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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION - NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MINES - SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

10 August 1949

Dr. Lincoln LaPaz
Institute of Meteoritics
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, N. M.

Dear Lincoln:

I am inclosing two copies of the report you asked for, and hope that they serve their purpose.

We have made a preliminary examination of the eighteen collections taken at nine locations on my Monday-Tuesday trip. There was a large number of copper-bearing particles on one collection (R-104L) taken on Highway 84, seventeen miles north of Highway 66, and scattered occasional particles throughout the series. The collection taken at the same location immediately following R-104L shows practically no copper. A large part of the R-104L is of a granular material unfamiliar to us, and the copper indications originate principally in what are apparently aggregations of finely (one-micron) granular material of overall sizes in the neighborhood of thirty microns. Some copper particles, however, appear to be solid and opaque. The passage of two automobiles while this collection was being made is a complicating factor. It is hard to see how they might have been a source of copper, however, unless it was a question of stirring up some from dust on the pavement.

We intend to do some further chemical work with these collections, but I doubt if much new relevant information will be obtained.

My tentative conclusion is that no widespread significant dispersion of copper-bearing particles was present in the atmosphere in the region covered at the time the collections were made. No definite statement is possible about the one heavy copper collection: it should be presumed to be of local origin until some evidence to the contrary is found.

The route of the collecting trip included Pastura, Santa Rosa, junction of Routes 66 and 84, and Las Vegas on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday morning it included Las Vegas, Canoncito, Glorieta and Pecos.

Yours very truly,

W.D. Crozier

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