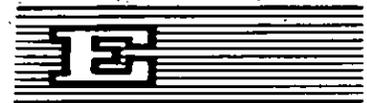




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PETROLEUM IN KENYA

Document prepared by the Government of Kenya

PETROLEUM IN KENYA

At present no significant showing of oil or gas is known in Kenya. Some 190,000 square kilometres in Eastern Kenya - roughly one third of Kenya's land area - is underlain by late Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Tertiary sediments, many of them of marine origin, which are potential source rocks for petroleum.

Serious exploration for oil began in Kenya in 1956, when BP Shell held a large special Oil Prospecting License over much of the sedimentary area. Geological and geophysical surveys, including aero-magnetic, gravity and seismic surveys were carried out over the land and in the shallower off-shore areas. Numerous shallow stratigraphic test wells were sunk, and 11 deep wells, the deepest being 4,300 metres. In 1971 BP Shell relinquished the major part of their holdings, and in mid-1973 were granted a new SOPL over a small portion of the land near Lamu, and a fairly extensive area of the continental shelf.

Exploration activity as at 1st May, 1973 is as follows (see map):-

- (1) A consortium of Adobe International (USA), Burmah Oil (UK) and Cities Service (USA) have held since 1970 an oil Exploration License over an area of approximately 25,000 square kilometres in the extreme north-east of Kenya. To date a photo-geological survey and an aeromagnetic survey have been completed, and seismic work is contemplated.
- (2) Chevron Oil Company (USA) have held approximately 50,000 square kilometres between the Equator and 2°N since mid-1972. They have completed an aeromagnetic survey, and will run a land-based gravity survey commencing in July 1973, followed in October, 1973 by a seismic survey, probably using vibroseis apparatus.
- (3) Canadian Superior Oil Co. in conjunction with three other Canadian concerns signed an OEL over 30,000 square kilometres in February, 1973. Apart from a preliminary reconnaissance survey no serious work has yet been done in the area, but a preliminary seismic survey is planned.
- (4) Louisiana Land Exploration Co. and Whitestone International (both of USA) hold approximately 40,000 square kilometres under an OEL granted in January, 1973. Their work to date has consisted of re-appraisals and re-evaluation of data released by BP Shell, and seismic work is planned to begin later in 1973.
- (5) BP Shell (UK and Holland) intend to resume work late in 1973 on the continental shelf off-shore from Formosa Bay. A further seismic survey is planned, to be followed by deep drilling in 1974 or 1975.
- (6) Area applied for, but not yet granted.

(7) The area south of 4° south has been granted to Oceanic International (USA) and an OEL is being drafted.

(8) Several bids have been made for this area, and are under consideration.

(9) By an agreement signed in late 1972 Total Oil Company (France) were empowered to run seismic surveys in the sea seaward of Kenya's territorial waters limit of 12 nautical miles. The preliminary survey was completed in February 1973, and an interim report delivered in May 1973.

Kenya has one oil refinery in operation, at Mombasa, which has a throughput of approximately 20 million U.S. barrels of crude oil a year. Extensions to the refinery now under construction will increase its capacity by about 70 per cent. Refinery products are Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Motor Spirit, Kerosine, Gasoil, Diesel, Fuel Oil and Bitumen. Crude oil is imported from the Persian Gulf. Imports of refined products in 1972 amounted to 3.3 million US barrels, of which about 100,000 US barrels were re-exported to neighbouring States.

Transport of petroleum products within Kenya is by rail and road, but a 12-inch pipeline is projected from Mombasa, the country's main port, to the capital Nairobi.