

GE/3

7th September, 1956

MEMORANDUM

Specimens of nickeliferous serpentine and associated rocks, collected by Geologist T. D. Hughes at Beaconsfield have been examined in thin section and otherwise.

The serpentine is in contact with a white rock consisting of lime, alumina and silica, with appreciable amounts of iron and magnesia. This rock contains very little definitely crystalline material, but consists rather of isotropic and cloudy opaque matter. It may be a fritted calcareous mudstone, the iron magnesia and water having been introduced by absorption from the serpentine, while carbon dioxide has been driven off by heat. Serpentine enclosed in the white rock, near the contact, has partly reverted to olivine, with possible release and concentration of nickel in the contact zone. Nearby igneous intrusion is postulated as a source of heat.

Specific nickel minerals were not observed in the serpentine and it seems that the serpentine is itself nickeliferous.

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MINERALOGIST & PETROLOGIST

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