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May, 1973

FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES LTD.

COMMENTS ON THE RECENT COPPER DISCOVERY AT ITS SUSTUT PEAK PROPERTY IN THE OMINECA MINING DIVISION, BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION

At the annual meeting of April 25th, 1973 Falconbridge Nickel announced the discovery of a sizable copper deposit in the Sustut River Valley in the North Central part of British Columbia. At this meeting the drilling plan which included the width of ore sections and grades and typical mineralized specimens of the ore were on display. This study evaluates this new copper discovery as best as possible through net present value and cash flow estimations using a milling rate of 8,000 tons per day and copper prices of 55¢, 60¢ and 65¢ per pound.

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ORE RESERVES - GEOLOGY

As shown by Figure 1 Falconbridge has acquired the mineral rights to large tracts of land that cover the more promising copper prospects in the area. Exposures of copper mineralization exist on the main northeast block as well as on those located to the south and southwest. The exploratory drilling programme initiated last year outlined two major, flat-lying copper zones lying within 300 feet of surface. These zones are referred to as the North deposit and the South deposit. To date 26 widely spaced diamond drill holes (about 500 feet apart) intersected high-grade copper mineralization in two zones (see Figure 2-for the drill plan and the drill hole results). Drilling to date has indicated about 10.1 million tons grading 0.73% copper over an average width of 66 feet in the North deposit and about 19.9 million tons grading 1.25% copper over an average width of 92 feet in the South deposit (see Table 1 for details). The North and the South zones have been relatively "closed off" by drilling except north and northwest of the North zone (see Figure 1) and, consequently, there is an excellent chance that more ore will be found in that direction. Also, because of the nature of mineralization the possibilities of discovering other similar deposits along strike and on other blocks appear to be quite aood.

There is no doubt that these ore reserve figures are of a preliminary nature and, consequently, a more detailed "filled-in' drilling programme will be required to prove-up these ore reserves and grade. A large exploratory drilling programme to fully delimit these two ore zones and to test other favourable targets in the area is scheduled for this year. Drilling to date tested the North and South zones right to the edge of the cliff. Because these two orebodies are flat-lying and near surface the edge of the cliff likely represents the easterly edge of the two ore zones.

The information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed reliable. Recommendations are a matter of opinion. Neither information or recommendations are guaranteed. to time hold an interest in securities mentioned and/or may be insiders, under securities legislation, in any of the corporations mentioned.

The copper-bearing samples displayed at the annual meeting indicate that the host rock is a dark-green, andesite breccia carrying abundant chalcocite, bornite and chacopyrite. It is also reported that some native copper is associated with the copper solphides. The Sustut copper deposits have many similarities to the Afton Copper Deposit in the Kamloops area of British Columbia and the extensive copper deposits in the State of Michigan, U.S. They are definitely not a porphyry-type copper deposit. The Sustut ore zones which have a very irregular blanket-like shape and a copper grade that varies more widely than the typical porphyry-type deposits will require "fill-in" drilling to establish proven ore reserves and grade. THUS THE CASH FLOWS AND NET PRESENT VALUES PROJECTED BELOW ARE BASED ON VERY MEAGER INFORMATION AND, THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD BE TREATED WITH UPMOST CAUTION.

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PRELIMINARY CASH FLOWS AND NET PRESENT VALUES

The ore reserves established to date justify a 8,000 ton per day operation. On this basis cash flow is projected at \$10.4 million or \$2.10 per share (see Table 3) at an average copper price of 55¢ per pound, \$12.5 million or \$2.50 per share at 60¢ copper and \$14.3 million or \$2.85 per share at 65¢ copper. Based on total cash flow discounted at 10% over the mine life, a milling rate of 8,000 tons per day, a total preproduction and capital cost of \$45 million and a production start-up in early 1977 the net present value is estimated at \$4.75 per share at 55¢ copper, \$6.35 per share at 60¢ copper and \$7.75 per share at 65¢ copper. Undoubtedly the discovery of any additional ore in the immediate area should add substantially to the net present value. If the drilling programme planned for this summer is highly successful in outlining substantially more ore it will greatly increase the net present value of the company's share. At the present price of about 65¢ copper this orebody is valued at \$39 million, or \$7.75 per Falconbridge Nickel share.

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TABLE 1

SUSTUT PEAK ORE RESERVE CALCULATIONS

North Depos	it					
Block No.	Thickness	<u>Area</u>	Volume	Tons	Grade	TonsXGrade
N-1 N-2 N-3 N-4 N-5 N-6 H-7 H-8	53 75 50 53 100 40 55 100	125,000 250,000 187,500 250,000 250,000 250,000 250,000 250,000	6,625,000 18,750,000 9,375,000 13,250,000 25,000,000 10,000,000 13,750,000 25,000,000	552,083 1,562,500 781,250 1,104,166 2,083,333 833,333 1,145,833 2,083,333	0.79 0.50 0.44 0.79 0.62 0.81 0.87 0.97	436,146 781,250 343,750 872,292 1,291,666 674,999 996,875 2,020,833
	526			10,145,831		7,417,811
South Deposi	it					
S-1 S-2 S-3 S-4 S-5 S-6 S-7 S-8 S-9 S-10 S-11 S-12 S-13 S-14	- 52 100 50 133 130 77 120 120 92 164 100 40 63 50	187,500 250,000 125,000 250,000 250,000 250,000 250,000 250,000 125,000 125,000 125,000 125,000 125,000 125,000 125,000	9,750,000 25,000,000 6,250,000 16,625,000 32,500,000 30,000,000 30,000,000 23,000,000 23,000,000 23,000,000 25,000,000 5,000,000 11,812,500 12,500,000	812,500 2,083,333 520,833 1,385,416 2,708,333 1,604,166 2,500,000 2,500,000 1,916,666 1,708,333 2,083,333 416,666 984,375 1,041,666	0.62. 0.63 2.47 1.09 1,48 1.23 0.83 0.41 1.49 1.47 1.64 0.30 1.12 0.94	503,750 1,312,499 1,286,458 1,510,104 4,008,333 1,973,125 2,075,000 1,025,000 2,855,833 2,511,245 3,416,666 124,999 1,102,500 979,166
	1,291			19,765,620		24,684,678
North Deposi	it:	10,145,8	31 s. tons Thickness	grading 0.73 66'	% CU.	
South Depost	it:	19,765,6	20 s. tons Thickness	grading 1.25 92'	% CU.	
iotal Tonnag	je:	29,900,0	00 s. tons	grading 1.07	<u>% CU.</u>	

TABLE 2

PROJECTED PRODUCTION RATES AND NET SMELTER RETURNS

Assumption:

- Both ore zones are amenable to the open pit mining method
- An average waste to ore ratio of 3-1
- A copper recovery to concentrate of 85%
- A concentrate grade of 35% copper
- Total smelting and refining charges of \$60 per s. ton, up \$4.00 from the current level

- Transportation cost of \$15.00 per s. ton

	BASIS OF 30 MILLION TONS OF DRILLED INDICATED ORE					
Production Rate t.p.d. " " t.p.y.	8,000 2.8 million					
Mine Life	10 yrs.					
Total Preprod. and Capital Cost	\$45 million					
	SOUTI BEPOSIT	-NORTH DEPOSIT				
Tons of Concentrate Prod. Per annum	85,200	49,600				
м.	000's omitted					
NET SMELTER REVENUES COPPER - 55¢ PR LB - 60¢ PR LB - 65¢ PR LB	\$23,856 26,412 28,968	\$13,888 15,376 16,864				

TABLE 3

- CASH FLOW, EARNINGS AND NET PRESENT VALUE PROJECTIONS -PROJECTED PRODUCTION START-UP EARLY 1977

	AVERAG	SOUTH DEPOSIT	EARS PER LB.	AVERAGE	NORTH DEPOSI NE LIFE - 3 YI COPPER PRICE	EARS PER LB.			
	<u>55¢</u>	<u>60¢</u>	<u>65¢</u> 000's omiti	ted $ -$	<u>60¢</u>	<u>65¢</u>			
Net Smelter Revenues Less:	\$23,855	\$26,412	\$28,968	\$13,808	\$15,376	\$16,864			
Total Operating Cost incl. adm.(est. \$3.00/ton)	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400			
Preproduction and Depreciation	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500			
Interest (9%)	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	-	-	- -			
Pre-tax Profit	\$ 6,956	\$ 9,512	\$12,068	938	\$ 2,476	\$ 3,954			
B.C. Tax - 15%	\$ 1,043	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,810	148	370	595			
-20% Federal Tax - 20%	\$ 1,392 	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,414	\$ 198	<u>\$ 495</u>	<u>\$ 795</u>			
NET EARNINGS	\$ 4,521	\$ 6,187	\$ 7,844	\$ 642	<u>\$ 1,611</u>	\$ 2,574			
Net Earnings per Share*	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.55	\$ 0.13	<u>\$ 0.30</u>	\$ 0.50			
CASH FLOW	<u>\$10,413</u>	<u>\$12,587</u>	<u>\$14,258</u>	\$ 5,142	<u>\$ 6,111</u>	<u>\$ 7,274</u>			
Cash Flow per Share*	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.85	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.45			
NET PRESENT VALUE BASED Discounted Cash Flow at 10% - in million	\$ 25.75	\$ 31.70	\$ 38.80						
- Per Share	\$ 5.15	\$ 6.35	\$ 7.75						
Pay Back - Years	3.6	3.3	3.0						

* Basis of 5 million shares outstanding

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