

September 2, 1954

Letter, Kenneth D. Mann to Pyo Wook Han

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Summary:

Kenneth D. Mann summarizes discussions for Minister Pyo Wook Han about facilities for processing tungsten ore.

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C O P Y

FIRTH STERLING Inc.

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PITTSBURGH 30, PA.

Kenneth D. Mann
President

September 2, 1954

The Honorable Pyo Wook Han
Korean Minister
Korean Embassy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Han:

I had a two hour meeting with Mr. Ahn yesterday at my house, which was necessitated by my just having left the hospital after a brief illness.

We were able to explain to him in some detail what we had in mind and why we thought our proposal was sound in principle, even though it might be necessary to adjust many details.

It is quite clear now that Korea does not have a beneficiation plant but does have adequate concentrating facilities. It is quite essential in order to understand our negotiations that all parties recognize the difference between these two operations, so I think it is worthwhile explaining here.

Concentration means crushing the rock as it is mined from the ground by a series of mechanical maneuvers separating the rich ore from the waste rock. By this method the ores may be concentrated to as high as 70% WO_3 , but they still may contain contaminants which must be removed by beneficiation. The process of beneficiation can be either chemical, magnetic, electro-chemical, or a combination of all three. This latter step is what we propose to perform in this country.

I quite agree that Korea should ultimately have its own beneficiation plant, but I feel that for the first two, three or four years it would be advisable to have the work done here with Korean personnel working in the plant and learning all the techniques.

I am sure that Mr. Ahn will report to his superiors, but during my visit with Dr. Chey, he requested that I discuss this with Mr. Ahn, as he, Dr. Chey, wished to receive a report from him. May I respectfully suggest that Dr. Chey be notified that this meeting has been held and that he, Dr. Chey, request a copy of the report.

Summing up what I told Mr. Ahn, we are going to proceed with the installation of a beneficiation plant. We will simply make it larger should Korea decide to work with us. Secondly, I feel very strongly that the Nation of Korea should have a partner in the processing, and more particularly, the marketing of its tungsten. It seems to us that the most important decision confronting the Government of Korea is the selection of the most competent and dependable associate.

In the meantime, we are prepared to undertake the beneficiation of any lots of Korean concentrate which may become available.

Sincerely,
FIRTH STERLING Inc.
Kenneth D. Mann, President