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NEWS

COMPUTER 'SEES' THROUGH EARTH

A computer-aided mathematical model of earth crust has been created at the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of Geo-chemistry and Analytical Chemistry. It will help understand the complex processes of crust formation.

A special role in the formation of the crust and its components was played by the processes which were triggered by magma eruptions from the mantle lying at depths 50-70 km in strike. Part of the magma rose to the surface as lava, while the bulk of it formed interesting natural objects—intrusive lenses—at a depth of 3-5 km. These lenses were cavities filled with molten magma, which can be seen as the initial material for forming the earth crust.

The lenses were from 100-300 m thick and the volume of cavities up to several cubic km. While on the surface, it took the lava years or scores of years

to cool down, depending on the layer thickness, inside the lenses the process lasted even centuries. During that time, the chemical components of the smelt became separated during crystallization.

Natural cataclysms brought these rocks to the surface in many parts of our planet. Knowing the chemical composition of the samples taken from several ex-intrusive lenses found in the area between the Yenisei and Lena rivers and in the territory of the GDR and USA, the researchers have described mathematically the processes which had led to their formation. Correctness of these calculations had been proved by the computer. The mathematical model suggests new methods of ores prospecting. (*Soviet features*, Vol. XXV, No. 143, September 18, 1986; Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P. B. 241, New Delhi 110 001).

PAMIR MOUNTAIN CHAINS DRIFT

Laser-aided research by scientists in Tajikistan Soviet Central Asian Republic has revealed that two mountain ranges in the Pamirs have moved 50 cm closer to each other over the last thirty years. By regularly measuring with the light ray the distance between the Karateghinski and the Peter I ridges, they noticed a previously unknown phenomenon. It has become apparent that the two giants alternatively draw closer and move off.

According to the scientists, the mountain drift is caused by tectonic processes deep inside the earth

and is not catastrophic. This is one of the previously unknown natural phenomena. Most researchers are inclined to think that two giant 'floating' platforms on whose surface many Asian states are situated, lie close to each other in this region. Experiments corroborate this hypothesis, yet many questions still remain unanswered. (*Soviet features*, Vol. XXV, No. 141, September 15, 1986; Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P. B. No. 241, New Delhi 110 001).