PRODUCTION - APRIL 1951.

The production programme for April was seriously upset by a general strike. Curtailment of refinery throughput was begun on the afternoon of the 13th and by the evening of the 14th crude oil input to the refinery had been reduced to 4.6 m.g.d., 3.2 m.g.d. to Bench 65 and 1.4 m.g.d. to Nos. 1 and 2 L.P. Units. This throughput was maintained until the 22nd and thereafter the refinery throughput was progressively increased until the end of the month, by which time operations had returned practically to normal.

The metered input to the refinery at an average figure of 13.11 m.g.d. was 4.8 m.g.d. below estimate. Receipts of crude oil from the various fields were regulated to suit the demands of the refinery and for export. Lali crude oil was received into storage via an isolated line from the 5th to the 14th. M.I.S. Specification Residue was received into Abadan storage at an average rate over the month of 0.472 m.g.d. Due to a strike in M.I.S. despatches ceased on 31st March and were resumed at the end of the strike on the evening of 5th April. From the 24th until the end of the month M.I.S. production of Specification Residue was at maximum; despatches being down two isolated lines to Kut Abdullah and one isolated line thereafter with boost at Dorquain. Receipts into Abadan during this period were at the rate of ca. 1.0 m.g.d. To boost fuel production recycle of Topping Plant distillate was commenced during the strike and continued for several days afterwards while the distillate processing units were being commissioned.

Refinery Throughput.

Apart from a 24 hours shut down on No.2 L.P. Unit to renew a main water valve to the residue cooler box, crude oil distillation was without incident until the strike necessitated curtailment of operations.

contd.
Abadan Export Crude Oil.

The manufacture of C.11 was re-introduced at Abadan early in the month with the object of relieving the load at Washur where a strike had commenced in March.

Aviation Spirits.

Production of Aviation Spirit was under estimate to the extent of 15,000 tons and by the end of the month alkylation stocks had been reduced to inaccessibles. Production of aviation components was badly affected by the strike, the labour position being worse in the Special Products Area than any other area in the refinery. T.F.L. blending of 100/130 was carried out during the strike and the tanks on A.22 pumped out to increase "accessibles" of A.2248.

Benzines.

Total production of benzines was 76,900 tons below estimate. During the strike period reforming was maintained at 0.57 m.g.d. The Cat. Cracker was commissioned on gas oil feed on the 9th and waxy distillate feed stock was introduced on the 10th. BA Washery was commissioned on H.G.C.S. on the 2nd and changed over to Cat. Cracked spirit on the 9th. 4B Washery was commissioned on P.D. on the 8th and changed over to Cat. Cracked distillate on the 9th.

The Cat Cracker operated throughout the strike at .75 m.g.d.

Kerosine.

Due to the extreme shortage of personnel in the Refining Department no finished kerosine was produced from the 18th to the 21st inclusive. Consideration was given to the possibility of marketing pitchite treated kerosine (ref. London Telegram 4446) but in view of the probable high char value and, more particularly, colour instability Abadan was loth to take this step. (ref. Abadan Telegram 0797). Pumping of acid washed kerosine to Bawarda, 9E Washery and later 9G also in commission, was resumed on cont'd.
the 22nd. No.1, 3A and 3B 602 Plants were all in commission by the 25th and a high rate of production of K.16 was maintained until the end of the month.

T.V.O.

There was no acid washing of T.V.O. from the beginning of the strike until the end of the month. The opportunity was taken to fill up Heavy Cracked Spirit storage.

Gas and Diesel Oils.

As with other products loss of production was entirely due to the strike.

Fuel Oils.

As already noted production was augmented by increasing receipts of M.I.S. Specification Residue to maximum.

Chemicals.

Issues of major chemicals were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur</td>
<td>1098 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caustic Soda</td>
<td>681 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleaching Powder</td>
<td>210 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sulphur production was as follows:

- M.I.S. No.1 Plant: 291 tons
- M.I.S. No.2 Plant: Nil
- Abadan: 289 tons

At the termination of the strike in M.I.S. it was decided to carry out the overhaul of No.2 Sulphur Recovery Plant before restarting the unit. This unit recommissioned after overhaul on the 30th.

Recovery of sulphuric acid from tar in No.1 Acid Recovery Plant was approximately 290 tons. Extensive repairs to this unit were put in hand immediately after the strike and the unit was not recommissioned before the end of the month.

Recovery of sulphuric acid from alkylation discard acid and tar in No.2 Sulphur Recovery Plant amounted to 1,039 tons.