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SERBIA LEADS YUGOSLAVIA IN EXTRACTION OF NONFERROUS METALS

F. Kulundjic

Serbia produces 68.8 percent of the nonferrous metals produced in Yugoslavia. It produces all of the blister copper, electrolytic copper, antimony regulus, gold, silver, selenium, bismuth, pyrite ores, pyrite concentrates, and limonite; 88.1 percent of the tin concentrates; 88 percent of the refined lead; 67 percent of the lead concentrates; 67 percent of the lead-tin ores; and 20 percent of the chrome ores, etc. Serbia lacks mercury and bauxite, and is exploring for manganese.

Serbian metal production has increased as follows (1947 production equals 100)

	1948	1949	1950
Blister copper	113.9	106.3	123.9
Antimony	107.9	118.2	129.6
Refined lead	121.8	140.5	141.6
Silver	133.5	170.2	201.6
Gold	96.9	98.7	113.8
Bismuth	119.4	89.2	131.8

In 1950, Yugoslav metallurgy earned over 1,700,000 foreign exchange dinars, of which Serbia earned 79.3 percent. In 1951, the total exports of Serbian metallurgy products will amount to considerably more than 2 billion dinars. If sold at present prices on the world market, the purchase price of Serbian metallurgy products would annually amount to about 5.5 billion foreign exchange dinars.

In 1951, Serbia will export 45 percent of all the products exported from Yugoslavia, and 25 percent of all the metallurgical products exported.

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Serbia is constantly endeavoring to properly utilize existing sources of raw materials, to expand them, and to discover new sources of ore. In 1950 and 1951, this effort has been very successful, particularly with copper, antimony, molybdenum, chrome, and wolfram.

New ore reserves have been discovered near the Bor mine. Copper ore discovered recently has increased copper reserves 20 times.

Exploration in the Rudnik lead mine has uncovered increased reserves, which will enable this mine to begin working in 1951. Preparations are now under way to put the Ajvalija and Novo Brdo lead mines in operation in 1951 and the Veliki Majdan and Lesa lead mines in 1952. The Janjevo mine began operation in 1950. Partially open deposits of lead-tin ore have been discovered northwest of Bor in the Valja Saka mine where exploration in 1950 uncovered reserves of more than 2 million tons.

Reserves of antimony have been uncovered in the Zajaca mine. Construction is now under way on flotation equipment which will increase production. Antimony production has been halted in Bujanovac and Lica because it was unprofitable. However, preparations are under way for building flotation equipment, and methods of utilizing the mines, which still contain considerable quantities of metals, are being explored in Bujanovac.

Molybdenum ore reserves discovered in Mackatica in 1950 were so large that in 1951 work could begin on preparations for exploitation.

Chrome ore reserves in the Deva and Jezerina mines have remained at the same high level.

The reserves of gold-wolfram ore uncovered in the Zeleznik mine are large enough to justify building flotation equipment, which is to be completed in 1951. Exploratory work is still continuing. The Neresnica wolfram mine will begin operation in 1952.

In 1951, new flotation equipment will begin working in the Trepca mine, where work has been speeded on opening the sixth level.

Equipment for placer mining of gold is to be built in Bor in 1951.

To improve administration, decrease administration costs, and improve technical management, Serbia is planning soon to establish six mining basins which will include 22 enterprises.

The Bor basin will include the Bor, Majdanpek and Neresnica mines; the Trepca basin, the Trepca, Ajvalija, Kopaonik, and Lesa mines; the Zajaca basin, the Zajaca, Leca, Rudnik, Ba and Veliki Majdan mines; the Mackatica basin, the Mackatica and Bujanovac mines; the Smederevo basin, the Smederevo Ironworks and the Zemun rolling mill; and the Djakovica basin, the Djakovica and Jezerina mines.

The Avala mine will be turned over to the Mining College to be used by students for practice work.

A worker's council and an administrative council of the combined enterprises will administer a basin. A basin directorate headed by a director and a technical director, both of whom will be members of the administrative council will manage a basin. Enterprises affiliated in a basin will operate under the direction of their worker's council, administrative council, and manager.

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Basin directorates will be responsible directly to the Main Directorate of Metallurgy; affiliated enterprises to the basin directorates and enterprise directorates.

Basin directors will be professional mineralogists. The aim is to have at least one professional mineralogist or mining engineer in each enterprise. At present, only the Deva, Kopaonik, Bujanovac, and Nis mines have engineers. The Bor, Zajaca, and Trepca mines will obtain mineralogists as soon as possible.

The Main Directorate [of Metallurgy] of Serbia has 13 elementary and secondary schools with 2,180 students. A large number of these students are not necessarily needed in metallurgy. [However], the number of students in the industrial mining school does not meet the needs of enterprises.

At present, the problem of secondary technical personnel in metallurgy is as general as the problem of highly qualified professional mineralogists and mining engineers.

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