14th February, 1968.

The Director of Mines,
Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. 5790.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority No. 1782

This letter confirms our discussions on this matter February 5 - 6.

We confirm that on behalf of Pioneer Mines N.L. we are directing exploration in this Authority. During December 1967 and January 1968 a camp with accompanying facilities is being established. However, at the same time an on the spot examination was made of the major mineral occurrences in the Authority. Further work involving mapping is planned once the camp is properly established.

Yours faithfully

D.K. SAULT
Director

AMINCO PTY LTD

C.c. The Secretary,
Northern Territory Minerals N.
The Director of Mines,  
Mines Branch,  
Northern Territory Administration,  
DARWIN 5790 N.T.  

Dear Sir,  

Prospecting Authority 1782  

We refer to our report for the month of January dated February 14 on the above subject.  

During February further work was done on establishing the camp and facilities. This work was severely affected by heavy rains towards the end of the month. By February 25 a prefabricated camp with supporting facilities was at Hatches Creek; the main road from the Stuart Highway had been graded and the crossings at all creeks repaired; the airstrip had been regraded and lengthened. However heavy rains in the following week made the road impassable and the airstrip could not be used. At the time of writing all but 5 miles of the road has been regraded and crossings repaired. Hence subject to weather, access should be possible in the coming week.  

It will not be possible to do extensive exploration work until a camp is established. However during February surface examination of mineral occurrences within the Prospecting Authority continued to be carried out.  

Yours faithfully,  

AMINCO Pty. Ltd.  

D. K. SAULT  
Director  

cc: Mines Branch, Alice Springs  
Northern Territory Minerals N.L.,  
Adelaide  
Vam Ltd., Sydney  
The Manager, Hatches Creek.
17th April, 1968.

The Director of Mines,
Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority 1782

We refer to our Report for the month of February dated 12th March on the above subject. During March the work of establishing the camp and facilities was nearly finalised. As we have noted previously the heavy rains in late February early March have delayed us considerably.

The work on rehabilitating the Pioneer Mine is progressing. The shaft has been repaired to below the first level and a large proportion of the mill has been rehabilitated with new equipment. Prospecting in the area has commenced at a more vigorous rate. A number of old workings have been examined and some mapping done.

We hope to make a more detailed report for the coming month.

Yours faithfully

AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

cc. Mines Branch, Alice Springs.
N.T.M. Adelaide
N.T.M. Hatches Creek
Vam Ltd.
The Director of Mines,
Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. N.T. 5794.

16th May, 1968.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority 1782

We refer to our report for the month of March, dated 17th April on the above subject. During April, the work of establishing the camp at Hatches Creek was completed. There is now a 25 man camp with single air conditioned accommodation. There is also married accommodation for one couple. This is supported by an ablution block and mess-cum-club house. Water supply has been connected and camp is fully electrified.

The work of rehabilitating the Pioneer Mine continues. The shaft was restored to the 206' level and the mill and power station are about 75% completed.

Detailed examination has commenced of a number of old mines in the district. This includes the Treasure, Black Diamond, Hen & Chicken and Masters Gully. Reconnaissance surveys have also been carried out over areas which have not been worked previously.

Yours faithfully
AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

cc. Mines Branch Alice Springs
N.T.M. Adelaide
Vam Ltd.
N.T.M. Hatches Creek
The Director of Mines,
Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. 5750.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority 1782

We refer to our report for the month of April dated 16th May on the above subject. Work during May was handicapped severely by the heavy rains which made many roads impassable.

Further progress was made on the work of rehabilitating the Pioneer Mine. The shaft has been restored to 234' but runners are not yet installed. The 206' level has been rehabilitated and work to provide further stoping and development faces continues.

First test runs were started on the rehabilitated Mill but further plant must be installed.

Extensive examinations have been made of most of the outlying properties and work on de-watering the Black Diamond Lease has commenced. Preliminary examination of alluvial prospects has been made.

Yours faithfully
AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

c.c. Mines Branch Alice Springs
N.T.M. Adelaide
Vam Ltd.
N.T.M. Hatches Creek

24th June, 1968.
The Director of Mines,  
Mines Branch,  
Northern Territory Administration,  
DARWIN.  5790.  N.T.

23rd August, 1968.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority 1782

Further exploration work continues to be done on the authority.  
The camp and mine are now operational and the mill is being run in.  
Underground development has commenced.

During August a fully qualified Geologist inspected the authority  
and is at present compiling a report based on this inspection.

Yours faithfully

AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

c.c. Mines Branch Alice Springs  
N.T.M. Adelaide  
Vam Ltd.  
N.T.M. Hatches Creek

M14  
M1  
M2
21st September, 1968.

The Director of Mines,
Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

Dear Sir,

Prospecting Authority 1782

We refer to our previous monthly reports on this subject
(the last of which was dated 23rd August, 1968).

A broad summary of the work done to date on behalf of Northern
Territory Minerals N.L. is:

(a) A base camp was set up and all supporting facilities such as
light and water and the provision of food and supplies established.
This was done in conjunction with a camp erected for the purpose
of rehabilitating the Pioneer and Poseidon Mines.

(b) A broad reconnaissance was made of the entire Prospecting
Authority. Assistance was derived from aerial photographs
of the area.

(c) A detailed inspection was made of the entire area. As the area
had already been mapped by the Bureau of Mineral Resources, it
was found satisfactory to plot all observations on the maps of
previous workers.

(d) It became apparent from steps (a) and (b) above that very little
additional information would be secured from ground surveys. The
area has been thoroughly prospected in the past both by
prospectors and by the Bureau of Mineral Resource Geologists.
However, a number of previously unreported mineralised areas
were detected and these are noted in the enclosed report.
The problem then became one of exploring the areas considered to have maximum potential for economic mineralisation. The possibility of diamond drilling was carefully considered and at this stage has been rejected. The mineralisation in the Hatches Creek area is erratic. A wide zone can be followed by a narrow zone a few feet further along the strike. One firing can turn a barren face into a high grade face. Hence it was thought that diamond drill intersections would not necessarily be indicative of average grade or widths.

It was then decided that as areas with the most potential were adjacent to existing old mines, testing of these areas would best be done by development from these old mines.

Two of the best areas i.e. those adjacent to the Pioneer Mine group and the Treasure Group are already held by Northern Territory Minerals. First emphasis here has been on the Pioneer group of mines where all the existing shafts were rehabilitated and the McArthur shaft is currently being sunk. (Progress about 50 ft. from the old existing face at time of writing).

Discussions were held with the owners of all the groups of mines considered to have considerable additional potential.

(i) Hit or Miss Group.
(ii) Masters Gully Group including Hen and Chicken.
(iii) Lady Hamilton Group.
(iv) Black Diamond Group.
(v) Green Diamond Group.

These negotiations led to satisfactory conclusions in all except the Hit or Miss Group.

Inspection of and exploratory development from the above mines are not easy. All contain water and in most cases extensive rehabilitation of the shafts are necessary to gain access.

This work however, has commenced on the Black Diamond, Green Diamond and Hen and Chicken mines.

A geological report of the area has also been compiled from work done there by Aminco geologist, I. Veale during August, and is attached.
Pressure of work from commitments entered into prior to accepting the position of General Manager of Northern Territory Minerals has caused Aminco Pty. Ltd., to resign from this position. This will not affect the position of the Mine Manager who has been an employee of Northern Territory Minerals N.L. since 1st July.

Further progress reports on the results of exploration in the Authority will be arranged by Mr. V. Porich, Managing Director of Pioneer Mines N.L. who as you know is the principal shareholder in Northern Territory Minerals N.L.

Yours faithfully
AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

Cc. Mines Branch, Alice Springs.
N.T.M. Adelaide
Vam Ltd.
V. Porich Esq.
N.T.M. Hatches Creek
21st September, 1968.

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Mines Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

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Yours faithfully
AMINCO PTY LTD

D.K. SAULT
Director

cc. Mines Branch, Alice Springs
N.T.M. Adelaide
Vam Ltd.
V. Porich Esq.
N.T.M. Hatches Creek