REPORT ON
HEAVY MINERAL BEACH SANDS
BING BONG AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Placer Prospecting (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Sydney, N.S.W., Australia - July, 1969

c.c. Placer, Vancouver
    " Oakland
    " Darwin
    " Sydney
    Nevsam, Melbourne
Heavy Mineral Beach Sands
Bing Bong area -- Northern Territory

Summary

An Authority to Prospect (A/P No. 1973) was granted to the Australus Mining Co., Pty. Ltd. This Authority comprised approximately 100 square miles and was examined in December, 1968. Shallow scout boring failed to disclose any heavy mineralization of note, hence the Authority was relinquished.

Locality & Description

The A/P is located on the Gulf of Carpentaria coast at roughly the intersection of 15°45' South Latitude and 136°15' East Longitude. It is approximately 430 air line miles south-east of Darwin, but to reach it by road via Stuart Highway to Newcastle Waters thence to Borroloola and on to Bing Bong Homestead is nearly 700 miles. The road from Newcastle Waters to Borroloola is only fair with some good sealed stretches. From here on to Bing Bong only a bush track is available which would become impassable with very little rainfall.

The McArthur River drainage system transects a very large watershed. Although most of the terrain consists of Precambrian carbonate sediments and volcanics, the headwaters cut into Palaeozoic arenaceous sediments in the Barkly Tableland (chiefly the Lower Cambrian Bukalara sandstone) which could have been a provenience for a limited amount of heavy minerals. The resulting sediments deposited in the Gulf would be distributed by longshore drift as beach sands.

Aerial photographs of the area of interest indicated that this had indeed happened and a potential for HM might exist here.

The attached A/P location map was taken from the Mount Young Sheet, SD 53-15, 1964 Edition, of the Geological Series, N. T. Scale: 1:250,000.

Examination of the Area

Access to the area was by a Land Rover vehicle which carried a 12' aluminum skiff with an 8HP outboard motor. The field party consisted of a professional prospector with two offsiders, and a native guide picked up locally. Five days were spent here and the scout boring was done with
a Dormer Engineering Works portable hand auger set equipped with aluminum rods and steel pump and casing.

A foot and boat reconnaissance was carried out around the mouths of Bing Bong and Home Creeks. These areas are largely mangrove swamps and tidal mud flats, some extending seawards for 2 miles.

Seven holes were drilled midway between Bing Bong Homestead and Home Creek on a north-south line. These holes were all put down to bedrock for an average depth of 16'. The length of this line of holes was from $\frac{1}{2}$ mile offshore to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile onshore for a total coverage of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The offshore holes, 1 to 3, were mostly in brown sand and mud with much shell. The inshore holes, 4 to 7, were drilled on old beach berms. Indurated brown sand was present above the water table with gray sand and mud below. Only a thin tail showed on panning with no rutile present.

Four holes were drilled on a southerly line east of the Homestead. Material encountered here was similar but bedrock composed of either laterite or hard clay was at a higher level in the holes. Some surface sampling was done but panning did not disclose any HM to speak of. A few ancient beach berms occur as much as 8 miles inland but are very shallow, consist mainly of shell fragments and carry no mineral values whatever.

All bore cuttings and surficial samples were panned at once and no real values disclosed. For this reason cuttings and samples were discarded on the spot.

Conclusions

This area has nothing to offer from the standpoint of further investigation for HM of commercial interest and the A/P is recommended for relinquishment.

Note

Expenses allotted to this investigation are itemized in an Appendix attached hereto.

TM. MG69/860
APPENDIX

Expenses Allocated to Exploration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Operation &amp; Field Expenses</td>
<td>210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand Drilling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sampling &amp; Assaying</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (rounded)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,265</strong></td>
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Consulting Mining Geologist
Placer Prospecting (Aust) Pty. Ltd.