

Witbank/Middelburg Branch

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Witbank Golf Club at 19h30 on 3rd November, 1977

Present:

Fellows, 6; Members, 11; Associates, 5; Graduates, Nil; Visitors, 13.

The above were accompanied by their wives.

Proceedings:

Members, visitors, and wives gathered at 19h30 for

cocktails. A buffet supper followed, at the end of which the Branch Chairman, Mr T. Wilmot, introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr Paul Kruger, Manager of the Sasol Secunda Operation.

Mr Kruger gave an interesting address dealing with the background to the Secunda project, the financial involvement, and the general statistical data. After a question period, the Branch Vice Chairman, Mr R. Smith, thanked the speaker, and the meeting closed at 22h30.

Geomechanics colloquy

The 27th Geomechanics Colloquy is to be held on 12th and 13th October, 1978, in the Salzburg Congress Hall. The themes of the four half-day sessions will be as follows:

1. The New Austrian Tunnelling Method: Progress in Theoretical Treatment and Practical Application
2. Efforts for Standardization in Tunnelling
3. Engineering-Geological Evaluation of Exploratory Galleries and Test Galleries

4. Stability and Protection of High Rock Slopes.

The official languages will be English and German, with simultaneous translation of the papers and discussions.

Enquiries should be directed to the Austrian Society for Geomechanics, 5020 Salzburg, Austria, Paracelsusstrasse 2.

Conference on pneumoconiosis

The Vth International Conference on Pneumoconiosis is to be held in Caracas (Venezuela) from 29th October to 3rd November, 1978. The Conference is being convened by the International Labour Office and the National Pneumoconiosis Committee of Venezuela, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Development and the Institute of Social Security of Venezuela.

The agenda includes the following topics:

- Evaluation of dust hazards in the working environment (epidemiological surveys, environment monitoring, etc.)
- Recent progress in pneumoconiosis ethiopathogenesis
- Biological and functional tests in early diagnosis and rehabilitation
- Developments in dust control and dust suppression in mining, tunnelling and quarrying, and industry

(dust sampling, measurement and analysis, engineering control, organizational aspects, medical prevention, etc.).

Within the framework of the Conference, the National Organising Committee will hold, outside the regular sittings, short courses (10 hours) for professionals and students on basic training in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of pneumoconiosis and other occupational respiratory diseases.

Simultaneous interpretation into English, French, and Spanish will be provided.

Participants are invited to submit communications on the agenda items of the Conference. Abstracts of written communications (about 200 words) in one of the Conference languages should be sent in three copies by 30th August, 1978, and the full text (up to 2000 words) in three copies not later than 30th September, 1978, to International Labour Office, Occupational Safety and Health Branch, CH 1211 GENEVA 22, Switzerland.