

To:

C. Guillemin

The Committee to Investigate the Possibility of Establishing  
an International Union of Mineralogy

8 Mar 1957

American members

M. J. Buerger, Chairman  
J. D. H. Donnay  
J. W. Gruner

A. Pabst  
S. C. Robinson

Corresponding members

G. F. Claringbull  
C. Guillemin

H. G. F. Winkler

Additional correspondent

N. F. M. Henry

Gentlemen:

Replies have been received from all the members of this committee except Robinson. Dr. N. F. M. Henry has also contributed some remarks on our business, and all these replies are being circulated herewith.

There is ample evidence in the correspondence to indicate that some kind of international organization is desired by all. Several members, however, feel that the international organization should not take the form of a Union. In order to take account of these objections, I suggest that we refer to the hoped-for international organization tentatively as The International Mineralogical Association (IMA), with the understanding that the name is tentative and is proposed chiefly to avoid any detailed suggestion of the form and connections of the organization.

I propose that a preliminary, informal, and unofficial meeting be held among mineralogists attending the Congress of the International Union of Crystallography at Montreal July 10. I suggest that at this meeting we discuss general matters concerned with the possible International Mineralogical Association, and attempt to get up a date and agenda for a subsequent, more formal meeting. I enclose a draft of an invitation to attend this informal meeting at Montreal and request that any corrections or suggestions respecting it be sent to me at the earliest possible time. I propose that the invitation be sent to the following organizations and individually:

Austrian Mineralogical Association (to be contacted by Pabst)

British Mineralogical Society (to be contacted by Claringbull)

French Mineralogical Society (to be contacted by Guillemin)

German Mineralogical Society (to be contacted by Winkler)

Italian Mineralogical Society (to be contacted by Buerger)

Mineralogical Society of America (to be contacted by American members of this Committee)

Mineralogical Society of Switzerland (to be contacted by Buerger)

A key Mineralogist in Belgium (to be contacted by Donnay)

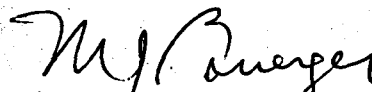
" " " " Finland (to be contacted by Buerger)

" " " " Sweden (to be contacted by Buerger)

" " " " Norway (to be contacted by Buerger)

I would be grateful if you would give the matters mentioned here your immediate attention.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. J. Buerger

8 Mars 1957

Claringbull

"I have now had an opportunity to discuss your memorandum to the Committee, appointed by the M.S.A., to Investigate the Possibility of Establishing an International Union of Mineralogy, dated December 18, 1956, with the Officers and Managing Trustees of the British Mineralogical Society. We are gratified to find that the M.S.A. is now interested in an international body for mineralogists.

"This Society since 1953 has been endeavouring to obtain support from the M.S.A. for the formation of an international organisation for mineralogists. Having waited for years for a reply from the M.S.A. - with whom we should have much preferred to have reached agreement before approaching other Societies - we decided last summer, in conjunction with a letter to European Societies about mineralogical abstracts, to raise also the question of international organisation.

"We have been careful not to propose, in the first place, an international Union for several reasons:

1. We do not wish to prejudice the issue in favour of a particular kind of organisation.
2. There were divergent opinions held about the form such an organisation should take.
3. There appeared to be similar divergent opinions in the U.S.A.
4. We were, and still are, given to understand that the formation of another International Scientific Union would be opposed by the existing scientific Unions if it made a direct approach to Unesco for support without first showing its calibre in practice.

We felt, therefore, that before proposing any specific type of organisation for discussion on an international basis, we should first propose an organisation and leave the decision on its particular form to international discussion.

"The result of our letters to the various European Mineralogical Societies and Institutes has been that all replies so far received - some of them at present only interim - are favourable. We decided not to circularise Iron Curtained countries until we had attempted to achieve agreement for the West.

"I think it would be safe to say, on the basis of discussions which have already taken place in our Council, and those I have recently held with the Officers and Trustees, that there is a reasonably unanimous desire among British mineralogists for some form of organisation, but that one could not be at all certain of obtaining even a majority vote for an International Union. I am therefore disappointed to find that the attempts of this Society, going back to 1953, for discussion on the subject of international organisation have apparently not been passed to the terms of reference of your committee.

