need for more fundamental forms of responsibility on the part of the mining industry in the form of increased compensation, vocational training and job creation."



Belwane's back is broken. Now he's too afraid to go home

By EDDIE KOCH

WHILE Belwane Mvalwana was waiting at the medical station of the Blyvooruitsicht Gold Mine to be declared fit for his first shift underground, news spread among the new recruits that a worker had just been decapitated in an underground accident.

From that moment 12 years ago, Mvalwana has lived constantly with the fear that comes from working in an industry where accidents claim the lives of more than 600 men and injure some 12 000 each year.

Mvalwana recalls he often saw men in wheelchairs pushing themselves around the mine compounds he has lived in. Like most miners, he tried not to let his mind dwell on these reminders of the dangers he faced and spent much of his spare time training for tribal dancing competitions that, he says, kept him "fit and strong".

His wife was less able to repress the anxiety.

"When I went home she was always preaching about the possibility of me coming back injured," says Mvalwana. "When the time came for my leave to end she didn't want any quarrels because she knew it may happen that I wouldn't come home again."

Today Mvalwana does not want to go back to his home in Engcobo, a village in the Transkei, where his wife Nobongi lives with their six-year-old daughter Sibongiseni and two-year-old son Bongwiwe.

In October last year, while he was drilling in the stopes of the Stilfontein Gold Mine, his back was broken in a rockfall. He is now paralysed from the waist down and will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

He is 32.

"I know I will never stand on my feet again," he says. "And I am afraid my wife might leave me. I can understand that I myself wouldn't be able to live with such a person."

Mvalwana spoke to *Weekly Mail* from the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg, where he was receiving treatment for pressure sores caused by sitting all day in a wheelchair.

He says he hasn't received wage or compensation payouts since the accident and believes his family is trying to survive on his brother's state pension. He doesn't know how much he will receive in compensation for the accident but does not place much hope in this. "At the mine hospital the people training us told us not to be shocked when we receive our money." The advice is realistic.

As a drill operator, Mvalwana earned R300 a month. In terms of South Africa's Workmen's Compensation Act he has lost the common law right to sue his employer for the losses the accident has caused to him and his family. In return he qualifies, as a totally disabled worker, for a monthly pension equivalent to 75 percent of his salary at the time of the accident.

This will give his family a monthly income of R250 a month — in an area where the household subsistence level, a measure of the poverty datum line, has been calculated by the University of Port Elizabeth to be R338 a month.

Mvalwana does not own any livestock and will be unable to work on the small plot he owns in Engcobo. He also knows there are no other employment opportunities in the village. That's why he is determined to learn belt-making at a mine hospital in Welkom before returning home and setting up a small workshop.

If he can achieve this, says Mvalwana, "maybe I won't be such a burden on the family."

Miner Belwane Mvalwana's worst nightmare comes true

Picture: TSAKS MOKOLOBATE, Learn and Teach

Num believes the Rand Mutual Association can easily afford to boost compensation levels.

Rubel, citing the association's annual reports, says the company had a surplus before tax of R23 569 000 in 1985 and R8 036 000 in 1986. He also notes that the company paid out dividends totalling some R5-million in 1985 and more than R3-million in 1986 to its shareholders — who are made up of the mines whose workers are covered by the system administered by Rand Mutual.

"We believe Rand Mutual should be running its business to pay workers a reasonable compensation and if there is money after that then they can consider paying out dividends. Far from being seen to be making a profit from the accidents on the mines, we believe the mining houses should be putting more money into a just system of compensation."

Replying to queries from the *Weekly Mail* about Num's complaints, a spokesman for Rand Mutual said: "The Rand Mutual Assurance Com-

pany Limited is a mutual association in the sense that its policyholders are also its shareholders. It is not in the business to make a profit but levies premiums only to the extent necessary to fund its ongoing operations.

"Up to 1984 the company used to make refund of premium to its members to the extent that it had over-collected premium. This method gradually eroded the company's reserves. In 1985 it was decided that it was prudent to make advance provision for future increases in existing pensions necessary to counteract, to some extent, the effects of inflation on existing pensions.

"This meant putting funds to reserve and distributing surpluses by way of a dividend rather than by way of refund of excess premiums. . . Because the Rand Mutual's benefits are better than those of the Workmen's Compensation Act, it is in fact more expensive for mines to belong to the Rand Mutual than to insure themselves through the (government's) Accident Fund."

WITS AUTUMN SCHOOL 1988

Three days of Lectures, Workshops, Fine Art, Film, Music, Drama, Dance.

(For full programme see Weekly Mail of March 18)

CHANGES TO PROGRAMME

Australian film festival replaces Woody Allen

Australian Film Festival

5 May	20h00	The Picture Show Man
6 May	13h30	The Man from Snowy River
	17h30	Witness
	20h00	The Year of Living Dangerously
7 May	13h30	Breaker Morant
	17h30	The Picture Show Man
	20h00	The Man from Snowy River
8 May	13h30	Witness
	17h30	The Year of Living Dangerously

Venue: 5 May Lecture SHB 5, Senate House, East Campus
6, 7 and 8 May ED 102, Education Building, West Campus

Fee: R3 per session

Lecture

Professor Johan van Zyl, of the School of Dramatic Art
FILM: *The Antipodean Connection*

The South African film industry is trying to find an identity in the face of two strong movements. The first is an alternative cinema that will reflect South Africa's Third World status. The second is a viable commercial cinema that will reflect South Africa's First World status.

The Australian films being screened during the Autumn School could provide a paradigm for local scriptwriters and directors. Professor van Zyl will discuss these films in this context. Friday 6 May at 15h30.

Venue: WCT4 (West Campus Theatre Building)

Fee: R6 (Registration. Include on Autumn School booking sheet or telephone 716-8026)

Changes to 1988 Wits Autumn School

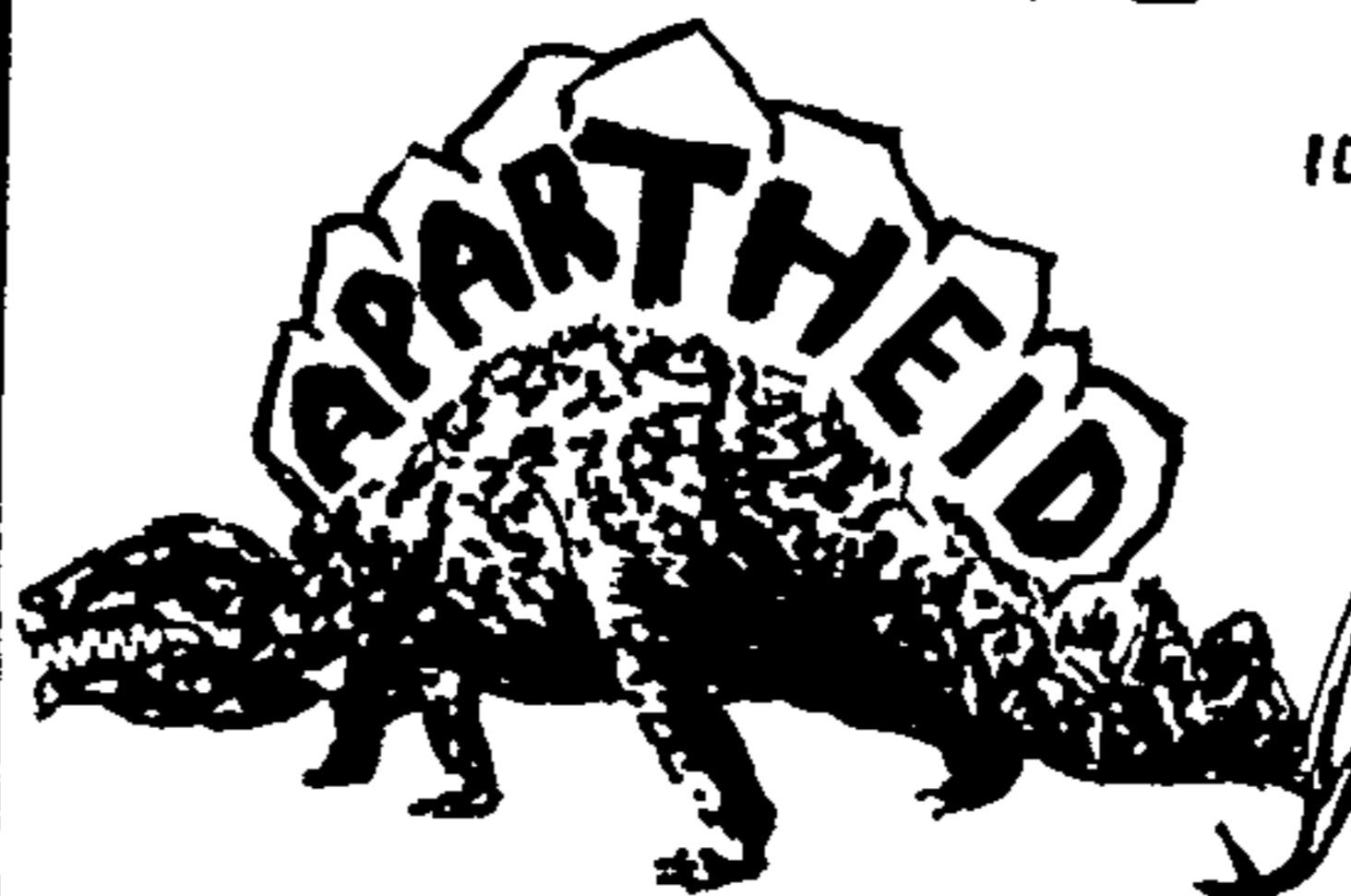
- "Township Boy" replaces "When Thou Art King"
- History of African Jazz - Cancelled
- Changes to the Film Festival as indicated
- Craft Market, May 6, 7 & 8, The Wits Club

ALL WELCOME

Telephone 716-5509/10/8026/8024 for details

WANTED

101 WAYS TO END



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MON 2 MAY
7.00pm
JENNIFER
FERGUSON
NADINE
GORDIMER

5 FREEDOMS FORUM

10 dead in mine plunge

Sunday Times Reporter

TEN black miners were killed and two hurt in a shaft accident 860m below the surface at Rand Mines' Harmony Gold Mine near Virginia yesterday.

A descending lift cage door was ripped off and the 10 fell to their death, said Rand Mines spokesman Mr Greg Kukard.

He said rescue work was "long and difficult" at the mine's Number Four shaft.

The accident brings this year's mine accident toll to 26 dead and 82 injured.

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SAPA Times 16/5/88
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10 gold miners killed

JOHANNESBURG. — Ten miners died and two were slightly hurt in an accident that sent men plunging down the number four shaft at Harmony Gold Mine near Virginia in the Free State early on Saturday

The names of the dead were being withheld till their next of kin have been informed, a spokesman for Rand Mines, the owners, said

The accident was "believed to have been caused when the door of a conveyance transporting men underground came adrift as it struck an as yet unknown obstacle or object, causing miners to fall into the shaft," he said — Sapa

SAPA 1 41

Ten miners die in shaft plunge

16/5/88

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Blow

TEN miners died and two were slightly hurt in an accident that sent men plunging down the number four shaft at Harmony Gold Mine near Virginia in the Free State at 4.55am on Saturday.

The accident was "believed to have been caused when the door of a conveyance transporting men underground came adrift as it struck an as yet unknown obstacle or object, causing miners to fall into the shaft," a spokesman for Rand Mines, the owners, said.

The spokesman originally reported six deaths and two miners missing.

"But during the course of rescue searches, the bodies of four other miners were discovered."

It was initially difficult to determine the exact number of missing

workers as "the shift was still underground. They had to stay there for some time after the accident because of the damage".

The exact number of missing men became known once the shift had been brought to the surface again. Subsequently, rescuers discovered the bodies of the four men.

The names of the dead were being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed, the spokesman said.

"The accident comes at a time when Harmony has been at the forefront of safety in the SA mining industry — having won the Chamber of Mines Millionaire Safety Shield (for 1-million accident free working hours) for the 16th time earlier this year," the spokesman said — Sapa.

Mines to open after fighting

14/5/90
BRONWYN ADAMS

GENCOR'S Trans Natal Mining is today expecting to re-open two of the three mines at Matla, near Kriel, which were closed last Wednesday after fighting between groups of miners, GM (Operations) Piet Henderson said at the weekend.

Between 300 and 400 workers, largely non-union members, demanded to be removed from Matla and temporarily accommodated on another mine after two miners were killed and 22 injured, Henderson said.

He said the mines were shut when the 400 refused to return to work and sporadic incidents of fighting continued underground on Thursday.

The absence of such a large proportion (almost 20%) of the workforce had affected production and required a great deal of reorganisation, Henderson said.

Negotiations with both the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the 400 were underway, as was an investigation to determine the cause of the fighting.

Six murders, 12 rapes in Soweto

Star 16/5/88



Crime Reporter

Six murders, three attempted murders and 12 rapes were reported in Soweto in what police described as a "relatively quiet" weekend

Soweto police spokesman Major Noel Hartwell said 41 stolen and suspected stolen vehicles were recovered by detectives, who made 11 arrests

Two men were arrested in connection with attempted murder allegations while another two armed robbery suspects were also being held, he said

One suspected rapist was also arrested

Major Hartwell said 26 cases of theft, including six vehicles, were reported. Four suspects were arrested and faced theft charges

Liquor Squad detectives arrested 13 people, including four women, under the Liquor Act and confiscated 190 dozen beers

Two men were arrested by narcotics squad detectives and faced charges of possessing dagga

Nearly 1,2 kg of dagga relating to the two cases was seized, said Major Hartwell

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Mike Fourie of Pretoria and sho

Cause of mine accident unclear

Mine officials are still investigating the cause of the accident that claimed the lives of 10 miners at Harmony gold mine, near Virginia, in the Free State early on Saturday

Rand Mines spokesman Mr Greg Kukard said last night it was still not clear exactly how the accident happened

He said the door to a descending cage was ripped off and the 10 men fell 1500 m down the shaft. "But what caused the cage door to come adrift is one of the aspects officials are investigating"

The cage was carrying about 100 people at the time. Two others were slightly injured in the incident

The names of the victims will be released once their next of kin have been informed.

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Two men die, woman hurt in crash

Wounded bus

NUM 'excluded from mine probe'

Star 18/5/88

(212)

The National Union of Mineworkers has claimed in a statement that the management of Harmony gold mine had refused it access to the mine to take part in the investigation of the accident on Saturday in which 10 workers fell to their death from a moving conveyance at No 4 shaft.

The company has replied, saying it is not mine management's decision whether the union participates in the investigation.

In a statement last night, the mine management said the investigation was being conducted by the Government Mining Engineer, a statutory body which investigated all major mining accidents.

"It is their decision whether NUM participates or not," the statement said.

The union said it was baffled by the refusal as the mine was claiming to be in the forefront of safety in the industry.

SAFETY RECORD

"The NUM views this refusal as an indication that, contrary to the claim of being a frontrunner in safety, the mine management has many things to hide from both the workers on the mine and the general public."

NUM says it represents more than 10 000 workers at the mine, making it the largest union on the mine.

This is disputed by management, who say that, according to stop orders, membership was only about 5 percent of eligible employees.

The union said it had participated in many accident investigations and inquiries in the industry since the inception of the union.

Harmony management said the mine's outstanding safety record was "the result of dedicated effort by all employees on the mine and not the result of complacency."

NUM said "We would like to reiterate our position that only through the total involvement of workers, through democratically-elected representatives, will the mines be a safe place to work in" — Sapa

Brave miners honoured



MR F Fernando (left) received a briefcase for meritorious conduct from Gencor's executive director for mining, Mr B P Gilbertsen.

LAST August's St Helena Gold Mine explosion in Welkom which claimed the lives of 60 miners was relived at a ceremony held at the mine on Wednesday. 212

The president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Naas Steenkamp, presented the Chamber's medal for bravery of the highest order to mine overseer, Mr Nic Venter.

The citation reads: "Mr Nicolaas Johannes Venter is honoured today with the mining industry's supreme award for bravery for rescuing five colleagues following an explosion on August 31, 1987, at the mine's No. 10 shaft. Sixty-three persons were killed in the blast".

Mr Venter descended down the severely damaged shaft in a makeshift lift to rescue the trapped miners about 695 m underground.

The award was awarded for the 90th time since its inception in 1916.

Among the four St Helena employees who received the Chamber's award for meritorious conduct were two black miners, Mr F Fernando and Mr M Mncube for rendering first aid to the survivors.

One of the five survivors, Mr Mlamli Mavi, who was airlifted to the Rand Mutual Hospital after being rescued, attended the function with his wife, Violet and children Thokozile (2) and one-year-old Nonhlanhla.

Mr Steenkamp said the men were heroes who volunteered to carry out a rescue attempt under the most hazardous conditions despite being aware of danger.

● About 50 miners who were trapped underground for almost a year had their remains recovered. The bodies were beyond recognition.

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later as Miss World when the winning Miss United who now models some of the sophisticated blonde some of us have to work you know."

My trip into hell, by the mine disaster 'VC' hero

ST 28/1/88

212

BARBARA FROST

WELKOM — Mr Nick Venter, hero of the St Helena mine disaster last year, spoke this week for the first time of the event for which he was awarded the mines "VC".

Mr Venter, who has been in the mining industry for 26 years, rescued five colleagues after an explosion that wrecked a shaft at St Helena, killing 63 men.

He said modestly: "If you know mining people, you will know that they moan and groan, but comes the crisis and everyone pulls together, from the beginning to the end of the rescue operation. The team was fantastic.

"There was only one small cage working at the wrecked shaft after the explosion," he explained. "Four of us went down to inspect the damage.

"Suddenly we heard the sound of men shouting — they may have seen the spotlights we were using. We yelled back at them to stay where they were and that we would help them."

Mr Venter described how they had tried desperately to reach the men, but were unable to go far enough down because of the damage to the shaft.

"The engineers then decided to lower someone in an adapted oil drum suspended below the cage. As I had had experience with a bosun's chair I volunteered," Mr Venter said modestly.

"When I was about 3 m above the pump station where the men were trapped, I told them to stop lowering me. I was afraid that if I went right down the men would rush to the shaft.

"I shouted to the men to stay where they were until I was out of the drum. Two could walk although they were injured. The other three were still conscious, but two had been badly burnt."

Mr Venter described how he went to the men and calmed them before helping them into the drum which lifted them to a first aid station higher up the shaft.

After making sure there were no other survivors, he was pulled up himself and helped with first aid.

One of the rescued men died later. But the other four were there to see Mr Venter receive the Chamber of Mines Supreme Award for Bravery this week.

Doctors

Shoat/100

Rescue teams find bodies of four miners

Sunday Times Reporter

RESCUE teams yesterday recovered the bodies of the remaining four miners trapped after a rockburst at Western Deep Levels gold mine at Carletonville.

This brings the number of deaths to seven in the explosion at the world's deepest gold mine

The rockburst occurred on Friday night in the west shaft about 2 000m underground

Three bodies were recovered immediately and rescue operations continued until the rest were found yesterday afternoon.

The names of the dead are being withheld until next of kin have been told.

The mine operates at very deep levels and is in a geologically unstable area, Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said.

RESCUE
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(212)

7 die in mine

Sowetan 6/6/88



RESCUERS found the bodies of four more miners, bringing the death toll to seven from a rockburst in the world's deepest gold mine.

The bursting of the rock which is caused by underground earth-

quakes or tremendous pressures at great depths, occurred on Friday night in a stope at 2000 m beneath the surface at Western Deep Levels gold mine. Three bodies were recovered immediately and rescue operations had continued until the rest were

found on Saturday evening.

The races of the dead were not immediately known, but a spokesman for the mine owner, Anglo American Corporation, said they were probably all black since their next of kin had not yet been notified. Most black miners are migrant labourers whose families live in distant rural areas or other countries.

The rockburst occurred in the western shaft, one of two shafts at Western Deep Levels which extend 4000 m underground.

The mine, located 69 km west of Johannesburg, is unique in that it operates at such deep levels and is in a

geologically unstable area, said Anglo spokesman, Mr James Duncan.

The mining company has pioneered methods of predicting and ameliorating rockbursts, "but they are a fact of life there," said Mr Duncan.

Western Deep Levels utilises a method of excavation called long-

wall stoping which was designed to reduce the chance of rockbursts. In the system, a series of stope faces is mined in one general direction around the mine shaft and the mining faces are kept as closely in line as possible, creating the appearance of steps, with less pressure concentrating in one place — Sapa-AP

Govt ad
campaign
'not secret'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The advertising contract for the government's R4,7-million campaign to promote participation in the municipal elections was awarded last year and there had been a long run-up to the final report approved by the cabinet last month

The Minister of Information, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said yesterday it was a long-standing project and was not intended to be secret. He said he would reveal the details of the campaign this week.

Conservative Party allegations that the campaign was designed to promote the National Party were "hogwash", Dr Van Der Merwe said

He said the intention was not to promote any party. But it was government policy to have local elections.

Uncertainty over municipal voting

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — It is uncertain if thousands of black, coloured and Indian people living legally in central Johannesburg will be eligible to vote in October's municipal elections

As matters stand they are disqualified from the vote. This has been confirmed by the chairman of the management committee, Mr Francois Oberholzer who said he had lobbied for Indians who lived legally in the greater Johannesburg area, to be granted representation on the council's advisory Lenasia management committee

Mr Oberholzer said he expected the State President to deal with the question of voting rights in so-called grey areas before October when amendments to the Group Areas Act and the Settlement Areas Bill are to be discussed in Parliament

But, the director of constitutional development, Mr Len Dekker, said the Group Areas Act and the Settlement Areas Act had nothing to do with voting rights and dealt only with "where people can live"

He said the question of voting rights now resided with the provinces, each of which would determine rights in terms of voting ordinances

Transvaal's local government MEC Mr Olaus van Zyl could not be contacted for comment and no policy statement on the issue has been made

The leader of the PFP in the City Council, Mr Tony Leon, said "Thousands are going to be completely disenfranchised. This exposes the hypocrisy and untruthfulness of Chris Heunis's claims that everyone will be voting in the municipal elections on the same day"

Rockburst.
Death toll
rises to

JOHANNESBURG — Rescuers found the bodies of four dead miners on Saturday, bringing the death toll to seven from a rockburst in the world's deepest gold mine

The rockburst, caused by underground earthquakes or tremendous pressures at great depths, occurred on Friday night in a stope at 2 000 metres beneath the surface at Western Deep Levels Gold Mine

Three bodies were recovered immediately. The others were found on Saturday night

The rockburst occurred in the western shaft, one of two shafts at Western Deep Levels which extend 4 000 metres underground

The mine, 69km west of Johannesburg, is in a geologically unstable area, said an Anglo American Corporation spokesman — Sapa-AP

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Work resumes after rockburst

JOHANNESBURG — Production at Western Deep Levels gold mine, Carletonville, where seven miners died in a rockburst, has been resumed after a safety test.

But the area where the rockburst occurred on Friday is still closed.

The burst registered 2,6 on the Richter scale. The mine recently received a safety award

The names of the dead will be disclosed when their families have been told — Sapa

Star 11/6/86

Anglo names miners killed in rockburst

The names of the seven miners who died in a rockburst at Western Deep Levels on June 3 were released by Anglo American Corporation today. All the dead men are Transkeians. They are Mr Ernest Tembile-Jange (32), Mr Mntakalelwa Yifaka Zibekele (33), Mr Sikheliyana Mshiywa (36), Mr Nelson Bossman Donkile (26), Mr Aaron Bhekakubo Nkame (32), Mr Goodman Lungile Godola (26) and Mr Thembunkosi Sgomfana (24).

e by K

Three miners
injured in ⁽²¹²⁾
shaft blast ^{STW 14/1/85}

Three miners were injured, one of them seriously, when an explosion occurred in Shaft No 4 at Grootvlei Mine near Springs early today.

One of the miners sustained third degree burns to his face, arms and hands. He was taken to the Far East Rand Hospital, where his condition was stabilised before he was transferred to Johannesburg's Cottesloe Hospital.

A second miner sustained third degree burns to his left arm and a third had severe fractures to his right hand. Both are at Cottesloe. — East Rand Bureau.

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NUM OUT TO UPLIFT WORKING CONDITIONS

Sowetan 14/6/85

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By MOKGADI PELA

THE health, safety and compensation units of the National Union of Mineworkers is daily fighting for adequate standards for all their members nationwide to end the average death rate of two people and 34 major injuries a day.

With a membership of 360 000 — the job is not easy. The health, safety and compensation staff say "the conservatism of mine owners made their job more difficult."

Mr Hazzy Sibanyoni, who is the health officer for the union, said "Part of my job includes investigating and doing thorough research on health hazards faced by workers. I also have to look at the effects of noise on the workers."

He said his unit disseminated information to the general membership. That was done either through seminars or leaflets.

Dr Dennis Rubel, the safety officer for the union, said "In uranium plants like Phalaborwa workers have to be informed about the dangers of radiation. People get affected by uranium as it gives off some radiation."

NUM has signed a health and safety agreement with the Phalaborwa Mining Company and officials wished other mining companies to follow that example. Dr Rubel said one other issue that worried NUM as the "medical repatriation." In terms of which a worker who loses a hand is sent back to his place of origin.

Compensation

Then the compensation officer Miss Nomsa Nkwana stepped in to explain how workers were compensated after they sustained injuries at work.

She said "Compensation varied according to the injury sustained. Payment also depends on the extent of disability. The loss of either two legs or two arms was regarded as 100 percent disability."

"Compensation also depended on the salary one gets, the fact that blacks are paid very low wages means they get almost nothing."



Dr DENNIS Rubel, NUM safety officer.

MISS Nomsa Nkwana, compensation officer for NUM.

Mr HAZZY Sibanyoni, health officer of NUM.

12 hurt in
mine blast 212

JOHANNESBURG —
Twelve miners were injured early yesterday in an explosion at the Grootvlei gold mine near Springs, reports said

Two of the injured — Mr W C Hanekom and an unidentified black man — are in a serious condition.

Ten other black men suffered minor injuries.

A police spokesman said the cause of the explosion is being investigated — Sapa

News in Brief

Burst kills shift boss
3 die in mine blast

Case Trip
20/6/88

212

JOHANNESBURG — A shift boss died and three miners are missing following a pressure burst on Saturday morning at the East Rand Proprietary Mines in Boksburg. Two miners were rescued from the area.

4 miners killed *source item 20/6/08*

212

FOUR miners were killed in an accident at Rustenburg Platinum Holdings' Amandelbult mine 200 km northwest of Johannesburg when they were struck by a hopper — a small railway track — which ran down the shaft when the winding rope snapped at about 2,30am on Friday morning

Consulting engineer, Mr Bruce Sutherland, said a group of eight miners were working in the shaft when the hopper rolled down the sloped shaft.

The four miners were killed instantly. One person sustained bruises.— Sapa.

RIGHT and left-wing unions are showing a rare unanimity in their opposition to proposed changes to the laws governing health and safety in the work place.

Unions, from the right-wing white Mine Workers Union (MWU) to the militant National Union of Mine-workers (Num), have slammed the Occupational Medicine and Occupational Diseases Bill and the Compensation for Occupational Diseases Bill.

The unions say the laws will narrow the criteria used to decide if workers qualify for compensation remove the right of miners who think they are sick because of their work to be examined for free at any time, and abolish compensation for tuberculosis while it is still being treated and for mild cases of pneumoconiosis, a lung disease caused by dust.

The two bills, released for comment earlier this year, appear to remove vast discrepancies in the amounts paid out to black and white workers for chest and heart diseases. Instead of using racial criteria they link the amounts paid to wages.

But the unionists say the real intention is to remove rights that white workers have already won in trade union struggles over the years with a less expensive, and therefore less adequate, system of industrial health.

Peter Ungerer, general secretary of the right-wing MWU, says the changes amount to "a step backwards that will deprive white workers of their vested rights in order to incorporate blacks in the cheapest possible way". His union, supported by seven other all-white affiliates of the Council of Mining Unions, has mounted a mass signature campaign against the Bills.

Cosatu's Num, with about 250 000 members in the mining industry, has a different perspective.

"The previous occupational health laws represented a victory for the white unions," says Dr Dennis Rubel, head of the union's health and safety department. "Num would like to have these victories broadened to include all workers. The new bill, on the one hand, is a step forward because it removes the racial element. At the same time it fails to extend the rights white miners have enjoyed to all workers."

Most unions agree that by pegging payouts to wage levels the Bills will not guarantee diseased workers a decent level of compensation.

Dr Liz Floyd, of the Workplace Information Group (Wig), notes that compensation for serious lung diseases is explicitly racist, paying black miners R2 052 while white miners with the same degree of disability receive R33 207 — nearly 13 times more.

"These discrepancies appear quite crude because of their racial nature but given the vast gap in black and white wages in some industries, there is no reason to expect that differences under the new system will be any different," says Floyd.

Nactu secretary general Piroshaw Camay adds: "When compensation is paid out it must be paid out equally to all workers who suffer equally from the disease and the amount must be equivalent to a living wage with extra consideration for the extra care and family needs that a sick worker may be involved in."

The Bills provide for the system of pre-employment and periodic medical examinations now used on the mines to be extended to all industries that involve "risk work".

Unionists have welcomed the expansion of such screening processes

For once, right and left agree: The new health Bill is ailing

A new Bill to regulate work-place safety takes one step forward (racial criteria are scrapped) and several steps back, complain unionists ranging from the white far-right to Cosatu. EDDIE KOCH reports



Health care at a union project
Picture CEDRIC NUNN, Alrapix

but warn this will expose employees to retrenchment unless it is accompanied by a comprehensive system of rehabilitation.

"These tests should be made to check the health of workers and not to be used to get rid of those who are too ill to work," says Camay.

At present white and "coloured" miners with compensatable diseases qualify for training bursaries to prepare them for alternate jobs. Instead of extending these to all, the new laws will eliminate them.

The Bills also make medical check-ups the responsibility of employers rather than government bodies. Unionists fear that doctors in the pay of

a company are more likely to be biased than those employed by government bodies such as the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases.

"Our experience is that workers are often crudely treated during medical examinations," says Camay. "One recalls the spectre of municipal workers standing naked in their compounds for mass examinations. The tests must be carried out with strict regard to medical ethics."

At present miners and former miners who believe they are ill because of their work have the right to free medical examinations. This will now fall away, all workers will have to pay for such examinations and will only

be refunded if the illness is found to be work-related.

"This is like granting workers a lottery they cannot win," says Rubel. "The new laws say either workers must pay for an examination in which they are proved healthy or not pay and then find that they have a serious disease."

The controversy around the proposals has prompted service groups which advise unions on health and safety issues, such as Wig and the Industrial Health Research Group (IHRG) to hold seminars with unions and draft critiques of the Bills for submission to the government.

Num, in its official response on the

Bills to the government has already endorsed the comments made by IHRG.

Other criticisms made by the two groups include:

- There is no clarity in the Bills as to which government officials will be responsible for detecting industrial conditions that cause disease. The draft laws make the Department of Health responsible for deciding which factories involve "risk work" and for administering compensation, while Manpower Department inspectors will continue to monitor conditions that cause disease. The IHRG and Wig are calling for a less cumbersome and bureaucratic system.

- Wig points out that the Bills only cover a narrow range of chest and heart diseases and that the definition of "risk work" excludes workers in the chemical, retail, transport and security industries who often suffer the effects of long night shifts, exposure to dangerous chemicals and noisy machines, as well as maternity problems linked to the work environment.

- The Bills allow for a certification committee made up of two doctors nominated by employers, two nominated by worker organisations and two appointed by the minister to examine applications for compensation. Wig notes that the health minister will have the final say over which union representatives to appoint and that these representatives will be in a minority position. "Anyway our position is that we will only sit on such government committees when there are equal political rights for all in the country," says Camay.

First mining house's hospital privatised

By KERRY CULLINAN

RAND Mines Collieries Hospital in Witbank this week became the first mining hospital in the country to become privatised.

According to the company, this means that anyone in the area can now use the R10-million hospital on a fee-paying basis, instead of it being reserved solely for mineworkers.

Previously, mineworkers were engaged on a contract basis, which meant that their accommodation, food and medical care was free.

However, Rand Mines maintains that since 1986 when it introduced "market related wages" to the collieries, it also intro-

duced medical aid schemes.

The National Union of Mineworkers believes free medical treatment is a basic right for its members and is currently involved in a dispute with Rand Mines over the withdrawal of free medical services.

"The NUM regards both the privatisation of the mine hospitals and the introduction of medical aid schemes as attempts by mining houses to wash their hands of their responsibilities and force the low-paid workers to pay for their own medical care," said Dr Dennis Rubel, of the NUM health and safety department.

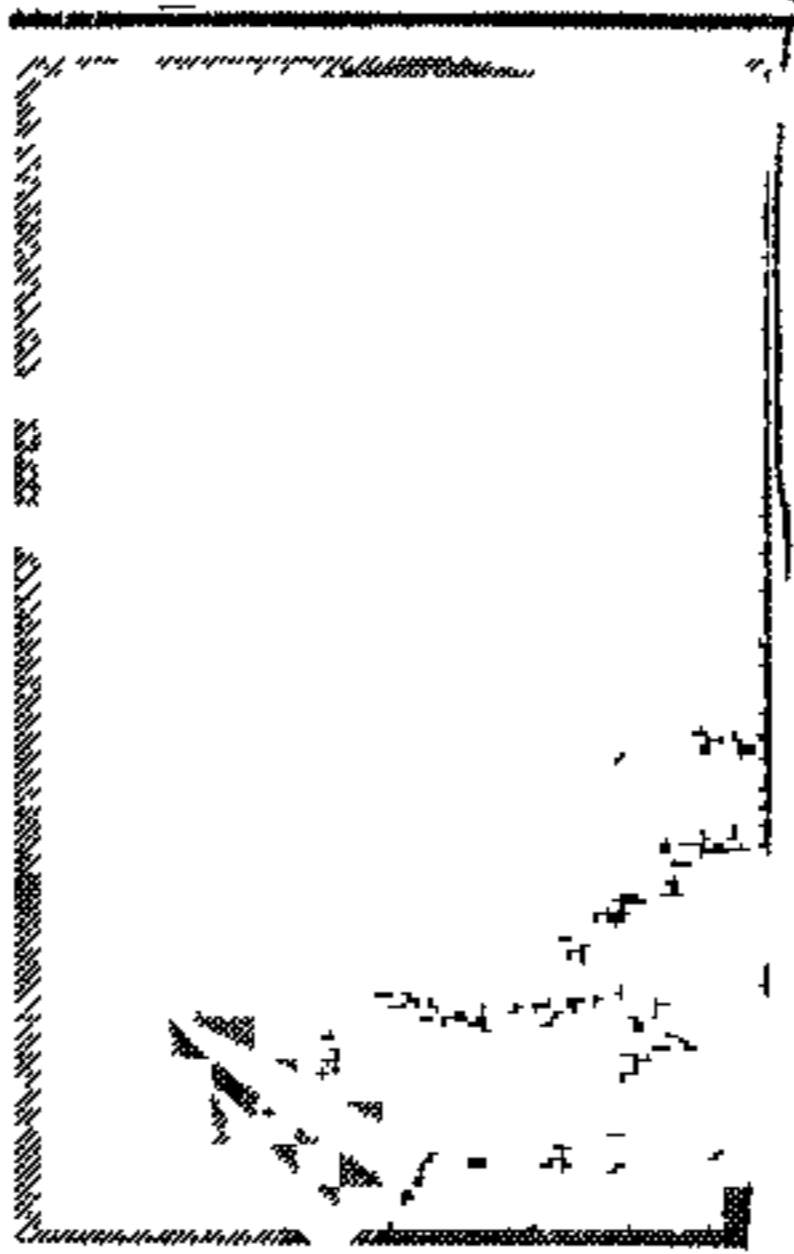
romantic image of beggars, street hawkers and musicians

In February 1966, the government declared most of District Six a white area and in 1968 workmen began razing it. Coloured residents were forced to move to outlying townships.

The removal left a scar on the slopes of Cape Town's picturesque Table Mountain which has never healed. Three churches and a mosque, all that remain of the community, now stand isolated among a wasteland dotted with piles of rubble.

A technical college and government buildings went up and District Six was renamed Zonnebloem, a Dutch word for sunflower, but few people could be persuaded to move into an area with such a painful history. - Sapa

26/6/88
CP/MS
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SHOPSTEWARD Norman Pule

Disaster inquiry
Sowetan 28/6/88

AN INQUIRY into the Kinross mine disaster in which 177 mineworkers were killed, begins today, a spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers said.

NUM official, Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said the union hoped that the inquiry, which will be held in Evander, would uncover the causes of the disaster "with a view to preventing similar occurrence in future"

Kinross disaster inquiry 'a sham' (212)

Star 29/6/88
The inquiry into South Africa's worst gold mine disaster, in which 177 men were killed in 1986 after a fire at the Kinross Mine, was completed in Evander yesterday in only three hours.

Following the Government Mining Engineer's (GME) inquiry, the National Union of Mine-workers' (NUM) health and safety officer Mr Hazy Sibonyani called the proceedings "a sham".

"I can't believe that an inquiry of this magnitude can be completed in just three hours with some witnesses not even being

questioned," he said.

However the inquiry's presiding officer, assistant GME Mr Hennie Liebenberg, denied the inquiry had been a "mock" one, saying, "this was a strict inquiry in terms of the Mines and Works Act".

He said there would be no finding, but copies of the day's proceedings would be handed to the Attorney-General and the GME for any possible further action.

The inquiry opened on a dramatic note when Mr Liebenberg refused the NUM permission to cross-examine witnesses

The NUM's legal representative Mr Edwin Cameron notified the inquiry of the union's intention to get a Supreme Court ruling on the matter. He also applied to Mr Liebenberg for an adjournment of the proceedings pending the ruling. This was denied.

Mr Cameron said the NUM objected to the assistant GME's refusal to allow the union to cross-examine "as it is our view that the presiding officer has the discretion to allow it (in terms of the Mines and Works Act)".

Mr Liebenberg said

section 6,2 of the Act would be enforced strictly and only parties entitled to cross-examine in terms of this section would be allowed to do so.

The GME's original probe into the foam fire formed the basis for the State laying charges of culpable homicide and related charges under the Mines and Works Act against seven Gencor employees.

After a lengthy trial, all were acquitted except a welder who was found fined for contravening the Act's regulations.

troops blocked territories from entering Jerusalem to protest.

NUM refused role

EVANDER — The government mining engineer's inquiry into the 1986 Kinross mine disaster, in which 177 miners died, started dramatically yesterday when the NUM was refused permission to cross-examine witnesses

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Drama at inquiry

Sowetan 29/6/88
THE Government Mining Engineer's inquiry into the 1986 Kinross mine disaster in which 177 miners died, got off to a dramatic start yesterday when the National Union of Minerworkers was refused permission to cross-examine witnesses.

The NUM legal representative, advocate Mr Edwin Cameron, told the inquiry that the union would go to the Supreme Court for a ruling on the issue

He applied to the inquiry's presiding

officer, assistant Government mining engineer, Mr Hennie Liebenburg, to have the inquiry adjourned pending the Supreme Court ruling

This was denied

Mr Cameron said NUM objected to the presiding officer's ruling on cross-examining rights "as in our view he has the discretion to allow it (in terms of the Mines and Works Act)"

Mr Liebenberg said that if the Supreme Court rule that the GME inquiry should have allowed the union the right to cross-examine, then the inquiry would be re-opened

Kinross inquiry 'sham', says NUM

ARGUS
29/6/88

'Buzzer' backs battered Boris

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON.— Tennis superstar Boris Becker has received a formal apology from Wimbledon chairman "Buzzer" Hadingham over the treatment the two-times champion has received at the hands of the British tabloid Press.

Mr Hadingham said he had written to Becker about the headlines describing Becker as "Bonking Boris", "Tight git" and "Sour Kraut".

The chairman said he had been "appalled" by the coverage of Becker's exchange with a Wimbledon car-park attendant and had protested to Daily Mirror owner Robert Maxwell.

His letter to Becker said the young West German was a credit to his country and to tennis.



Boris Becker

Secret of the Centre Court



The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — A mystery millionaire who has been giving away Centre Court tickets at Wimbledon has been identified as Mr Peter Graf, father of tennis star Steffi

The softly spoken West German has been touring the ticket queues looking for forlorn fans — then handing over tickets without disclosing his identity.

"I get two complimentary tickets a day that I don't use," he explained.

Mr Peter Graf
"The boys and girls are thrilled."

Two West German girls, Cornelia Korthen and Astrid Balke, screamed with delight when Mr Graf gave them tickets.

Ashe puts his heart in

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — Former Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe, who came within an ace of death from heart disease after defeating Jimmy Connors in the 1975 final, was back at the Centre Court this week, telling people how to avoid the disease.

In a move to support the Family Heart Association's cholesterol awareness campaign, he demonstrated to fans a quick and simple blood test which monitors a heart condition.

He also advised people to cut down on saturated fats, increase exercise, lose weight and give up smoking.



Arthur Ashe

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The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The inquiry into the country's worst gold mine disaster in which 177 men were killed in 1986 after a fire at the Kinross Mine was completed in just three hours

Following the Government Mining Engineer's (GME) inquiry yesterday, the National Union of Mineworker's health and safety officer, Mr Hazy Sibonyani, slammed the proceedings as "a sham".

Mr Sibonyani said "I can't believe that an inquiry into a disaster of this magnitude can be completed in just three hours with some witnesses not even being questioned"

However, the inquiry's presiding officer, Assistant Government Mining Engineer Mr Hennie Liebenberg said "This was a strict inquiry in terms of the Mines and Works Act"

He said there would be no finding, but copies of the proceedings would be handed to both the Attorney-General and the GME

When the inquiry opened Mr Liebenberg refused the NUM permission to cross-examine witnesses

The NUM's legal representative, Mr Edwin Cameron, notified the inquiry of the union's intention to seek a Supreme Court ruling on the matter He also applied to Mr Liebenberg for an adjournment of the proceedings pending the ruling

This was denied

After the GME's original investigation into the underground foam fire at Kinross, the State laid charges of culpable homicide and related charges under the Mines and Works Act against seven Gencon employees

All were acquitted except a welder.

CAP TWP
30/6/88

Kinross ²¹² inquiry ~~1988~~ 'a token formality'

JOHANNESBURG — Tuesday's inquiry into the Kinross disaster would do little to allay National Union of Mineworkers' members concern over the safety of working conditions in mines, the NUM said yesterday

"The impression that the inquiry was a token formality will do little to allay the union and its members' concern over the safety of working conditions in the South African mining industry, or the adequacy of the current legal provisions to detect and prevent hazards which claim hundreds of lives every year," Mr Hazy Sibanyoni, NUM's health and safety officer, said

The inquiry into the Kinross disaster of September 1986 in which 177 workers died, took place at the Evander Club on Tuesday, 21 months after the disaster

Due to run for three days, the inquiry was disposed of in little over three hours, NUM said

NUM's legal representatives were refused the right to cross-examine any of the witnesses

This was the only time the company and its officials were called to account for the circumstances that led to the disaster, NUM said

"At the inquiry the witnesses read out their statements and were subjected to minimal cross-examination by the presiding officer

"The evidence led at the inquiry goes no way to explaining how the deadly rigid foam came to be applied to the mine's tunnel walls despite the fact that it has been prohibited elsewhere, is known to be extremely dangerous, and has led to the loss of lives in other accidents on South African mines," Mr Sibanyoni said — Sapa

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~~WASH~~

Legal row over Kinross inquiry

By EDDIE KOCH

A LEGAL row erupted this week as the National Union of Mineworkers failed to obtain the right to cross-examine witnesses at the government inquiry into the underground blaze which claimed 177 lives in 1986

The inquiry, held at the country club in Evander, began with union lawyer Edwin Cameron announcing that Num would go to the supreme court to appeal for the right to challenge evidence presented by Kinross mine officials

Cameron's appeal for the inquiry to be adjourned until the supreme court made a ruling was turned down by the presiding officer, Henne Liebenburg

Num's health and safety officer

Hazy Sibanyoni said witnesses then "read out their statements and were subjected to minimal cross-examination"

The union had been calling for an inquiry for nearly two years "Due to run for three days, it was disposed of in little over three hours," said Sibanyoni

"The impression that the inquiry was a token formality will do little to allay the union's and its members' concern over the safety of working conditions in the South African mining industry"

The Kinross gold mine near Evander was the scene of one of South Af-

rica's worst mining disasters. In September 1986 177 miners were killed by noxious gases from polyurethane foam that had been used to line an underground tunnel

Cameron told the *Weekly Mail* he would file papers in the supreme court within the next week.

During the hearing Liebenburg, who is also the assistant government mining engineer, said the inquiry could be re-opened if the court ruled in favour of the union

Evidence at the inquiry was presented by seven officials who earlier this year faced charges of culpable homicide and related charges under the Mines and Works Act. No other witnesses were called.

All seven were acquitted except for a welder who was found guilty of using the underground oxyacetalene torch which sparked the blaze. He was fined R100.

At the time Num offered to pay the fine as a sign of protest at the ruling.

"The evidence led at the inquiry goes no way to explaining how the deadly foam came to be applied to the mine's tunnel walls despite the fact that it has been banned elsewhere in the world and had led to loss of lives on South African mines in the past," said Sibanyoni

Jean Leger, who conducts research into mine accidents at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the use of polyurethane foam to seal underground tunnels had led to at least two other major mine accidents during the 1980s.

In September 1982 a fire at the Buffelsfontein mine killed 12 miners. It was later found they had inhaled gases given off by burning polyurethane.

In October 1983 a government inquiry into an accident at Vaal Reefs number 4 shaft found 10 people had died from "inhalation of noxious gases and vapours from an underground fire. The fire originated at an air crossing. Polyurethane foam used to seal the crossing ignited while holes were being cut in one of the steel beams with flame cutting apparatus."

Leger, noting the causes of the 1983 accident appeared to be the same as those of the Kinross disaster, expressed concern about the brief nature of this week's inquiry.

He pointed out it was no longer necessary for the government mining engineer to make public the findings of inquiries into accidents, even though "the starting point of these investigations should be a determination to prevent another accident of the same nature from taking place".

After the hearing Liebenburg said he would make no immediate finding and would instead hand copies of the proceedings to the Attorney General and the government mining engineer.

NUM meets lawyers over Kinross issue

Sowetan 5/7/88

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THE National Union of Mineworkers is consulting its lawyers over the Kinross Mine disaster with a view to seeking the re-opening of the inquiry into the occurrence.

Num official, Mr Hazy Sibanyoni, said the move followed the decision by Mr Hennie Liebenburg, a presiding officer at last week's inquiry into the disaster, to refuse the union's legal representative permission to cross-examine witnesses at the hearing.

There was drama at the inquiry last week when a Num legal representative, Mr Edwin Cameron, was refused permission to

cross-examine the witnesses. The union is to seek a Supreme Court ruling allowing Mr Cameron to cross-examine witnesses.

The Num official said the Government Mining Engineer's inquiry into the mine disaster — which claimed 177 lives in 1986 — had failed to satisfy the Num's desire to see similar occurrences prevented. The inquiry proceedings ended "in just over three hours" instead of taking place over three days as scheduled, he said.

Objections

Num's objections against the inquiry included that:

- Evidence led at the

inquiry did not explain how "the deadly rigid foam came to be applied to the mine's tunnel walls despite the fact that it had been prohibited elsewhere".

• The inquiry did not satisfy the union's desire to see similar disasters prevented by "a proper examination of the dangers present during the Kinross disaster including the use of faulty equipment".

• The inquiry did not give hope that the use of "rigid foams" in South African mines would be more closely monitored by the Government's mining engineer; mining engineer,

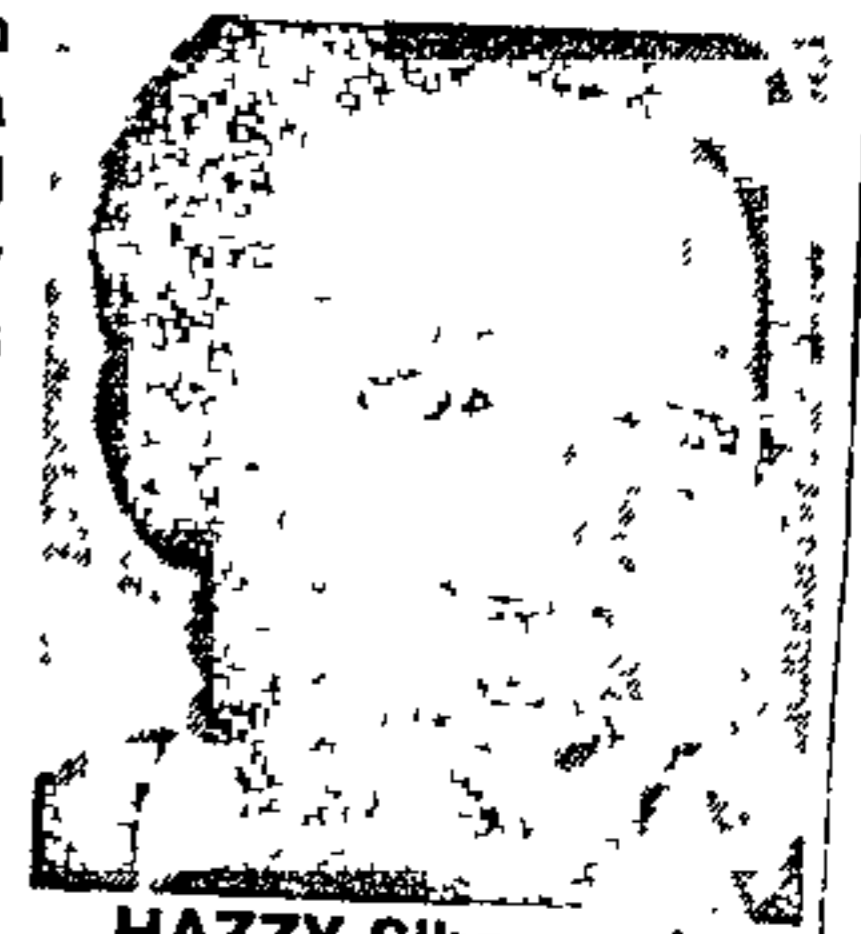
• The conduct of the inquiry would give Num

members the impression that the inquiry was "a token formality" and would do little to allay the union and its members' concern about the safety of working conditions in the mining industry.

Response

Responding to Num's statement, Gencor said in a statement "The tragic circumstances of the Kinross accident have been fully addressed according to the law.

"All the questions of fact raised by the Num were dealt with at the criminal trial in the Witbank Regional Court which was conducted publicly. The Num statement disregards the facts established at the criminal trial as contained in the court record,"



HAZZY Sibanyoni

the company added Mr Sibanyoni said the criminal trial itself could not be regarded as "an adequate substitute for proper inquiry"

"The union has good reason to believe that the technical evidence led by the company at the prosecution should be subjected to cross-examination and is at variance with the opinion of safety experts," the Num official said

ROOFING PROBLEMS?

Fire at mine has been contained

A FIRE which broke out at the West Driefontein Gold Mine has been contained and is being smothered, mine spokesman Attie Roets said last night.

The fire was reported on Monday night at the 26th level of No 6 shaft, he said.

There was apparently a slight rock-fall before the fire broke out.

"It appears a timber pack caught

MANDY JEAN WOODS

fire The area was sealed off then. There were no casualties."

It was difficult to estimate how long it would take the fire to die, he said.

"It might have a minor impact on production if they cannot get production from elsewhere in the mine, but it is likely they will be able to do that," he said.

212 Bldg 6/7/88

The 5 most dangerous mines, by the NUM

NEARLY one in every 100 underground workers at Gencor's St Helena gold mine lost their lives in industrial accidents during 1987, says the National Union of Mineworkers.

According to a recent report by the union, the five most dangerous mines in South Africa last year were St Helena, the small Eirfdeel mine, Anglo's Western Deep Levels and Vaal Reefs mines, and Goldfield's Kloof mine.

Dr Dennis Rubel, head of Num's Health and Safety Department, says in the report St Helena had a death rate in 1987 of 9,23 for every 1 000 workers employed underground.

A controversy over deaths figures brews as the mine union names what it considers the five most dangerous mines in South Africa. EDDIE KOCH reports

the death rate for underground workers during 1987 was 1,42 for every 1 000, while the combined rate for underground and surface workers was 1,13.

Says Rubel "Underground statistics are the real indicators of mining hazards. Surface statistics serve only

to make the underground dangers more palatable statistically."

He has also made a distinction between deep-level mines and "not-so-deep level" mines. On the 29 deep-level mines in the country, Rubel says the chamber's figures indicate there were a total of 475 deaths underground and a fatality rate of 1,64 for every 1 000 workers.

A representative of the Chamber of Mines said a mine's safety performance could not be judged by looking at figures for one year only.

He said a single disaster could happen in any one year which could

create fatality figures that run counter to the mine's performance over a number of years.

Thus St Helena was high on Num's list, even though it has one of the best safety records and won the industry's most prestigious award for safety in 1983. The high fatality rate for 1987 was due to a single accident which killed 63 workers.

While the union has welcomed the publication of separate figures for underground deaths, it is less happy with the Chamber of Mines' method for reporting of injury rates.

The official tables indicate that more than two out of every 100 underground workers were seriously injured in accidents during 1987. The injury rate for underground workers was 22,35 for every 1 000 workers while the combined rate for underground and surface workers was 11,80 out of every 1 000. Both these figures show a sharp drop in the injury rates for 1987.

But Rubel argues that the figures do not reflect the real situation as only injuries that caused a worker to be off work for 14 days or longer are included in the tables.

"We know of workers who have had fingers amputated, or have had forearm bones broken in accidents, who have been put back on light duty before the end of the 14-day period. This is in line with the emphasis on prizes and shields for those mines improving their accident figures," his report says.

Herbert Eisner, an international expert on mine accidents, has argued in a recent article that the apparent decline in injury rates on the mines since 1970 reflects a more favourable picture than the actual number of injuries.

The article was co-authored by Wits University academic Jean Leger and published in the latest edition of the *Journal of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy*.

It says: "South Africa is unique among major mining countries in adopting so high a threshold as 14 days in its definition of a reportable accident. Rightly or wrongly, this inevitably invites the charge of indifference to lesser accidents. Similarly, the belief voiced that falling injury rates are necessarily indicative of improvements in safety suggests a distinct element of complacency."

The Chamber says a reply to the Eisner/Leger article is due to be published in the same journal shortly. "The allegation that injured workers are put back on duty early in order to avoid reporting the injury has been examined in detail and proven to have no foundation," said the representative.

"The claim that the Chamber's reporting of injuries is completely unreliable ... is erroneous and shows that Num has chosen to ignore the Mines and Works regulations which define the criteria under which an injury becomes reportable. Any amputation of a limb or part thereof, for instance, becomes reportable immediately."

Men buried under wet concrete and scaffolding

WALL

CRASHES

- 3 DIE

By ALI MPHAKI
AT LEAST three workers were killed yesterday when scaffolding and concrete reinforcements crashed down at the Cresta shopping centre in Randburg, firemen said.

Another worker is missing and feared dead in the rubble, rescue workers at the scene said as firemen desperately dug through the huge pile of scaffolding and wet concrete.

Another eight men, all believed to be construction workers, were injured, said Randburg fire chief Mr Nick van Dyk. Eyewitnesses said the scaffolding, erected in front of the Wimpy fast-food outlet, collapsed at about 11 20am while workmen were pouring concrete into reinforcements in the ceiling on the lower ground floor.

Mr van Dyk said it took an hour to dig out the first bodies. He had little hope that the missing man would be found alive.

Construction worker Mr Abraham Molefe (62), was on top of the scaffolding when it fell.

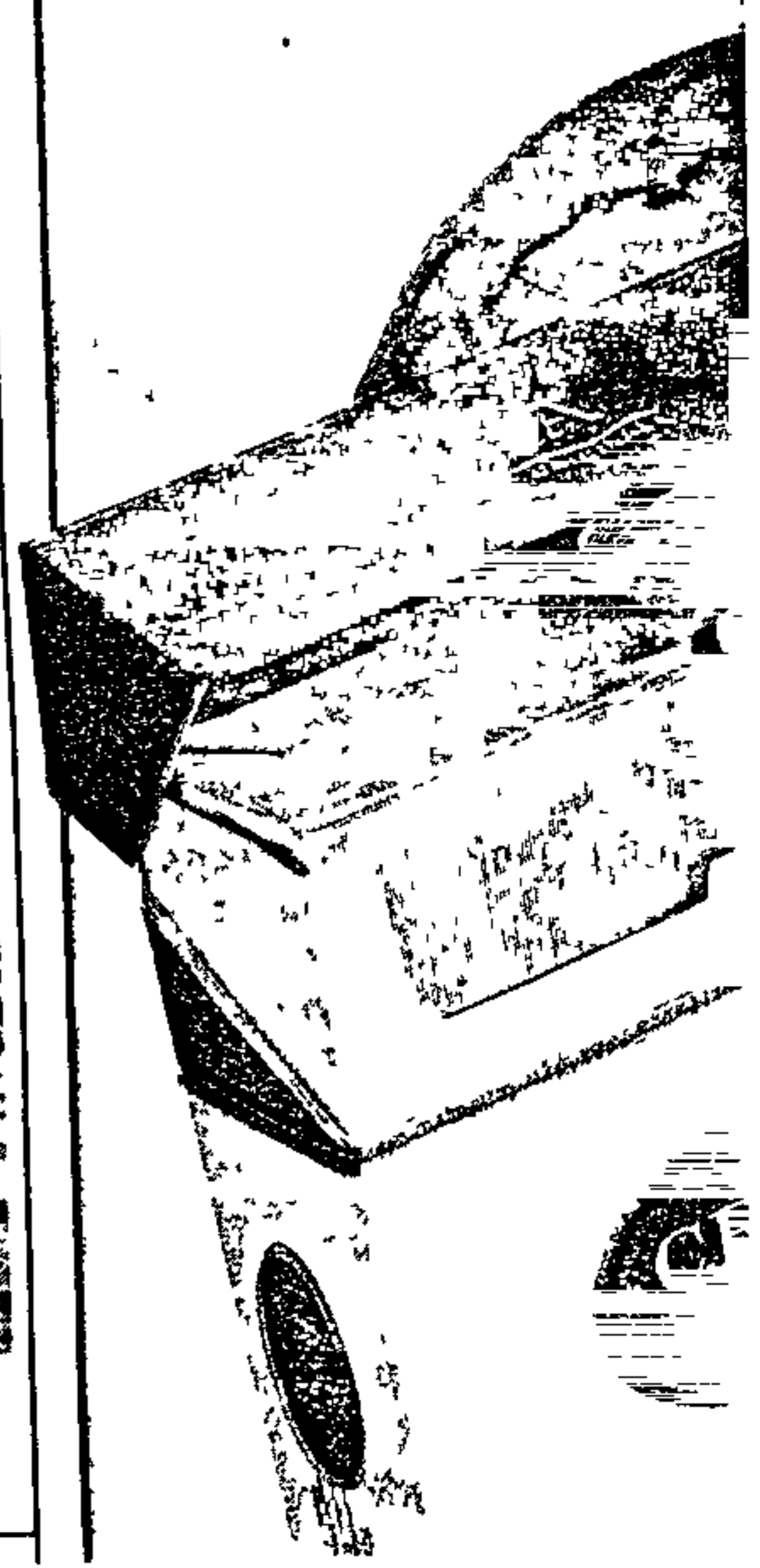
"I just closed my eyes and said my prayers as I flew to the ground," he said.

Mr Molefe's knee was slightly injured.



CONSTRUCTION workers removing some of the debris after a wall fell at Cresta shopping centre near Randburg yesterday killing three workers and injuring seven others
Pic LEN KHUMALO

World-famous
CRAVI
MENTHOL FREE



(212) MAR. 16/8/88

Mine has a history of fatal accidents

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

There had been five accidents involving 19 fatalities at Gencor's Ermelo Mine between 1981 and the April 9 underground methane explosion that killed 34 men last year, an inquest court was told yesterday

Mr Abraham Johannes Cilliers, Ermelo Mine's chief environmental control officer at the time of the accident, was giving evidence at the resumption of the Ermelo Mine inquest inquiry

The case is being heard by Ermelo chief magistrate, Mr J V Marais, with Assistant Government Mining Engineer, Mr Errol de Wet, as an assessor.

Advocate Erwin Cameron, for the National Union of Mineworkers, asked Mr Cilliers if he had known of Ermelo Mine's reputation as "a dangerous mine".

Mr Cilliers acknowledged that he had been aware of previous fatal accidents at the mine. Mr Cameron then listed the mine's accidents since 1981.

"In March 1981 six people had been injured, in November 1982 11 miners died, in November 1983 one man died, in October 1984 six died and in November 1984 one person died."

Mr Cameron then asked Mr Cilliers if he did not think this was "a lot of incidents"

Gencor's legal representative objected to the reference to previous accidents on the mine, claiming it was hearsay evidence that would prejudice the company.

On leave

Mr Cameron contended Mr Cilliers' knowledge of the mine's past accident record was "first-hand evidence" and not "similar-fact evidence", as the defence had claimed.

Mr Marais ruled in favour of Mr Cameron, saying that the question had to be answered.

Earlier Mr Cilliers had given evidence that he had gone on leave 12 days before the accident.

The hearing continues

News in Brief

copy time 17/8/88
Mine accident kills two *212*

JOHANNESBURG — Two miners were killed and three injured during a massive fall of ground at Gold Fields' West Driefontein Gold Mine yesterday morning. Two workers are still missing.

cutting 3/1/88
**Mine rockburst
kills 3, injures 12**
JOHANNESBURG
Three workers were
killed and 12 injured in
a pressure burst at
Deelkraal gold mine
about 11am yesterday,
mine owner Gold Fields
said yesterday after-
noon
A Goldfields state-
ment said a "seismic
event" measuring 2,5 on
the Richter scale was re-
corded in the area

212 B/1007 19/8/88

Mine official's evidence queried

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

ERMELO — The number of self-rescuer masks available to miners underground at the time of the methane explosion which killed 34 men at Ermelo Mine last year, was disputed in an inquest court yesterday.

Underground manager Mr Jacobus Frederick van Wyk said there were 48 men in the section of the mine where the explosion occurred and 55 "Ocenco" masks.

Advocate Edwin Cameron for the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the mine's acting general manager, Mr Snyman, had said in a sworn statement before the court that there were 62 men underground and only 62 masks.

Earlier a mine overseer, Mr Jan Daniel Koch, denied that there were 62 people underground in the explosion area but added that "if there were then something went wrong".

Evidence was being given on the sixth day of the Ermelo Mine inquest, which is being combined with an inspector of mines inquiry.

The case is being heard by Ermelo's chief magistrate, Mr J V Marais, with assistant Government mining engineer Mr Errol de Wet as an assessor.

In previous evidence an Ermelo Mine team leader, Mr Halson Zwane, said the self-rescuer masks had saved his life and that of 10 others he knew.

War on asbestos

THE Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union is to embark on an anti-asbestos awareness programme through the use of videos as part of its campaign.

BAMCWU is no newcomer to this campaign — as early as 1982 the union fought vigorous battles with mining companies calling for the closure of asbestos mines. According to the publicity secretary of BAMCWU, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena, thousands of workers employed in those mines face a danger of contracting asbestosis.

He said members of the community were invited to participate in the video cassettes shows. The shows would be at their offices countrywide. Coupled with that, a team of medical personnel would resume their visits to rural areas where people were exposed to the mineral.

BAMCWU, he added, would also consider litigation against companies for having exposed the workers and the community to the asbestos dust. The victims of this deadly disease were mainly in the North Eastern Transvaal and the Northern Cape where the mineral was mined.

The inhalation of fine asbestos dust can create a chronic disease leading to the malfunctioning of the lungs.

Symptoms

Asbestosis has as its symptoms, fatigue, difficulty in breathing, coughs and listlessness. Asbestos dust affected all who came into contact with it. Figures released by the Mine Bureau of Occupational Diseases between 1967 and 1983 show that more than 6000 fell prey to the dust particles.

In the light of the hazards people faced with asbestos, Mr Rakwena said, BAMCWU launched a national campaign for the closure of all asbestos mines in the country.

Internationally, restrictions on its mining and manufacture have been imposed. Britain and the United States have imposed stringent controls on levels of asbestos dust in their workplaces.

Scandinavian coun-

The struggle against this killer continues

By MOKGADI PELA

tries have, on the other hand, completely outlawed the product," he added.

"In our country, fairly little has been done. Legislation does not protect workers and the community neighbouring the mines from the disease. Our research shows that communities living near asbestos mines and dumps are in danger of contracting asbestosis," he went on.

In the North Eastern Transvaal alone about 500 000 people could contract the disease. He listed three categories of people likely to contract the disease as:

- (1) Those mining or milling asbestos
- (2) Those working in the construction, transport and chemical sectors dealing with asbestos.

And those occupying buildings with asbestos fibre or living next to its dumps.

Charged

He said as a result of BAMCWU's campaign, many groups charged with the responsibility of monitoring the effects of asbestos on the community were established. The level of awareness has since increased.

Secondly, the mines have been forced to introduce safety measures like never before. An asbestos built school near Penge Mine in the North Eastern Transvaal was destroyed by the General Mining Cor-

poration (Gencor) and replaced with a brick structure.

Mr Rakwena said messages of support from the community have been received by the union urging it to continue with its campaign.

Further, in 1985 BAMCWU was party to the International Labour Organisation Conference in Geneva on asbestos.

He said initially South Africa had 26 asbestos mines but today there were only eight. Those still in operation were mainly in the Northern Cape and in the North Eastern Transvaal.

Roofing

Mr Rakwena said there were about 3000 uses of asbestos.

Among those were roofing, heating, building and construction.

He said the latency period for the disease ranged between 10 and 20 years. His union held the view that the non-protection of black workers from occupational disease was deliberate and in line with the exploitation and degradation of blacks.

Regarding the compensation of workers, BAMCWU said "The complicity of the State and the mining industry is denoted by R24000 plus monthly pension for white workers as against R1790 given to black workers."

In the frontline

BAMCWU publicity secretary, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena (right).

Mr Rakwena said it came as no surprise to him when a mine official remarked "They (the miners) are like plastic syringes. You use them and when they are damaged, you throw them back to the homelands."

Since the start of the anti-asbestos campaign in the country, BAMCWU officials have addressed conferences on the mineral and its dangers throughout the globe.

Mr Rakwena has just come from a trip to West Germany, Switzerland and Canada where he spoke about the anti-asbestos campaign. "There is no going back," he said.

Inhalation of fine asbestos dust can create chronic disease



News in Brief

Rockfall kills two miners 212

JOHANNESBURG — The body of another miner has been recovered, bringing the death toll in a rock fall at Western Deep Level's West Mine near Carletonville today to two. The press officer for Anglo American, Mr Paul Clothier, said a rescue operation in the search for four missing miners was continuing — Sapa

Emergency to fight mine

Cape
Times
9/9/88

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said *APL Times 10/9/88 (212)* suspended, 1988 news agency

Mineworkers still missing

JOHANNESBURG — Three mineworkers are still missing at the Western Deep Level's West Mine near Carletonville after one more body was recovered early yesterday, bringing to three the number of bodies recovered in the wake of Thursday morning's rockfall at the mine

apparently been stabbed to death with a pair of
scissors

CPE 1.0ms 13/19/88 212

Body of mine victim found

JOHANNESBURG — The body of a sixth miner, missing since a rockfall last week, was recovered in the Western Deep Levels West Mine near Carletonville yesterday, an Anglo American spokesman said.

Stricken asbestos producer to fight insurers

SYDNEY — CSR, the Australian industrial group facing heavy claims from sufferers of asbestos-related disease, is fighting back against last week's withdrawal of its insurance cover by the Western Australian State Government Insurance Commission (SGIC).

The company has accused the commission of failing to provide reserves to cover claims against CSR and of taking out next to no reinsurance. It claims the government is behind the commission's reluctance to proceed and says it will be taking the commission to court immediately.

The matter has become a major problem for CSR, and is rapidly becoming a political issue in Western Australia, with both the pre-

mier of the Labour Party state government and the leader of the state's opposition speaking out publicly on the problem over the past few days.

The disputed SGIC cover concerns Midalco, the CSR subsidiary which operated the Wittenoom asbestos mine in Western Australia until it closed in 1966. The mine, since dubbed Australia's Bhopal, has so far been the subject of 288 claims, most of them relating to asbestosis. Only a handful have come to court.

The commission's sudden announcement last week that its policy was now considered to be inoperative followed the Victoria Supreme Court's dismissal of CSR's appeal against the award of

A\$250 000 (R117 000) in exemplary damages to Mr Klaus Rabenalt, a former Wittenoom employee suffering from the incurable asbestos-related lung cancer called mesothelioma.

CSR managing director Mr Ian Burgess says it is absolute nonsense for the commission to say CSR withheld information. For more than a decade it had had free and total access to all Midalco's information about the operation and had used the information to defend court cases it ran and paid for.

The risks of the Wittenoom mine were insured with the commission from 1943, Mr Burgess says, and the commission had regularly inspected the mine and taken advice from the state's health and mines

departments.

"There must be questions as to the practices and motivation of the SGIC," he says. "The SGIC have told us they have allocated no reserves to cover the Wittenoom payments and that they have taken out next to no reinsurance on the Wittenoom claims to spread the risk. The SGIC have told us that the Attorney General in Western Australia is behind the SGIC's reluctance to proceed. We wonder why?"

Mr Burgess confirms that total liability is estimated at A\$50 million. The SGIC insurance concerns about A\$30 million of this, relating to claims between 1959, when its unlimited cover began, and 1966 when the mine was shut. Midalco has already agreed to bear the re-

maning A\$20 million liability, relating to claims before 1959 when the SGIC's cover was more limited.

He acknowledges that the process of settling claims has been far too slow, and repeats that CSR wants to settle post-1959 claims quickly. But it cannot do so without the SGIC's approval. "If the SGIC has a case for others paying, it should pursue the matter in court," he says. "A few people are close to death. We want to work with the SGIC to compensate them before they die."

The SGIC has offered no immediate response to the CSR claims. The company's legal challenge to last week's action by the commission is expected to come to court on Monday. — Financial Times.

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KINROSS DAY

The deaths of 177 mine men remembered by union thousands

TOMORROW thousands of National Union of Mineworkers members and workers from unions and the public will commemorate what is commonly known as the "Kinross Day" in services to be held countrywide.

Kinross Day services will be held to remember one of the worst tragedies in mining history this century the death of 177 and injury of 230 mine workers in an underground accident at Kinross on September 16, 1986

Most of the victims in the accident were NUM members. It was on October 1 of that year that the NUM held a service for its members which was attended by 325 000 of its members and 275 000 workers from other industries countrywide

Gather

This weekend services will be held by NUM and Cosatu branches countrywide. Those already confirmed are Klerksdorp, Rustenburg, Kimberley, Newcastle, Phalaborwa, Natal, Welkom and at the City Hall in Johannesburg where all the neighbouring NUM branch members will gather

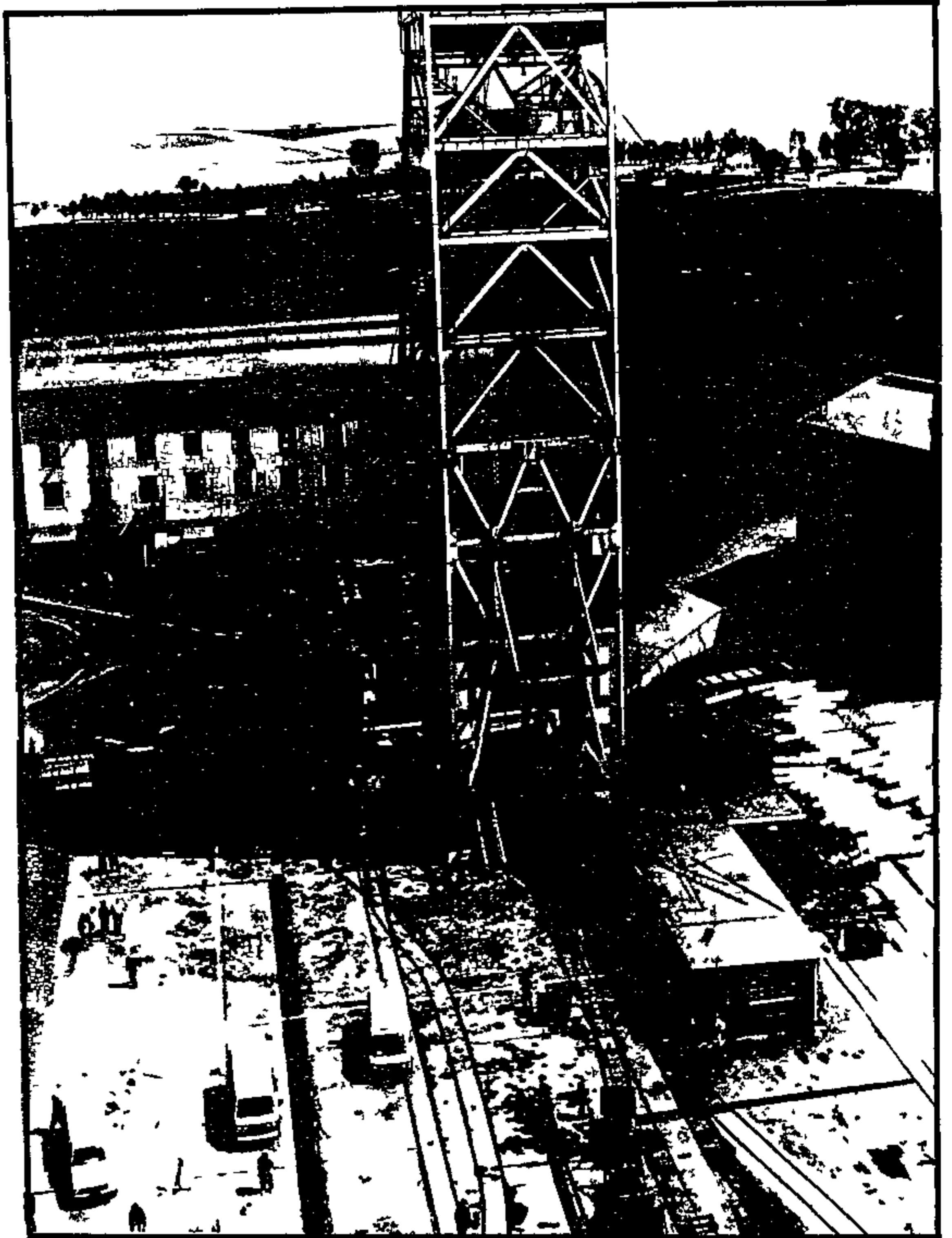
FOCUS

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

The NUM's general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, stressed the serious view with which the union treats the Kinross Day which he said would be among the issues to be discussed in next year's negotiations as members wanted the day as a "paid" public holiday. This was during a Press conference at the NUM's offices in Johannesburg two weeks ago

Health

Mr Ramaphosa also said since the Kinross Disaster in 1986 the NUM had placed the health and safety of its members on the agenda. A union safety official yesterday said "We view the Kinross Day as a symbol for organising around health and safety issues. Our objective goes beyond the day itself because we realise our primary task as not only to mourn the dead, but to prevent a recurrence of such accidents"



In a build-up to the weekend's Kinross Day services the NUM released Press statements and issued posters and stickers articulating the views of its members. A striking message on one of the giant posters reads "In 88 years the mines have killed 50 000 workers. Organise or die!" A large picture of several coffins lined up with two Lesotho flags raised at half-mast in the background occupy the centre of the poster

Views

The NUM says the mines alone kill 800 workers and injure another 10 000 every year. This is despite the fact that several mines have been awarded the highest safety recognition award — NOSA's five-star rating (NOSA stands for National Occupational Safety Association)

The health and safety record of the South African mines is the worst worldwide, according to NUM, which blames the exclusion of unions from inquiries by mine bosses and the ignorance of workers on which mine bosses thrive. A glance

through the safety records of the mine accident history confirms NUM's claim

Inquiry

Among the worst accidents to hit the industry was the death of 152 workers at the Wits Gold mine in 1909. In 1960 the Coalbrook Mine caved in killing 435 workers underground. A commission of inquiry was set up to investigate the cause but to date the report has not been made public

In 1969 at Buffelsfontein 60 workers were killed in a mining accident. And then came the Hlobane gas explosion in 1983 which killed 68 workers

The Kinross Disaster in 1986 which killed 177 workers came while memories of the Hlobane Disaster were still fresh in every worker's mind. Thus the NUM is presently demanding the following rights for its members

- That they elect safety stewards,
- Have access to information on health and safety hazards at the workplace,

- Be trained in health and safety awareness,
- Have the right to inspect the work place regularly, and
- Have the right to stop work in case they discover a dangerous situation at the work-place

The NUM scored a safety victory when it signed two contracts with mine bosses over the safety of its members and officials said the agreements made all excuses that safety was a management prerogative a lie

The union believes that health and safety are an integral part of industrial relations and is a primary union responsibility as the union has the task of safeguarding the interests of its members — among which their lives come uppermost

Safety

The NUM states that all unions should launch health and safety campaigns on an ongoing basis and not only when there is a major accident. It also says the bosses have little regard for health and safety because they view these as the causes of

Lung-damaged Kinross survivors fight for compensation

By EDDIE KOCH

A ROW between the National Union of Mineworkers (Num) and management of the Kinross gold mine has erupted over the plight of more than 300 workers whose lungs may have been damaged in the catastrophic underground fire two years ago

The union accuses Gencor, owners of the mine, of renegeing on an agreement made earlier this year to finance a thorough survey of the lungs of all workers who lived through the blaze that killed 177 workers at the mine on October 1 1986.

A pilot survey, conducted by the union in December last year, found a significant number of the survivors had diminished chest functions and are at risk of developing emphysema-type diseases because of exposure to noxious gases released by burning polyurethane foam.

Num's health and safety officer, Hazzie Sibanyoni, told the *Weekly Mail* Kinross management had indicated, in talks with the union, that it was not satisfied with the reliability of the union's preliminary lung-function survey and wanted to carry out another series of pilot tests before agreeing to fund a full-scale examination of the survivors

"They also refused to give workers time off so that they can take part in the survey," said Sibanyoni "The union is now trying to arrange its own test to be held on weekends because of fear of dismissals."

A spokesman for Kinross Mines said the company has been committed for over a year to the idea of having an unbiased lung study per-

formed by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases

"The Num has however to this day not confirmed agreement to the protocol drawn up by the Medical Bureau setting out ways in which a scientifically valid study had to be conducted," he said

"Kinross Mines is proceeding with a study conducted by the appropriate experts with or without the Num and wishes to reiterate its willingness to have an unbiased and scientific study completed as soon as possible "

The union fears the lungs of 334 survivors who were hospitalised for more than two days after the fire may

have been damaged by exposure to burning polyurethane foam and that they could, as a result, lose between 10 and 15 years of their lives

Under the existing system of compensation for occupational diseases, miners will qualify for a lump-sum payment of about R2 000, says the union Num hopes to include workers with diminished lung functions to be included in the disaster fund set up by Gencor for the families of Kinross victims

Meanwhile Num and the Congress of South African Congress of Trade Unions have jointly organised commemoration services tomorrow for the workers who died at Kinross

"October 1 has been declared a

health and safety day — a day on which workers will not only commemorate the Kinross disaster but will also remobilise around health and safety demands," a union press release said

May Hermanus, who works in Num's health and safety department, told the *Weekly Mail* the union was mounting a campaign for more of its members to be appointed health and safety officers on the mines

The Mines and Works Act is due to be amended so that it can make allowance for health and safety officials to be appointed from the workforce — in line with standard practice in other industries.

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Lung-damaged Kinross survivors fight for compensation

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By EDDIE KOCH

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The union fears the lungs of 334 survivors who were hospitalised for more than two days after the fire may

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By Mike Siluma and Sally Sealey

Miners throughout the country are considering stopping work every time a miner dies in an accident, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said in Johannesburg at the weekend

"Addressing a memorial service to commemorate the death of 177 miners in the Kinross disaster of September 1986, Mr Ramaphosa said "the time has come for the union to show management that safety comes before profits"

Mr Ramaphosa said workers at every mine with a union presence would discuss a proposal that the death of every miner be "mourned in the same way that we mourned the victims of Kinross"

Thousands of mineworkers stopped work on October 1 1988 to commemorate the Kinross dead

Mr Ramaphosa said this proposal was made after workers realised that "the lives of the men who died at Kinross were worth R100" 3/10/88 star

Mr Ramaphosa said the court proceedings, where mine officials were accused of culpable homicide achieved little more than fining a welder R100

"If you divide that R100 by 177 the resultant figure shows you just how much our lives are valued at

Each miner's life was worth the "millions of rands" the mines made in a day, he said, calling for October 1 to be recognised as Health and Safety Day

NUM's chairman of the Health and Safety Committee in the Witwatersrand region, Mr Obed Maila, said that for years management argued health and safety was their prerogative.

"In our view it is this attitude which has killed so many of our workers. Many of these accidents take place in the rush for higher production.

"Since the Hlobane disaster in 1983, health and safety has been on NUM's agenda. It was after this disaster that the introduction of self-rescuers (an oxygen apparatus) became mandatory, but this law has not been enforced by the Government," he said

Mr Maila said that the union had already signed two health and safety agreements with management, however many mines had refused to negotiate

"We are now appointing our own shop stewards to monitor the situation"

(212) Sowetan 4/10/88

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KINROSS WARNING



Mr RAMAPHOSA

MINEWORKERS throughout the country might stop work every time a miner dies in an accident, the National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said in Johannesburg at the weekend.

Addressing a memorial service to commemorate the death of 177 miners in the Kinross mine disaster in September 1986, Mr Ramaphosa said "the time has come for the union to show management that safety comes before profits"

Mr Ramaphosa said workers at every mine with a union presence would, from yesterday discuss a proposal that the death of every miner be "mourned in the same way that we mourned the victims of Kinross"

If workers adopted the proposal they would inform managements

Thousands of mineworkers stopped work to

commemorate the Kinross dead on October 1, 1986

At the time of going to press, comment from the Chamber of Mines was still pending

Mr Ramaphosa said this proposal was made after workers realised that "the lives of the men who died at Kinross were worth R100"

Mr Ramaphosa said the court proceedings, where mine officials were accused of culpable homicide achieved little more than fining a welder R100

"If you divide that R100 by 177 the resultant figure shows you just how much our lives are valued at Even the coffins we buried our workers in were worth more "

Each miner's life was worth the "millions of rand" the mines made in a day, he said, calling for October 1 to be recognised as health and safety day

He urged workers to ensure that disasters like Kinross would never happen again — *Sowetan Correspondent*

Ramaphosa's

(212) South 6-12/10/88

stern warning

From MONO BADELA JOHANNESBURG. — The National Union of Mineworkers (Num) has warned the country's mine bosses that from this week its members would down tools for every registered miner's death in the industry.

The stern warning was delivered here by Cyril Ramaphosa, tough talking general secretary of the more than 500 000-strong union.

Ramaphosa told nearly 1 000 miners in Johannesburg on Saturday that black miners were "sick and tired of the senseless killings" being perpetrated daily in South African mines

Disquieting

"The death rate on the country's gold mines — some of them the richest in the world — is disquieting," he said

"At least some 800 black miners die each year in the industry. Some 50 000 of them have lost their lives digging rich gold in some of the deepest mines on earth during the past 88 years

"We won't stand for another Kinross — ever. Enough is enough. The killings must stop. If the mine bosses don't think otherwise the workers are ready to bring the killings to an end. We will halt production every time a miner dies."

Renewed vow

The Num decision was conveyed to the Chamber of Mines this week.

Members of Num, largest affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), renewed their vow taken in

1986 that future deaths in South Africa's rich mining industry would be mourned.

The decision was reached at the weekend when hundreds of thousands of black miners commemorated the death of 177 miners killed in the Kinross gold mine disaster in September 1986.

On October 1, 1986, more than 600 000 people, including 300 000 miners, stayed away from work or observed a three-hour work-stoppage called by Num to mourn the 177 miners lost in the Kinross disaster

The stayaway cost the mining houses that day alone some R8-million in lost profits, according to the Labour Monitoring Group (LMG)

"Everytime a mineworker dies underground his colleagues will simply down tools," said Ramaphosa.

"They will simply mourn the dead one. It will not be a strike. We believe that in this way the accident rate in South Africa's deep mines will be reduced to a bare minimum

Stop digging

"Each gold mine in this country yields a daily production that easily amounts to more than R1 million. If a miner dies in future the workers in that particular mine will simply stop digging and the mine will stand to lose that amount

The far-reaching decision was delivered at an important venue — the Johannesburg City Hall where celebrated political



Ramaphosa

figures have addressed rallies in the past

Ramaphosa hit out at the mine bosses' lack of consultation on health and safety

"By observing October 1 we are not only paying tribute to the 177 miners killed at Kinross, it is also an attempt to make it very clear to the mine bosses that we take the health and safety of mineworkers seriously, that we have not forgotten those who died in 1986"

Ramaphosa said the life of a black mineworker was worth less than R2 to the mine bosses and the South African government

"Gencor, owners of Kinross gold mine, were fined only R100 for the disaster that resulted in the death of 177 miners in 1977. This means a

miner's life is worth to them less than R2," he said.

Ramaphosa and Num president James Matlasi had earlier addressed another rally in Welkom, where a similar resolution was adopted by miners

Other commemoration services were held at Secunda, Witbank, Rustenburg, Kimberley, Northern Natal, Cape Town and in Namaqualand

The weekend's commemoration services were the first major successful solidarity action organised by Num since last year's one-month strike when nearly 500 000 black miners downed tools and challenged the might of the South African Chamber of Mines

212 9/10/88 CPWES.



The floorboards of the Johannesburg City Hall shuddered during an impassioned pledge to mineworker solidarity.

Thousands of miners recall Kinross tragedy

By SELLO SERIPE

THE death of 177 mineworkers at Kinross mine on October 1 1986, was commemorated last weekend at a moving service at the Johannesburg City Hall

The 3 000-odd crowd,

mainly members of the National Union of Mineworkers, heard speaker after speaker condemn mine management of interest in profit at the expense of worker safety

Miners pledged that October 1 would be commemorated as a holiday

from next year

"In future, the death of a single miner will be treated in the same way," a speaker said

The service resounded with revolutionary songs as miners toiled inside the hall that is often used by

the National Party

Though the service was a sombre occasion, the thousands of miners, mainly from neighbouring states, celebrated moments of joy, especially when the group Bayete performed

Lead singer Jabu Khan-

yile said the song *Mbombela* tells about a train which "takes you to the mines where you reap nothing"

Federation of Transvaal Women's *Zaziso* Jonas pledged solidarity with the NUM and called on women to fight injustice

SA mines' stars 'don't save lives' (212)

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

A five-star mine safety rating on a South African mine does not necessarily mean low fatality or reportable injury rates, says a scientific paper in the international *Journal of Occupational Accidents*

In a paper written jointly by leading British mine safety expert Dr Herbert Eisner and South African mining researcher Mr Jean Leger, the Chamber of Mines's safety rating system has come under fire as being "star saturated" — 80 percent of gold and coal mines have four or five stars — and encouraging complacency

It says there is no correlation between star rating and either fatality or reportable injury rates

CRITICAL COMMENTS

The paper admits that most of critical comments are based on the International Safety Rating (ISR) system, which the chamber replaced with the "very similar" Mine Safety Management System (MSMS) last November

South Africa's leading mining group, Anglo American, is using a revised ISR system

A spokesman for Anglo American told The Star "At the Gold and Uranium Division of Anglo American Corporation, we con-

stantly review our safety management systems In 1987 we revised our safety rating system following discussions with the International Loss Control Institute (ILCI) The system we use meets with the institute criteria and is accepted by it"

The paper says that star ratings have gradually increased since the ISR's introduction in 1978, so that by 1986 most mines had achieved 5-star status and most mines had four or five stars

"Thus, for the majority of mines, there would appear to be no room for improvement This is unfortunate, as whatever the real effect of the ISR scheme on injuries and fatalities — that is on safety — it has not reduced them to such an extent as to make additional effort in accident prevention superfluous or impracticable

"On 14 of South Africa's major gold mines, more than 15 workers are generally killed each year, yet nine of these mines hold 5-star status"

The paper says that while the ISR is labelled as "international", the ISR is not used widely in European or United States mines

"Despite glowing testimonials from the chamber and local safety concerns, there is no substantially significant evidence that it

has reduced injury and fatality rates by improving safety

"The ISR covers some areas of mine safety to a high standard, but coverage is not consistent Certain areas are dealt with only in generalities, and others neglected In particular, rock bursts, which are the second most important killer of workers, are given no attention

RECENT DISASTERS

"The practicality of objectively and thoroughly auditing a mine is questioned, given the system's long checklists and the great detail required by some questions, and the limited number of auditing staff

"While ostensibly high standards are set for scoring, more than 80 percent of gold and coal mines have been awarded four or five stars Recent disasters have highlighted inadequacies of the system"

The paper says a danger of the scheme is the degree of complacency it appears to have engendered

"Attempts to reduce South Africa's high underground fatality rates must first come to grips with this"

A Chamber of Mines spokesman said no comment would be made to the press, but it would respond in a scientific journal

**Disaster at Gencor mine
'due to poor ventilation'**

13/10/88 EDYTH BULBRING *B/day*

THE methane gas explosion which killed 35 miners at Gencor's Ermelo coal mine was caused by a build-up of methane roof layers and inadequate ventilation, a chief Inspector of Mines told the Ermelo Inquest Court yesterday.

Mineral and Energy Affairs senior official Johannes van Sittert said he would have doubled the ventilation.

At the time of the explosion, on April 9 last year, the area was ventilated at 17m³/second and he would have increased this to 40m³/second, he said.

The inquest continues today. (212)

Fatal accident could have been prevented, court told

Union blames 'slapdash managers' for mine deaths

ST/14/10/88

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By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

Ermelo Mine, where 35 men died last year in a methane explosion, had a "slapdash" system of management which disregarded some safety requirements that could have prevented the fatal accident, an inquest court was told yesterday

Advocate Edwin Cameron, for the National Union of Mine-workers, was presenting argument on the final day of the case

He said a finding of culpable homicide should be made on the part of the mine itself and on the part of those management officials who had been responsible for ventilation, testing and management supervision at the mine

Ermelo Mine is part of Trans

Natal, Gencor's coal mine operation

The joint inquest-inquiry was presided over by Ermelo's chief magistrate, Mr J V Marais, with the assistant Government Mining Engineer, Mr Errol de Wet, as an assessor

"Air quantities and velocity fell grossly short of what a reasonable mine official would have ensured for the working area," Mr Cameron said

"Particularly so in the light that Ermelo Mine was known as a gassy mine and that there had been four previous fatal accidents since 1982"

He said the last methane test

conducted in the panel where the explosion occurred was 15 days before the accident

The last test in the returning airways was conducted nine days before, and two days before testing was done in a nearby unworked area

"It appears to be a haphazard pattern of testing," said Mr Cameron

The pattern indicated that there was no realistic appreciation of the danger which lay in the under-ventilation of a temporarily unworked coal mining area

Gencor's legal representative,

Mr E Joubert, said the ventilation at the accident site had not been a "lucky dip" situation

The air velocity had been a calculation based on the known facts

He said that tests done in the area for a year before the accident had only twice shown any methane present

No culpability

Mr Joubert said that in the absence of any other evidence it appeared that the explosion took place after holing (ventilation short-circuiting) which rocked the balance of the reticulation

He said there was no culpability of any nature as the event could not have been foreseen

Mr Marais will give his findings on November 25

Fatal accident could have been prevented, court told

Union blames 'slapdash managers' for mine deaths

ST/14/10/88

212

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Mr Marais will give his findings on November 25

Remove flammable material

— NUM

By Mike Siluma,
Labour Reporter

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for the immediate removal of polyurethane from South African mines after the death yesterday of seven miners in an underground fire at the Western Deep Levels gold mine

The fire occurred yesterday morning at about 2 800 m in the mine's No 3 shaft

A mine spokesman said today that of the 43 workers admitted to hospital, 39 were still there for observation. Four were undergoing intensive treatment.

The fire, whose cause is unknown, ignited a number of materials, including polyurethane. Management said polyurethane was used for insulation.

Burning polyurethane caused the death of 177 miners at the Kinross mine in 1986.

A NUM spokesman, Mr Marcel Golding, said the death of seven miners and the injuries to 43 others "is one of the biggest crimes committed against workers in the industry".

REPEATED CALLS

At Western Deep Levels, workers had repeatedly, in meetings with management, called for the removal of polyurethane, "but management had refused to do this".

"We want to know why the mine continued to use polyurethane when its dangers are well known. We demand a full list of all mines where the substance is used so that it can be removed immediately," said Mr Golding.

The union also called for the establishment of a relief fund for the injured and for the families of the dead miners.

It attacked the Government's "unwillingness" to appoint a full inquiry into mine disasters though it did so for air accidents.

Anglo American, which has launched an investigation into the accident, said yesterday that polyurethane was being used where there was no substitute.

● A rockfall caused by a "seismic event" killed six people at Western Deep last month.

Mine blast: management blamed

INADEQUATE ventilation, "slap dash" management and haphazard methane testing caused last year's explosion at Gencor's Ermelo Coal Mine which killed 35 people, the Ermelo inquest court heard yesterday

NUM legal representative Edwin Cameron said the mine had had a history of accidents and no reasonable mining official could have assumed the mine was free of methane gas emissions

Bl day 14/10/88
22 EDYTH BULBRING

Gencor's legal representative John Bird said minimal methane emissions had been recorded in areas only where coal was being produced

Another Gencor legal representative, J Joubert, said ventilation of the mine was not a "lucky dip situation" as Cameron suggested

The court will return a finding on November 25

'Kinross' foam linked to deaths

212
B. J. J. ALAN FINE 14/10/88

BURNING polyurethane foam — which killed 177 miners at Kinross two years ago — may have been responsible for the deaths of seven Western Deep Levels' no 3 shaft employees in an underground fire yesterday

Of another 43 miners admitted to hospital for observation, two were in a serious condition last night

Anglo American gold division Transvaal MD Theo Pretorius told journalists yesterday a layer of polyurethane used as an insulating material and encasing refrigeration columns was among the materials that ignited at 5am along a 300m section of haulage about 2 800m underground

He had been "staggered" to learn this, as special further precautions had been taken after the Kinross disaster to prevent fires involving hazardous materials, including polyurethane

The material was now used only where there was no substitute. Extensive tests by both Anglo and the Cham-

● To Page 2

'Kinross' foam linked to mine deaths

ber of Mines had determined that cladding it with 6m-lengths of galvanised iron each 54m would act as a firebreak.

"It did not, and we want an urgent and rapid inquiry to find out why," he said. Initial signs that the fire was sparked by a fault at an electrical sub-station now appeared incorrect. He expressed regret at the deaths.

NUM assistant general secretary

← ● From Page 1

Marcel Golding said the union was "shocked and horrified" at the loss of life, and also called for an inquiry.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said 12 days ago at a meeting to commemorate the Kinross disaster that members were considering staging work stoppages when miners died.

212 B. J. J. 14/10/88

AK47 magazines and one hand grenade, were

• To Page 3

7 miners die

SEVEN mineworkers died in a fire at Western Deep Levels west mine at '91 level yesterday morning, Mr Paul Clothier, a spokesman for the Anglo American Corporation, said.

The fire appeared to have been caused by a fault at an electrical sub-

station, he said

Fourty three other miners have been admitted to the Western Deep Levels Mine Hospital for observation

The insulation which caught fire was the same substance — polyurethane which caused the death of 177 gold miners

at Kinross, 2 years ago

The NUM demands that a day of mourning be given to the Western Deep Levels workers

• The NUM held a series of commemoration services throughout the country for the 177

• To Page 3

212 Smetun 14/10/88

Seven miners killed

• From page 1

mineworkers who died at the Kinross mine in 1986

The union also vowed to take firmer

action against the mining industry in the event of another mine disaster occurring

212 *
Smetun
14/10/88

Seven die as fire breaks out in 'safe' mine

CME Tait 14/1/88
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By CHRIS STEYN

SEVEN miners were killed and 43 admitted to hospital early yesterday when a fire broke out deep underground at the Western Deep Levels mine, near Carltonville

The fire burnt along a 300-metre section of mine access tunnel despite the fact that all refrigeration columns at the mine had recently been "made safe" according to specifications set out by a safety committee

Anglo American Corporation spokesman Mr Paul Clothier said last night that the mine had cladded the columns with six-metre lengths of galvanised iron at 54-metre intervals

"Extensive test work by Anglo American and the Chamber of Mines has shown that this system should control any fire within 54 metres and not propagate beyond

"This was considered safe and was implemented by the mine. The reason why these measures have not been effective will be investigated fully and urgently," he said.

Mr Clothier said among materials burnt was a layer of polyurethane used as an insulating material

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Seven die as fire breaks out in 'safe' mine

CMT Tink 14/10/88

212

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aged man behind bakkie

Union anger over mine deaths ²¹²

JOHANNESBURG — The death of seven workers at Western Deep Levels was "one of the biggest crimes committed in the industry", said a spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Marcel Golding

"The insulation which caught fire was the same deadly substance — polyurethane — which caused the death of 177 gold miners at Kinross two years ago

"As if the ghastly slaughter of 177 workers was not sufficient to demonstrate the dan-

gers of polyurethane, mine management at Western Deep Levels continued to use the insulant

"Anglo American's crime against miners is made all the more serious, because it was brought to their attention during frequent negotiations at mine level

"They refused to take notice of the workers' demand to remove it from the places where it had been used

"What will it take to make Anglo and the rest of the mining industry realise the dan-

gers of polyurethane?" Mr Golding asked

He said both industry and the State had refused to hold a full-scale inquiry into safety and health in the mining industry

The union has requested that a meeting with the management be convened to discuss circumstances surrounding the fire, Mr Golding said

The continued use of polyurethane in Western Deep Levels would be the main subject of the meeting — Sapa.

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We've tried to cut mine fire hazard, says Anglo

MIKE SILUMA

THE underground fire which killed seven workers at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels gold mine this week occurred despite extensive and on-going research to reduce fire hazards in South African mines, senior industry officials said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Addressing a press conference, the Transvaal managing director of Anglo's gold division, Mr Theo Pretorius, said five survivors were still in hospital. Four were taken off the critical list yesterday.

A total of 43 workers were taken to hospital after the accident.

Mr Pretorius said the cause of the fire had not been established, although a preliminary inspection had shown that a number of materials had caught fire, including cables and polyurethane foam used in refrigeration columns.

Burning polyurethane caused the death of 177 miners at the Kinross gold mine in 1986.

Precautions

"It is vital that we find the cause of the fire, so that we can take the necessary precautions. We are looking at a possible replacement for polyurethane — phenol formaldehyde — which is being tested at a number of mines," said Mr Pretorius.

The senior general manager of operations at the Chamber of Mines, Dr Horst Wagner, said the chamber had worked for many years to reduce the fire hazard on mines.

Particular emphasis had been placed on timber, plastics and other inflammable substances.

Dr Horst said a full-scale investigation would be undertaken into why the fire was able to spread past underground fire breaks which had been shown in tests to be effective.

Tests had shown that cladding polyurethane with galvanised iron every 54 m would halt the spread of fire, he said.

A memorial service for the dead miners will be held next week, while post mortems are scheduled to be conducted at the Diepkloof mortuary, outside Johannesburg, by an outside pathologist.

● Three miners were killed and an unknown number injured in a pressure burst at Gold Fields Kloof gold mine yesterday.

A mine statement said a number of workers were injured. Most had been discharged from hospital.

Cop handcuffed woman to beam

JOHANNESBURG — A Port Alfred woman, Mrs Joyce Mbevu, who was suspended with handcuffs from a beam and forced to urinate in front of a policeman, has been awarded R5 500 damages by the Supreme Court, Grahamstown, City Press reported yesterday. — Sapa

COPY THIS 15/10/88

Three G.F.S.A. miners killed

JOHANNESBURG — A pressure burst at Kloof gold mine west of here killed three miners on Thursday, Gold Fields of South Africa said yesterday.

Mines testing safe foam

DAYS before last Thursday's fire which killed seven miners at Western Deep Levels (WDL), management had ordered for testing a new, non-toxic material which could eventually replace deadly polyurethane foam as an insulating agent underground.

But the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said it had last year unsuccessfully demanded of WDL management that all polyurethane be immediately removed, and it reiterated its demand.

Some mines have been testing the formaldehyde-based substance, a phenolic insulating foam, for two years — since shortly after the Kinross disaster.

A local manufacturer — Sentrachem subsidiary Sagex — said the material was fire resistant and non-toxic, and its

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ALAN FINE
17/10/88

use would eliminate the dangers experienced at Kinross and WDL.

A company source said, however, phenolic foam was more expensive to install, and he wondered whether this was why it had not yet been widely used.

Spokesmen for two mining groups — Gencor and Anglo American — denied this was a factor. They said safety was the only concern and large-scale installation of the new material would begin as soon as tests had been finalised and proved positive.

Anglo Transvaal gold division MD Theo Pretorius and Anglo safety specialist Dick Stroh said testing of the phenolic

● To Page 2

Mines test alternative to 'killer' foam

foam had been proceeding for some time. At this stage there were technical difficulties.

Vaal Reefs had been testing phenolic foam "for some time" and WDL was beginning the process.

Pretorius said WDL management had decided immediately after the accident to remove quantities of the polyurethane, used as refrigeration pipe cladding, at fire-breaks.

But NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding reiterated the demand for its total and immediate removal and replacement with a safe substitute.

"First 177 deaths at Kinross and now this. What will it take before they realise the dangers of polyurethane?"

Golding said the union was demanding the establishment of a relief fund for the injured and the families of the deceased.

He said government's failure to hold a full-scale inquiry into the Kinross disaster had contributed to the lack of urgency by the mines

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ALAN FINE
17/10/88
● From Page 1

Gencor senior health and safety consultant George Kraft said tests on the new product had been going on at the Beatrix mine for two years. Although it was not as effective as polyurethane, its use was favoured because of the safety factor.

Anglo said it used some 600km of polyurethane-clad refrigeration pipe on its mines, and there could be no overnight changes.

"Its removal would cause overheating underground, and this would be a safety risk," said Pretorius.

He reiterated Anglo's support for full participation by employee representatives in safety matters. He said this could include the involvement of union-nominated specialists in macro issues.

Pretorius said the corporation would be prepared to supply the NUM with details on the use of polyurethane, as demanded last week.

(212) B/day 18/10/88

Gold Fields replaces 'killer' foam

GOLD FIELDS yesterday became the second mining house to confirm that it no longer used polyurethane foam underground for any purpose.

This followed weekend reports that Rand Mines had totally replaced the substance, in view of the Kinross disaster and seven deaths at Western Deep Levels last week.

An Anglovaal spokesman said the group used a fire-retarded form of polyurethane to insulate refrigera-

ALAN FINE

tion pipes, and that firebreaks of vermiculite or galvanised metal had been installed every 27m.

Anglo American and Gencor have indicated they will replace polyurethane when tests on substitutes have been satisfactorily completed.

A statement from JCI on whether its mines still used the material was being awaited.

Mine fire survivors may testify

By Stan Hlophe (212) 18

Three miners, who survived an underground fire at the Western Deep Levels gold mine, are likely to be called to testify before a commission of inquiry to be held soon, an Anglo American spokesman said yesterday

The disclosure follows attempts by The Star to interview the survivors

of last Thursday's fire at a depth of about 2 800 m in the mine's No 3 shaft. Seven miners died and 43 others were admitted to hospital

The spokesman said no interviews would be granted until the commission of inquiry had taken place

An underground investigation was carried out at the mine last week

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ALAN FINE

FIVE employees of Rostenburg Platinum Mines were killed in a hoisting accident on Monday, JCI announced yesterday. This brought the death toll in mining accidents to 15 in six days.

The six were killed when the hoist was operated as workers were entering it at the end of their shift. JCI said an investigation had begun into why safety devices and procedures to prevent such an accident had been ineffective.

Seven miners died in a fire at Western Deep Levels (WDL) last Thursday, and three were killed in a pressure

Five killed in Rusplats mine accident

burst at Kloof on Friday. Meanwhile Gencor has begun removing all polyurethane foam from its mines and replacing it with the safer phenolic foam, executive director Colin Officer said yesterday.

A JCI spokesman said only one of two group mines equipped with refrigeration plant used polyurethane, and special precautions had been taken with it. Officer said at mines with large quantities of polyurethane it may take more

than a year to complete the process. The new foam had been approved recently, in spite of the fact that testing had shown it tended to break easily and needed to be made more robust.

"We have not been idle on this question. Because of the fire-resistant and non-toxic qualities of phenolic foam, this is the route we are taking." The material's toxic fumes have been blamed for the deaths in fires at Kinross in 1986 and at WDL last week.

□ Mega Plastic Industries, MD R I Oxenham said yesterday it was not the view of his company, nor that of its subsidiary Sagex, that any mining house would place cost of product above the safety of employees. He was referring to a statement by a Sagex source in Business Day of October 17 which said phenolic foam, produced by the company, was dearer to install than polyurethane and that may be the reason it had not been more extensively used.

212 *Journal*
19/10/88

Mine's tests before tragedy

DAYS before last Thursday's fire which killed seven miners at Western Deep Levels, management ordered testing of a new, non-toxic material which could eventually replace deadly polyurethane foam as an underground insulating agent, *Business Day* reported yesterday.

But the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said it had last year unsuccessfully demanded of WDL management that all polyurethane be immediately removed and it was now reiterating that demand.

Some mines have been testing the formaldehyde-based substance, a phenolic insulating foam, for two years, since shortly after the Kinross disaster.



MARCEL Golding . . . demand.

A local manufacturer — Sentrachem subsidiary, Sagex — said the material was fire-resistant and non-toxic, and its use would eliminate the dangers experienced at Kinross and WDL.

A company source said phenolic foam was more expensive, however, to install, and he wondered whether this was why it had not yet been widely used.

Spokesmen for two mining groups — Gencor and Anglo American — denied this was a factor. They said safety was the only concern and large-scale installation of the new material would begin as soon as tests had been finalised and proved positive.

NUM assistant general secretary Mr Marcel Golding has reiterated the demand for its total and immediate removal and replacement with a safe substitute.

"First 177 deaths at Kinross and now this. What will it take before they realise the dangers of polyurethane?"

Golding said the union was demanding the establishment of a relief fund for the injured and the families of the deceased.



Ramaphosa

Mine deaths continue

212
month
20-26/1988

THE eight miners who died last week in an underground fire at Western Deep Levels mine, near Carltonville, brings to 17 the number of miners who have lost their lives at the mine in the past five months

Forty-two miners were admitted to hospital after the latest disaster

The fire came barely two weeks after the anniversary of South Africa's worst mining disaster at Gencor's Kinross gold mine

About 50 000 mineworkers have died

this century in mining accidents

This month Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the 500 000 strong National Union of Mineworkers, warned that for every fatality workers would down tools, costing management about R1-million in production daily

The Deep Levels fire, thought to have been started by an electrical fault, raged for 300 metres despite the mine-owners having installed equipment to contain a fire within 54 metres

Rusplats secretive on mine deaths — union

212

By Tim Cohen

~~WEB~~

The National Union of Mineworkers has accused Rustenburg Platinum Mines of hiding information about the deaths of six miners — a claim denied by the mine's management

The mine owners, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), announced on Tuesday that five miners

had died when a hoist was — “for reasons not yet determined” — operated while workers were entering the conveyance. The following day, the death of another miner was announced.

NUM general secretary Mr Marcel Golding said last night that repeated attempts to obtain information and access to the mine had been refused

THE KENNEDY

NEWS FOCUS

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) wants the right to negotiate at all levels of the industry on health and safety issues, union safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni said this week.

Speaking after three accidents which claimed 15 miners' lives in the space of six days, Sibanyoni noted an increasing willingness by mine and mining group managements to involve workers and their representatives in safety matters.

But, he said, a serious shortcoming was that management only wanted union "assistance" in safety matters. This effectively made the union a rubber stamp rather than a decision-maker.

ANGLO AMERICAN's Bobby Godsell confirms management does not see safety as a matter for negotiation, but defends this position.

Godsell believes the issue of safety is, by its nature, one of "partnership", between management and organised labour, and draws distinctions between it and other matters best resolved through negotiation.

Wage negotiations, for example, involve a direct conflict of interest between management and labour.

But there is no such direct conflict on safety matters, where both parties are concerned to maintain safety standards, he argues.

The second major difference is a technical one, in that a third factor — technical expertise — is involved. "The real question is how

Mine safety matters must be 'partnership' with union, says Anglo

LABOUR LETTER/Alan Fine

do you determine an acceptable level of risk and render a workplace as safe as possible, short of closing it down, which would be in no ones' interests?" he asks.

GODSELL concedes that, because of the element of mistrust, this partnership may initially require each party to nominate its own experts to play a role.

But, he says, the best example of a joint safety endeavour he has seen is

in West Germany, where it is governed by a research institute jointly funded and controlled by unions and management — with a role, too, for unorganised workers.

In the meanwhile, he says, it would be a tragedy to turn mine safety into a war between management and unions.

FOR the NUM, one of the key elements of an acceptable safety agreement is recognition by management

of the right of workers "to refuse to do work which may be a danger to him or herself".

The union did, in fact, manage to convince management of the independent Palabora Mining Company to include such a clause in the first-ever safety agreement signed by the NUM a year ago.

This is effectively the provision which makes safety an issue of collective bargaining — the equivalent of a strike.

But, concedes Sibanyoni, it has so far proved impossible to win this concession from any of the major mining groups, where the negotiation of safety agreements is just beginning.

GODSELL explains why He argues it is "crazy" for any technically unqualified person, be it a worker or a member of management, to be entitled to make a unilateral decision on such an issue. It would require expertise.

In reply to NUM concerns that a "partnership" formula ultimately leaves worker representatives powerless to protect their interests, Godsell stresses that tokenism forms no part of his vision.

MM 28/10/88 (12)

MINE SAFETY

Grim tally

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has approached Anglo American asking that a period of mourning be granted for the seven workers recently killed at Western Deep Levels.

With mine fatalities running at a very high level — the unions claim an amazing 800 annually, the Chamber of Mines suggesting a lower figure — a day of mourning in each case would obviously seriously affect productivity.

While Anglo's Bobby Godsell says it would be a tragedy to turn mine safety into a war between management and unions, the NUM feels that the death rate is unacceptably high enough to be termed "slaughter"

"As long as management take the view that health and safety is their prerogative, things will not improve," says NUM safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni.

Other union demands before management at the moment include the establishment of a full-scale commission of inquiry to examine health and safety in the industry

Godsell has made it clear that Anglo American is not prepared to negotiate on health and safety in the same way that it does on the wage issue. He has expressed his preference for "partnership" and joint consultation, stressing the need for expert judgment on safety criteria

The question of who is doing what is typically clouded by conflicting claims from both sides

Anglo cites a set of principles agreed upon earlier in the year facilitating worker and union involvement in safety management and monitoring at mine level. One agreement incorporating these principles has been negotiated between management and the NUM at Vaal Reefs West. ■

Split over mine safety measures

Alan Fine
3/11/86
212
ALAN FINE

REGULATIONS providing for safety officers and representatives in the mines and works sector were welcomed yesterday as a great step forward by National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) MD Bunny Matthysen

However, Wits University researcher and mine safety specialist Jean Leger said the regulations, published in September, had serious drawbacks and compared unfavourably with international standards and with regulations applying to SA's manufacturing sector.

The regulations require management to appoint trained safety officers to each mine with more than 33 employees, and to appoint one trained employee safety representative for each 50 employees

Involvement

The safety officer must meet the safety representatives and carry out regular inspections of the workplace. He must report any hazards to the person in immediate charge. He may make recommendations for submission by management to the relevant government inspector

Matthysen said the regulations would encourage greater involvement in safety. That participants be trained was important, and Nosa already had orders to train 1 200 safety representatives.

However, Leger said the new system had evolved as there were insufficient funds for an adequate number of more capable government inspectors.

A major criticism was that the regulations did not provide representatives access to senior management, which would often mean reporting to the person responsible for the safety hazard

He also believed safety representatives should be elected, rather than appointed by management.

Seven copper miners still missing

Staff Reporter ~~10/11/88~~ 212
Seven copper miners are still missing, believed dead, after the Kombat mine near Windhoek was flooded during exploration on Tuesday

The flood occurred 530 m underground after a water burst

"The underground workings are flooding and all production has ceased. Attempts are being made to save the eastern section of the mine by installing concrete plugs in the two interconnecting underground drives," a mine statement said

"During the quarter ended Septem-

ber 1988, the underground section of the Kombat mine accounted for approximately 15 percent of total tons treated, 21 percent of the copper in concentrates produced, 16 percent of the lead in concentrates and 11 percent of the silver in concentrates

"It is impossible to estimate, at this stage, how long it will take to recover the underground section of the mine," the statement said

The mine is one of three operated by Tsumeb Corporation, which is wholly owned by Gold Fields of South Africa's affiliate, Gold Fields Namibia Ltd

Mine officials responsible for 35 deaths

26/11/88
72 Weekend Argus
Correspondent

ERMELO — Gencor's Ermelo mine and five officials have been found responsible for the death of 35 coal miners in a methane explosion last year

Magistrate Mr Johan Marais, in an inquest here yesterday, made a finding of "homicidal death"

The Ermelo mine employees named as responsible for the deaths were Mr C J Els, Mr P J Snyman, Mr J F van Wyk, Mr A van Aardt and Mr A Cilliers

The inquest finding will now be forwarded to the Attorney-General for a decision on possible charges

Mine officials responsible for 35 deaths

212

26/11/88
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ERMELO. — Gencor's Ermelo mine and five officials have been found responsible for the death of 35 coal miners in a methane explosion last year.

Magistrate Mr Johan Marais, in an inquest here yesterday, made a finding of "homicidal death".

The Ermelo mine employees named as responsible for the deaths were Mr C J Els, Mr F P J Snyman, Mr J F van Wyk, Mr A van Aardt and Mr A Cilliers.

The inquest finding will now be forwarded to the Attorney-General for a decision on possible charges.

CPM Times 26/11/88 (212)

Court: Mine to blame for 35 deaths

ERMELO — Gencor's Ermelo Mine and five of the mine's former officials have been found responsible for the deaths of 35 coal miners in a methane gas explosion last year, an inquest court found yesterday.

Ermelo magistrate Mr Johan Marais made a finding of "homicidal death" He found their deaths had been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning after an underground explosion at the mine on April 9 last year

All but one of the 35 men died on the day of the explosion Tractor driver Mr Louis Makinooa, 41, died of his injuries a week after the accident

The Ermelo Mine employees named in the inquest finding as being responsible for the deaths were Mr C J Els, Mr F P J Snyman, Mr J F van Wyk, Mr A van Aardt and Mr A Cilliers

The finding will now be forwarded to the attorney-general for a decision on possible charges

Ermelo Mine is a joint venture between Usutu Mining (owned by Transnata, Gencor's coal mining arm), Total, and British Petroleum SA

The National Union of Mineworkers said from Johannesburg yesterday the inquest results confirmed that safety in the mining industry was unsatisfactory — especially in ventilation

NUM general-secretary Mr Marcel Golding said the NUM would file for increased compensation for the dependants of the deceased The NUM hoped there would "be an immediate prosecution"

"In the last five years there have been five major mine disasters in which more than 30 people were killed — yet only two have had inquiries in which the union was represented," Mr Golding said

In the two worst — at the Kinross Gold Mine where 177 people died and at the St Helena gold mine where 60 people were killed in a lift — the union was not allowed representation

"The attitude of the Government Mining Engineer in preventing the union from addressing questions or limiting participation has the effect of ensuring that a thorough examination by a group with a material interest in the safety of the mine is not being fully addressed," he said — Sapa

SIPHO NGCOBO

Inquest blames mine and officials for 35 deaths

652

GENCOR'S Ermelo Coal Mines and five officials have been blamed for the deaths of 35 miners. They were killed in a methane gas explosion at Tattelkop Shaft in April last year.

He returned a verdict of homicidal death on each victim. All died of suffocation except one, who lived for another week in hospital. He said their deaths were caused by carbon monoxide poisoning after a methane gas explosion. The officials named were Jakobus Frederick van Wyk, who was in

charge of production planning and ventilation at the time, Frans Petrus Snyman, mine manager, Jakobus Elise, Abraham Johannes Cilliers and Andre van Aardt. Sapa reports the NUM, of which 34 of the victims were members, said the inquest finding confirmed safety in mining was not satisfactory.

He added the NUM would be firing for increased compensation the dependants. He added the NUM hoped there would be an immediate prosecution by the attorney-general to whom the inquest findings will be submitted. "In the last five years there have been five major mine disasters, in

which more than 300 people were killed, yet only two have had inquiries in which the union has been represented," the spokesman said. He said that in the inquiries where the NUM took part, the full range of issues was canvassed to ascertain the causes of the accidents. He added that in the two worst at Kinross, where 177 died, and at St Helena, where 60 perished, the union was not allowed representation

Ermelo magistrate P J Marais said at Friday's inquest negligence by the mine and officials caused the deaths

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Death stalks Taung



THESE kids play on one of the asbestos dumps unaware of fatal nature of the dust particles

THE inhabitants of Taung Village in the North-Eastern Transvaal are facing a slow, but certain death from asbestosis

They may be simple and unlettered people, but they blame the connivance of the mining authorities and the Lebowa Government for their condition. They say before 1986 mining authorities used the area as a dumping ground and in 1986 Lebowa allocated residential sites to them on the same place.

In terms of proper health and safety standards the authorities are supposed to cover the asbestos dumps as its inhalation is hazardous to health.

The victims of this killer disease are mainly former mineworkers and the mining communities. Inhaling fine asbestos dust can lead to the malfunctioning of the lungs.

The common symptoms are fatigue, difficulty in breathing, coughs and listlessness.

Most of the people spoken to complained that they had either been insufficiently compensated or given nothing at all.

They also said their diseases were traceable to the contact they had with the asbestos mineral.

Mr Madala Mashego (59), an organiser for the Black Allied Mining and

Story by
MOKGADI PELA
Pics by
MOFFAT ZUNGU

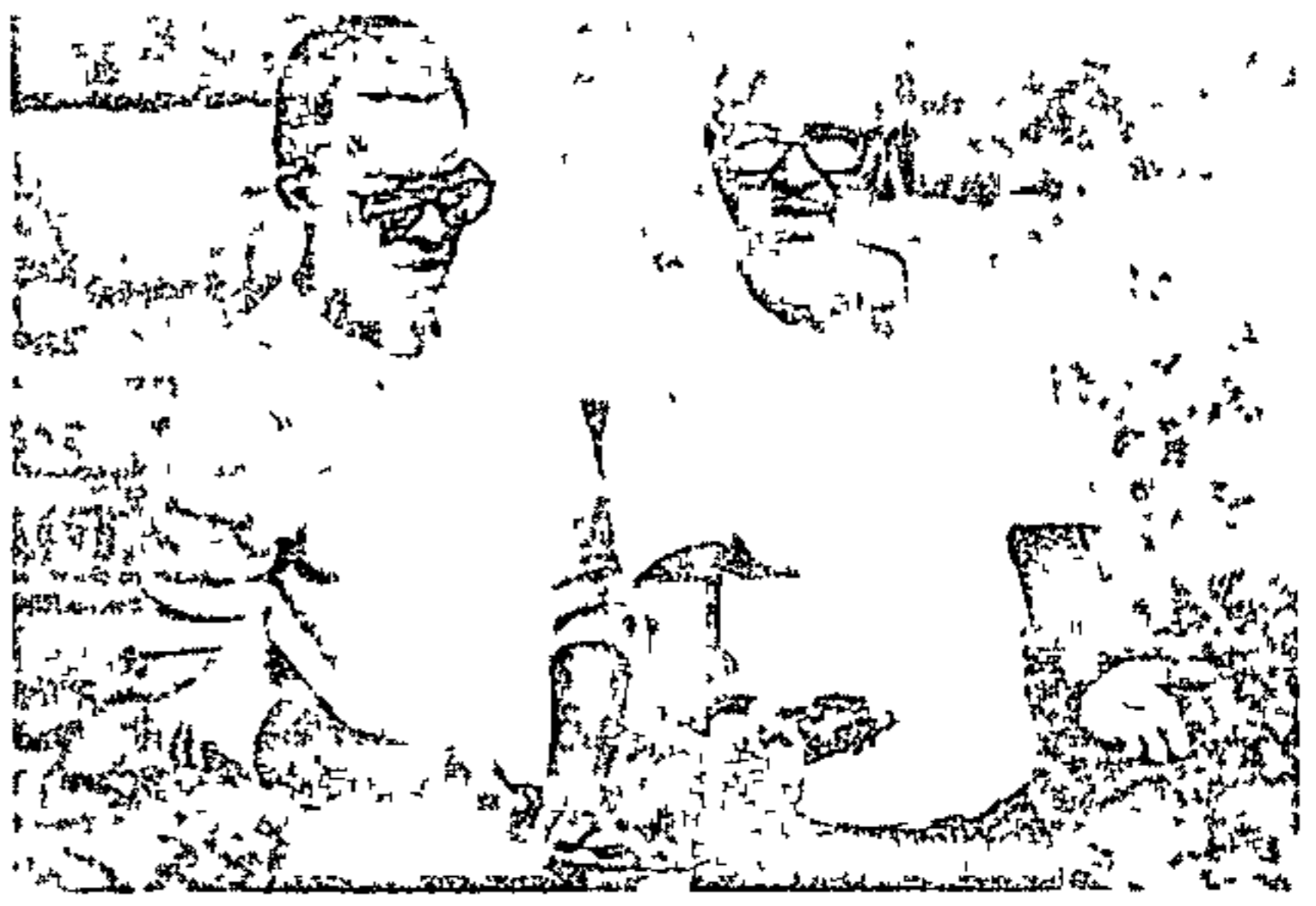
Construction Workers Union who is a victim of the asbestos dust said "I have always wondered why Lebowa has a health department because in this case its duty was to advise the Government against the allocation of sites in 1986."

He added that he worked at the Penge mine from 1951 to 1984 as a filing clerk. When he was diagnosed as a sufferer of the killer disease and claimed compensation from the pension office he was told that Lebowa had no money.

He said all he got was



Mrs SARA Mafologela victim of asbestosis



BAMCWU officials Mr Mbulelo Rakwena and Mr Madala Mashego holding an asbestos sample

R1700 in instalments from the company apparently for medical expenses. Himself a father of four he said he has had constant chest pains for years.

Another portrait of death was Mrs Sara Mafologela (78) who worked at the mine as a cleaner. She complained that she was never compensated.

She said her daughter Asnat, died years ago after contracting the disease. As I left she said "Shake my hand my child as I may die anytime I have been bedridden since I left the mine in 1984."

Mr Skibiti Komana

(67) a father of six said he worked at Penge Mine from 1943 to 1982. Like most underground workers they were regularly X-rayed until



Mr SKIBITI Komana no money to feed children

The Taung villagers said previously they found it difficult to fathom the dangers of the mineral but Bamcwu had come to them as a gift from God.

In reply to the Taung residents complaints the secretary for Health in Lebowa Dr D M Masipa said "I have no personal knowledge concerning the allocation of sites at Taung in 1986."

The Department of Health has no jurisdiction over the allocation of any sites." He added that his department has identified similar problems in Mafefe and was presently doing a survey.

he was found to be infected.

His problems were coughing and fatigue. Because he was the sole breadwinner he was forced to sell all his cattle to provide for the family.

Bamcwu publicity secretary Mr Mbulelo Rakwena who was also in the area, said "Following our 1985 Anti-Asbestos Campaign we have since constituted Asbestos Watchdog Committees to move around areas such as these to enlighten people about the hazards of the mineral."

In London a housewife Mary Weller washed the overalls of her husband unaware that she was inhaling lethal quantities of asbestos dust which came from boilers her 66-year-old husband Leslie dismantled.

As a result she developed a malignant tumour on her lung.

She died five weeks ago after complaining of chest pains.

He said his wife kept going back to hospital for X rays, finally a spot was found and advanced mesothelioma was diagnosed.

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NG4	R39 65	NC11F	R79 81	ND55F	R34,11	TD57S	R87 25
NG11	R41,85	NC12F	R83 05	ND52F	R63 78	TD57S8	R70 00
NG5	R12 16	ND5	R18,18	ND54F	R90 95	TD57S9	R93 52

Association defends use of polyurethane foam

St 8/12/88

By Mike Siluma

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The Polyurethane Association of SA (PASA) yesterday defended the use of polyurethane foams in gold mines, saying a prohibition on the use of the material could limit gold production and affect the entire economy

PASA was responding to recent calls by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) for the removal of all polyurethane from South African mines

PASA chairman Mr Brendt Becker told a press conference in Johannesburg: "Extensive fire studies, conducted by leading authorities locally and worldwide, have shown that the most harmful gas emitted in the majority of fires is carbon monoxide."

Other toxic fumes generally played a secondary role with most resultant deaths ascribed primarily to carbon monoxide or factors such as the depletion of oxygen and "super-heated air"

"Thus, even in cases of fire where no polyurethane is present, deaths are equally possible and the obvious and only answer is for personnel to vacate the fire area quickly, before excessive inhalation of fumes. To single out polyurethane as the only enemy, therefore, is to misrepresent the facts of a real fire situation," said Mr Becker.

REAL ENEMY IS FIRE ITSELF

He said that, having established that polyurethane presented no greater hazard than any other materials used underground in mines, "PASA would suggest that the real enemy is fire itself .. calling for the removal of a particular material does not remove the risk of fire"

Mr Becker said that, because South African gold mining operations were carried out at much greater depths than elsewhere in the world, they required vast quantities of chilled water in insulated pipes for effective cooling

"Polyurethane foams have, so far, been found to be the most effective insulants for this purpose. To deny their use could seriously limit gold production and, in turn, affect the entire economy of the country," added Mr Becker

Addressing the conference in his personal capacity, Mr Hans Dannenfeldt, head of the fire engineering division of the SA Bureau of Standards, said the problem could be addressed by "making gold mines safe by not allowing dangerous procedures to be carried out" in places where they could start fires

8/12/88

Manufacturers defend toxic foam

TRADE union demands for the total elimination of polyurethane foam in mining operations were misdirected and unfair, Polyurethane Association of SA (Pasaf) chairman Brendt Becker said at a Press conference yesterday

The real solution, he said, was its correct usage and application, including its isolation from any possible ignition source

Two National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) safety officials arrived and asked several questions at the conference at a Johannesburg hotel. Several other union officials staged a picket outside but left after hearing the hotel

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management had called police to remove them

The NUM has repeatedly called for the removal of the substance underground, particularly after the Kinross and Western Deep Levels accidents where a total of 184 miners died, most from inhaling carbon monoxide given off by the burning foam

Becker said that all organic substances — including plastics, wood, fibres and rubber — would emit toxic gasses and smoke of differing degrees of intensity. There would still be fires

even if all polyurethane, the most efficient insulating agent available, was removed

He believed polyurethane foams used in mining operations could be made safe. Mines should also ensure the availability of breathing apparatus and avenues of escape, he said

SABS fire expert Hans Dannenfeldt, present as an "independent expert", agreed there were alternatives which were less or non-combustible, but their characteristics meant a loss of efficiency. "Eventually it comes down to rands and cents," he said

low speeds up

BAN MATERIAL

NUM PLEADS

Sowetan 9/12/88

#12
212
#12

ALMOST 200 people have been killed by fires connected to polyurethane during the past 11 years in South African mines.

This was revealed by a National Union of Mineworkers safety officer, Mr Hazy Sibanyoni, at a Press conference called by the Polyurethane Association of South Africa in Johannesburg this week

The association called the conference to respond to calls for the withdrawal of polyurethane in the gold mines. The director of PASAF, Mr Brend Becker, said the NUM had in the past called for the banning of polyurethane from the mines

The latest NUM call was after the recent Western Deep Level accident where several black workers lost their lives. This also followed vigorous campaigns by the union to have the organic

By MOKGADI PELA

material banned completely, especially after the Kinross mine disaster where 177 black miners lost their lives

An independent observer at the conference, Mr Hans Dannenfeldt, said polyurethane was more inflammable than a car tyre

PASAF attributed the accident rate in the mines to the incorrect use of the material "Everybody

dealing with the substance has to have knowledge about its proper use," a spokesman for PASAF went on

Polyurethane is used to insulate pipes underground and according to PASAF, it is also the most efficient material available

The NUM held the view that other inorganic substances could be used as alternatives and because of their safety

rates, the number of deaths could be reduced

NUM also maintained that all combustible materials should be removed from underground

PASAF said its recommendations to the mining industry would be that polyurethane be removed from any ignitable source and that inorganic substances be used to cover it, but it would not like to see the material banned because no material matched it in terms of efficiency

available?

Sowetan 9/12/88

Mines in major safety move

IN A major safety-related policy decision, the Chamber of Mines announced yesterday the mining industry would discontinue the use of all polyurethane foam in any permanent installation

A chamber spokesman said all existing polyurethane underground would either be removed or rendered inert. The foam is used underground largely to insulate chilled water pipes.

The announcement followed a Press conference on Wednesday at which the Polyurethane Association of SA defended the product against calls for its banning in the mining industry.

It is understood the industry has decided polyurethane is unsuitable, compared with alternatives, because of the rate at which it burns. This gives people less chance to escape

The NUM welcomed the move, seeing it as a response to union pressure, but health and safety chief Mavis Hermanus said it had taken the industry a long time

Bl... 1/2/88
ALAN FINE (112)
to heed local and foreign warnings. Further, the NUM believed it was unwise to experiment with making the material inert

According to the NUM, 208 people had been killed in five fires involving polyurethane in the past 11 years.

An Anglo American spokesman said yesterday all polyurethane was being removed from group mines. Glass fibre was being used in the interim. But as its insulating qualities were inferior, a satisfactory alternative was being sought.

He said polyurethane would from now on be used only as an emergency fire-fighting material — as is the case internationally.

Gencor senior health and safety consultant George Kraft said no new polyurethane was being used on group mines. Where it existed as an insulating agent, stringent safety measures were adhered to.

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NUM calls for ban on polyurethane use in mines

By Mike Siluma,
Labour Reporter

Controversy surrounding the use of polyurethane (PU) in South African mines continued yesterday when the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) reiterated its demand for the banning of all PU on South African mines. The NUM said the material posed the greatest hazard during underground fires.

The NUM was reacting to a statement on Wednesday by the Polyurethane Association of SA (PASA) defending the use of the foam as an insulant in the mining industry. PASA claimed that the banning of the material could affect production in the gold mining industry. PU was not the only dangerous material used.

In a statement, the NUM said PU was used "in large quantities and in virtually continuous lengths in many mines". According to the union, there were more than 150 m of polyurethane-clad refrigeration pipes at Western Deep Levels Gold Mine alone. (Seven workers died at the mine when materials including PU caught fire at the mine last month.)

In the event of an underground fire, a mine's ventilation system would feed the fire with fresh air, ensuring making it possible for the fire to continue burning.

It said PU was a major hazard because

- The smoke from burning PU is "so dense that signs marking entrances to refuge bays are likely not to be seen"
- While it is not the only material which gives off carbon monoxide when burning, it ignites easily and is the only material present underground in quantities large enough to cause a major disaster
- Air heated by burning PU and moved through tunnels by the ventilation current burnt anything flammable, resulting in a PU fire being able to "jump" underground fire breaks

According to the NUM, the use of PU underground has been banned in British mines since 1968, and is "severely restricted" in other countries.

The union said there have been 208 deaths resulting from PU fires in South African mines since 1977.

Miner saved from horror burial

By IVOR CREWS

A MINER was plucked from the jaws of death this week in a dramatic rescue after being trapped 110m underground for 35 hours

Teams of rescue workers forming human chains worked around the clock at the Western Holdings gold mine in Welkom to remove tons of rock and to give life-saving oxygen to the stricken man

Mr Johnny Keynel, 60, a shaft timberman, is in the intensive care unit of the Ernest Oppenheimer hospital in Welkom after suffering multiple injuries

He had been inspecting a blockage in an ore chute when it gave way. He fell down the shaft and was trapped under eight metres of rock, an Anglo American spokesman said.

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"Rescue operations were immediately put into effect"

Mr Keynel's son, Gideon, 28, of Odendaalsrus, said family members — who maintained a constant vigil at the mine — were praying for his recovery.

"My dad is due to retire in February"

The Anglo spokesman said Mr Keynel suffered a broken nose and injuries to his lungs and kidneys

As the hours ticked slowly by during the rescue, the family was kept informed by teams of exhausted workers who returned to the surface after repeated, vain attempts to reach him

A hospital spokesman said yesterday Mr Keynel was "comfortable"

NUM calls for
the banning of
polyurethane

10/11 212
Stewart 13/12/88

THE National Union of Mineworkers has reiterated its call for the banning of polyurethane from South African gold mines, writes MOKGADI PELA.

In a statement released to the Press, NUM said the substance was lethal in fire incidents and in the past 10 years 208 people had died from polyurethane fires, the worst being at Gencor's Kinross Mine in 1986.

The union said polyurethane was being used in large quantities and in continuous lengths in many mines.

"At Western Deep Levels alone there is more than 150 kilometres of polyurethane clad refrigeration pipes underground," NUM added.

NUM was reacting to the refusal by the polyurethane Association of South Africa to call on the mines to prohibit the use of the material.

Pasaf insisted last week that there was no other known material that matched polyurethane in terms of efficiency.

Result of pressure, says mine union

Govt bans use of polyurethane underground

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B/day
13/12/88.

ALL SA mines have been prohibited from installing polyurethane products underground from January 1, government mining engineer (GME) Jan Raath said yesterday

He said all mines had been notified of this by letter in terms of a clause in the Mines and Works Act which allows the inspectorate to prohibit dangerous working practices

The order stated that existing polyurethane "shall be removed at the earliest opportunity or rendered inert", Raath added

Its internationally accepted temporary use to starve fires of oxygen would be permitted

Raath said he had informed the Chamber of Mines on October 31 of his intention to ban the use of the substance

This was 18 days after a fire at Western Deep Levels ignited polyurethane cladding on chilled water pipes and killed seven miners

Union demands for the abolition of the material were first made after the Kinross disaster in September 1986

Last week the chamber announced its members had resolved to discontinue using the product

ALAN FINE

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has welcomed the moves by the Chamber and the GME, seeing them as a response to intense union pressure

But, said NUM health and safety chief Mavis Hermanus, it had taken the industry a long time to heed the local and foreign warnings

Further, the NUM still believed it was unwise to experiment with making the material inert. It should be removed completely

Inferior

An Anglo American spokesman said all polyurethane was in the process of being removed from group mines. Glass fibre was being used in the interim. But, while glass fibre was not toxic or flammable, its insulating qualities were inferior, and a satisfactory alternative was being sought

Gencor senior health and safety consultant George Kraft said no new polyurethane was being used on group mines. Where it existed as an insulating agent, there were stringent safety measures

Polyurethane products' ban for SA mines

CAK T1915 13/12/88
217

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — All South African mines have been prohibited from installing polyurethane products underground as from January 1, government mining engineer Mr Jan Raath disclosed yesterday.

He said all mines had been notified of this by letter last week, in terms of a clause in the Mines and Works Act which allows the inspectorate to prohibit dangerous working practices.

The order stated that existing polyurethane "shall be removed at the earliest opportunity or rendered inert", Mr Raath added.

Its internationally-accepted temporary use to starve fires of oxygen would be permitted.

He said he had informed the Chamber of Mines on October 31 of his intention to ban the use of the substance. This was 18 days after a fire at Western Deep Levels ignited polyurethane cladding on chilled water pipes and killed seven miners.

Last week the chamber announced its members had resolved to discontinue use of the product.

Union demands for the abolition of the material were first made after the Kinross disaster in September 1986. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has welcomed the moves, seeing them as a response to intense union pressure.

But, said NUM health and safety chief Ms Mavis Hermanus, it had taken the industry a long time to heed the local and foreign warnings.

Further, the NUM still believed it was unwise to experiment with making the material inert. It should be removed completely.

Polyurethane is banned in all SA mines from Jan 1

Star
14/12/88
212

By Mike Siluma, Labour Reporter

The use of polyurethane in all South African mines has been banned by the Government Mining Engineer (GME) from January 1, except where it is used as a temporary sealant to fight fires

The GME, Mr JB Raath, said the step, which has been welcomed by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), was taken after his department had investigated the use of polyurethane for a number of years

They first had to find out what was going on in other parts of the world and whether or not there were suitable substitutes that were not as dangerous as polyurethane

Satisfied

They were satisfied that there were substitutes

The use of polyurethane as a temporary fire seal, which would be removed as soon as possible after a fire, would still be permitted

While welcoming the ban, the union said it was saddened by the fact that use of polyurethane had been prohibited only after it had taken our union two years of vigorous campaigning and

seven more lives at Western Deep Levels"

"The Western Deep accident has convinced us that unless the State acts to bar certain activities, the mine bosses will continue to employ dangerous materials for the benefit of profits," said NUM spokesman Mr Hazy Sibanyoni

The union called on the GME to promulgate immediately regulations on the use of polyurethane, taking into account international standards. It also urged the GME to "issue guidelines for instances where the foam is to be rendered inert and to monitor the removal of the foam, not leaving it to mine bosses"

Mr Raath said he had informed the Chamber of Mines in October that he intended banning the use of polyurethane

A similar message was conveyed to non-chamber member mines by regional inspectors

The chamber had subsequently informed Mr Raath that it would no longer apply polyurethane underground and that old applications would be made inert or removed

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BAN ON POLYURETHANE IN MINES SHOCKS SUPPLIERS

THE impending ban on polyurethane in mines will cost suppliers an estimated R2,25m a year

Polyurethane Association of SA (Pasaf) chairman Brendt Becker added yesterday that the government mining engineer's ruling would also mean the loss of 100 jobs.

He said there was a great deal of bitterness among members because they had not been consulted before the decision was made

"A great deal of money invested in research and development, aimed at making the product safer, has gone

ALAN FINE

down the drain," said Becker

He added the future of the three main polyurethane manufacturers was not in jeopardy because mining accounted for less than 5% of their turnover

Processors and converters, however, faced serious difficulties

Becker confirmed that, when Pasaf held a Press conference eight days ago, to defend the product against calls for its prohibition, he was not aware the ban, which takes effect

from January 1, was in the pipeline.

He said processors and converters were "still in a bit of a state of shock" and had not yet made plans for dealing with the ban

Becker said they would not be able, for example, to convert overnight to processing materials which the mining industry was now using as an alternative to polyurethane.

"But they are going to have to make major changes," he said.

Polyurethane has been blamed for adding to the hazards of fire and explosions underground

Polyurethane controversy burns

By CONNIE MOLUSI

THE National Union of Mineworkers wants polyurethane foam banned from underground use in SA's mines

The renewed call follows the Polyurethane Association of SA Press conference which defended its use

The PASAF argued that the fire danger remains - whether the

foam is used or not. NUM's campaign follows the Kinross disaster in which 177 people died and the recent fire at Western Deep Levels mine, which left seven dead. In both tragedies polyurethane was blamed.

NUM recommends that inorganic substances with low burning properties be used instead, and that combustible materials be re-

moved from underground, because of the fire hazard.

Polyurethane has good insulation properties but a report on mine safety by the Commission of the European Communities said "The polyurethane foam has severe safety disadvantages. If applied too thickly, it may burn spontaneously."

It is the toxic fumes from burn-

ing polyurethane that kills, and there is rarely any escape from these as they usually travel faster than people can run.

PASAF said it was prepared to co-operate with NUM in addressing the use of polyurethane. It would recommend that polyurethane be removed from flammable sources and that other inorganic substances be used.

NUMHSOAI
COUNT
Enjoy pure, full-strength

News in Brief

Mine wall collapse kills 1

212

ONE TIME 24/2/88
JOHANNESBURG — A man was killed at the Hartebeestfontein gold mine after a side wall in a centre gully collapsed yesterday. The fall occurred in the No 6 Shaft area at midday.

Polyurethane ban not total prohibition

Bldwy
SUSAN RUSSELL *(212)*

THE ban on polyurethane in mines does not seem to be the sort of ban miners were expecting

Polyurethane Association of SA chairman Brendt Becker said at the weekend prohibition of the material — blamed for the deaths of many miners this year in underground fires — was not absolute

He added Government Mining Engineer Jan Raath had not placed a total ban on its use

Becker was commenting on the outcome of a meeting he had with Raath recently after he requested clarity on the December 12 banning order

Becker said Raath told him the ban

● To Page 2 →

Polyurethane ban short of prohibition

was not total and applied only to expanded polyurethane foams. Solid polyurethane was not affected by the ban

Raath's order stated all mines would be prohibited from installing polyurethane foams from January 1

The order added that existing polyurethane "shall be removed at the earliest opportunity or rendered inert"

Its internationally accepted temporary use to starve fires of oxygen will still be permitted

"The Government Mining Engineer would like to see liaison between the

27/12/88
← ● From Page 1 *(212) 5/1/89*
Chamber of Mines, SA Bureau of Standards, the Polyurethane Association and other interested bodies in establishing standard specifications," Becker said

He added a priority now was for his association to get together with the Chamber of Mines and the Sabs in the new year so they could establish acceptable specifications

Raath was not available for comment at the weekend

NUM renews polyurethane ban call

Hermanus said yesterday "Time and time again the department (GME) has demonstrated its unwillingness to stand above the interests of the mining and manufacturing sector"

She added miners' lives would be put at risk if the GME failed to follow the findings of internationally recognised experts on the subject

The NUM attributes 200 deaths over the past two years to the use of highly flammable and toxic polyurethane

8/12/88 ← ● From Page 212

The NUM praised companies, such as Anglo American, for reverting to flame-retardant and non-gaseous glass-fibre for refrigeration pipes and tunnel walls

Hermanus said the NUM also called for a widening of the polyurethane ban to include other applications which represent a hazard such as polyurethane-filled tyres in trackless mining

NUM renews ban call

BRENT MELVILLE

THE NUM has reiterated its call for a total ban on polyurethane in mines.

The plea comes in the wake of news this week that the ban, originally announced by Government Mining Engineer Jan Raath, was not total and applied only to polyurethane foams

NUM health and safety chief Mavis

8/12/88 To Page 2 212