

CHROMITE SYMPOSIUM IN TURKEY (1960)

Mr. John W. McDonald, US Economic Coordinator for CENTO Affairs, United States Embassy, Ankara, made on October 2nd, 1959 the following proposition to the CENTO Secretariat : That the problems of minerals development in the region countries should be discussed at a meeting between minerals experts of the member countries. If after informal exploration of the above problems, the experts agree that it would be fruitful to continue the discussions in this field under the formal framework of CENTO, they could prepare a report on their meeting and arrange for a next meeting. However if the experts believe that no benefits would derive from further discussions, then the matter could be dropped.

The CENTO Secretariat has communicated this proposal to the member countries who agreed with it and the first unofficial meeting of the CENTO Minerals Experts took place at the Mineral Research and Exploration Institute, between 9th and 13th December, 1959.

At this meeting, headed by Mr. Thomas G. Murdock, Minerals Attache, US Embassy, Ankara, nineteen experts from the member countries were present and the importance of cooperation possibilities in the field of minerals in the CENTO region countries was expressed. During this meeting 43 documents and reports dealing with minerals, — 25 being from Turkey — were exchanged. At the end of the meeting a report containing hopes and recommendations aiming to tackle jointly the problems relating to the mineral development in the region countries was prepared and submitted to the CENTO Secretariat.

The holding of a Chromite Symposium and the organization of a Permanent Working Party attached to the CENTO Economic Committee was included in these recommendations.

The CENTO Secretariat got into immediate consultation with the member countries on these two subjects and arranged the meeting of the Chromine Symposium at the Mineral Research and Exploration Institute in Ankara on September 29th, 1960, and the first official meeting of the CENTO Minerals Working Party in Teheran on October 30th, 1960.

Twenty-one delegates from Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States took part in the Chromite Symposium that lasted four days, and separately 15 representatives of various industries from the United States and Turkey were also present at the meeting. Numerous Turkish mineral engineers and geologists who were present as observers joined in the discussions.

Mr. Emin İplikçi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry of Turkey, opened the Symposium with a speech and welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Turkish Government.

In the Symposium 22 scientific, technical and economical communications under the headings : The Geology of Chromite, The Mining of Chromite, The Beneficiation of Chromite, The Economics of Chromite, were submitted. Following the discussions after the communications, the common problems of the region countries relating to chromite

mining were reviewed and a report containing the hopes and the recommendations that will insure the development of this important economic activity was prepared. Both the communications and the report were submitted to the CENTO General Secretariat. The Secretariat included in its programme the publishing in one volume of the communications submitted to the Symposium and of the results of the discussions.

At the first official meeting of the CENTO Minerals Working Party in Te-

heran, and according to the programme submitted by the General Secretariat, the reports prepared at the first unofficial CENTO Minerals meeting and the reports of the Chromite Symposium were reviewed and the final report that will be submitted to the CENTO Economical Committee was prepared. The recommendations of the group report that was prepared with the aim of serving as a base for an activity programme will be executed after submission to the approval of the CENTO Ministers Council.