

Northwest mine gets go-ahead

Officials of Cominco Ltd. have decided to proceed with development of the Red Dog Mine near Kotzebue.

H.M. Giegerich, president and general manager of Cominco Alaska Inc., said the zinc-lead-silver mine should be in production by 1991. He predicted it will become the largest zinc producer in the western world, with an estimated life of at least 50 years.

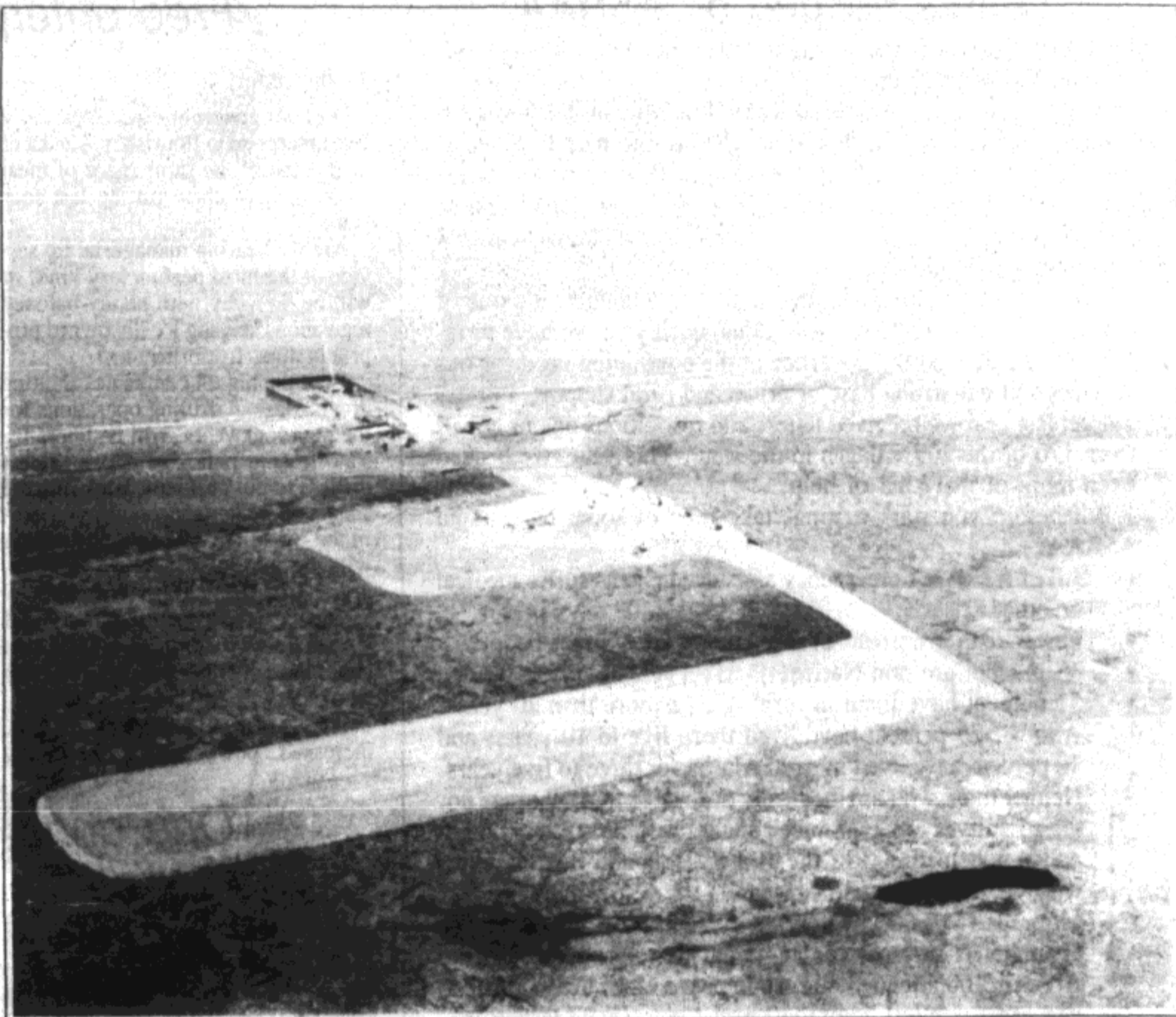
Giegerich said construction of a 52-mile road from the port 60 miles north of the Kotzebue to the mine site will begin next spring.

Earlier, Cominco officials had said about 250 people will be employed in that effort and 400 in the mining operation which has a projected start-up date of 1990.

The road project will be financed the Alaska Industrial Development Authority which will charge the operators a fee for use of it and a state-financed port completed this September.

About half the concentrates from Red Dog will be sold to the Cominco Metals Division smelter at Trail, British Columbia, and the remainder will be distributed to smelters in the Far East and Europe.

Red Dog is the first major hard rock mine to be developed in Alaska since the 1930s.



This new port on the Kotzebue Sound will be the terminus of a 52-mile road from the Red Dog Mine to be financed by the Alaska Industrial Development Authority

photo courtesy of Cominco Ltd.