

October 2, 1957

Report  
of the  
Committee to Investigate the Possibility of Establishing an International  
Union of Mineralogy  
to  
The Mineralogical Society of America

At the November 4, 1956 business meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America, the possibility of forming an International Union of Mineralogy was discussed, and it was unanimously voted to appoint a committee to investigate the possibility of forming such a union. President Fisher appointed the following committee for this purpose:

American members

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| M. J. Buerger, Chairman | A. Pabst       |
| J. D. H. Donnay         | S. C. Robinson |
| J. W. Gruner            |                |

Corresponding members

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| G. F. Claringbull | H. G. F. Winkler |
| C. Guilliman      |                  |

The committee was organized by the Chairman through a circular letter dated December 18, 1956 (copy appended).

The organizing letter solicited the opinions of the members of the committee on the formation of the International Union of Mineralogy. Excerpts of their replies, together with some comments, were circulated on March 8, 1957 to all of the members (copy appended). These replies made it evident that some kind of an international organization was desired by all members, although several express<sup>ed</sup> doubts as to the wisdom of having the organization take the character of a Union. In order not to prejudice the possibility of forming an international organization, the Chairman

suggested that the organization be designated tentatively the International Mineralogical Association (IMA).

The work of the Committee could be regarded as formally finished at this point, since it had been established that an International Mineralogical Association was desired by all the members of the committee, and since the international correspondence indicated that it was also desired by all of the mineralogical societies and leading mineralogists which the Committee had been able to reach. The Committee's answer to its directive is, therefore, that there is every possibility of establishing an International Mineralogical Association, although there is definite feeling against having the organization take the form of a Union.

Although the Committee's work had been formally completed, it seemed desirable to take further advantage of the momentum that had been established in the international correspondence. The Committee, therefore, took it upon itself to attempt to actually complete the first phase of the establishment of the International Mineralogical Association. In view of the fact that many mineralogists would attend the meeting of the International Union of Crystallography in Montreal, July 9 - 19, 1957, the Committee issued an invitation (copy enclosed) to the mineralogical societies of the European countries, and to some prominent mineralogists in countries without societies, to send delegates to a meeting to be scheduled at Montreal, July 16, 1957. This meeting was very well attended indeed. The Chairman of your committee was elected the Chairman of the meeting at Montreal, and Professor Adolf Pabst was elected Secretary. The minutes of the meeting have already been submitted to the Mineralogical Society of America by Professor Pabst. The results of this meeting were briefly as follows:

1. A (provisional) International Mineralogical Association, whose members are the individual mineralogical societies of each country, was set up.

2. An interim organization, comprising a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and six Councilors, were elected by the delegates (the Chairman of your committee was elected one of the six councilors).

3. These elected officers were empowered to draft a constitution.

4. It was voted that the first formal meeting of the organization would be held in Madrid sometime in April, 1958. At this meeting, formal delegates from the several mineralogical societies of the world would act on the acceptance of the constitution, and, on other relevant matters.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Montreal meeting, the interim officers began working on the constitution, and a great deal of progress was made in Montreal. In the period between July, 1957 and April, 1958, the interim officers will have completed the draft of the constitution to be acted upon at the Madrid meeting.

From this outline of the activities of your Committee, it is evident that as a result of its efforts, an International Mineralogical Association has been established. The Council of the Mineralogical Society of America now has the duty of appointing one or more delegates to the formal organization meeting of the International Mineralogical Association to be held in Madrid in April, 1958.

  
M. J. Buerger, Chairman

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an International Union of Mineralogy