

SURVEY REPORT
ON
REHABILITATION
OF MAE MOH FACTORY
IN THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

MARCH 1979

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY

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PREFACE

In response to the request of the government of the Kingdom of Thailand, the government of Japan decided to conduct a study of a rehabilitation plan for a fertilizer plant located in Mae Moh, Lampang Prefecture, and assigned the execution of the study to the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Using the brown coal produced in the vicinity as the main raw material, the Mae Moh plant is the only modern chemical fertilizer plant in Thailand to produce ammonia, urea and ammonium sulphate, constructed by a consortium of firms centered around the Uhde G.m.b.H. of the Federal Republic of Germany and brought on stream in 1965. The plant, under the management of the Chemical Fertilizer Co., Ltd., a government enterprise of Thailand, has suffered an extremely low rate of operation, an average of 30%, and possibility of its rehabilitation had been a problem.

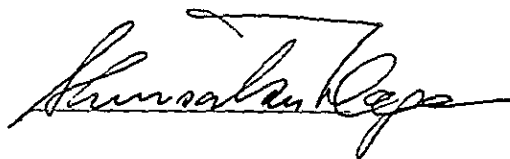
The Japan International Cooperation Agency sent to the plant a group of eight experts headed by Toyoji Tokunaga of Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals, Inc. for a period of one month from February 19 to March 18, 1978 to conduct the first survey, followed by another group of eight experts headed by Hitoshi Jindai of Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals, Inc. for a period of three months from June 25 to September 24, 1978 to conduct the second survey.

In the first survey, the operation records of the past were analyzed to identify the causes of the low rate of operation and in the second survey the equipment were subject to interior inspection and a detailed rehabilitation plan was formulated for each item of equipment. Based on the findings of the field surveys, the survey team worked further in Japan to prepare this report.

This report concludes that the Mae Moh plant can be rehabilitated and that it is worth so doing. In submitting this report, we sincerely hope that this will be fully utilized to rehabilitate the Mae Moh plant and thus contribute to the economic development of Thailand.

We wish to recognize the great efforts devoted by the members of the survey teams. We wish to express our deep appreciation for the cooperation rendered by the staff of the Chemical Fertilizer Co., Ltd. and the support given to this endeavor by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

March 1979

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shinsaku Hogen', written in dark ink on a white background.

Shinsaku Hogen

President

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY

CONTENTS

SECTION 1	THE OBJECTIVES OF SURVEY TEAM
SECTION 2	PROCESS OF MAE MOH FACTORY
SECTION 3	CONCLUSION OF SURVEY TEAM
SECTION 4	RESULTS OF SURVEY
SECTION 5	MAE MOH FACTORY REHABILITATION PLAN
SECTION 6	REPORT FOR EQUIPMENT
SECTION 7	REPORT FOR INSTRUMENT
SECTION 8	REPORT FOR ELECTRIC FACILITIES
SECTION 9	REPORT FOR ANALYSIS WORK
SECTION 10	POSTSCRIPT
APPENDIX	EQUIPMENT LIST
	MACHINE/TOWER/VESSEL LIST
	INSYRUMENT LIST
	MOTOR LIST

SECTION 1

THE OBJECTIVES OF SURVEY TEAM

Section 1 The Objectives of Survey Team

1-1 Survey Team

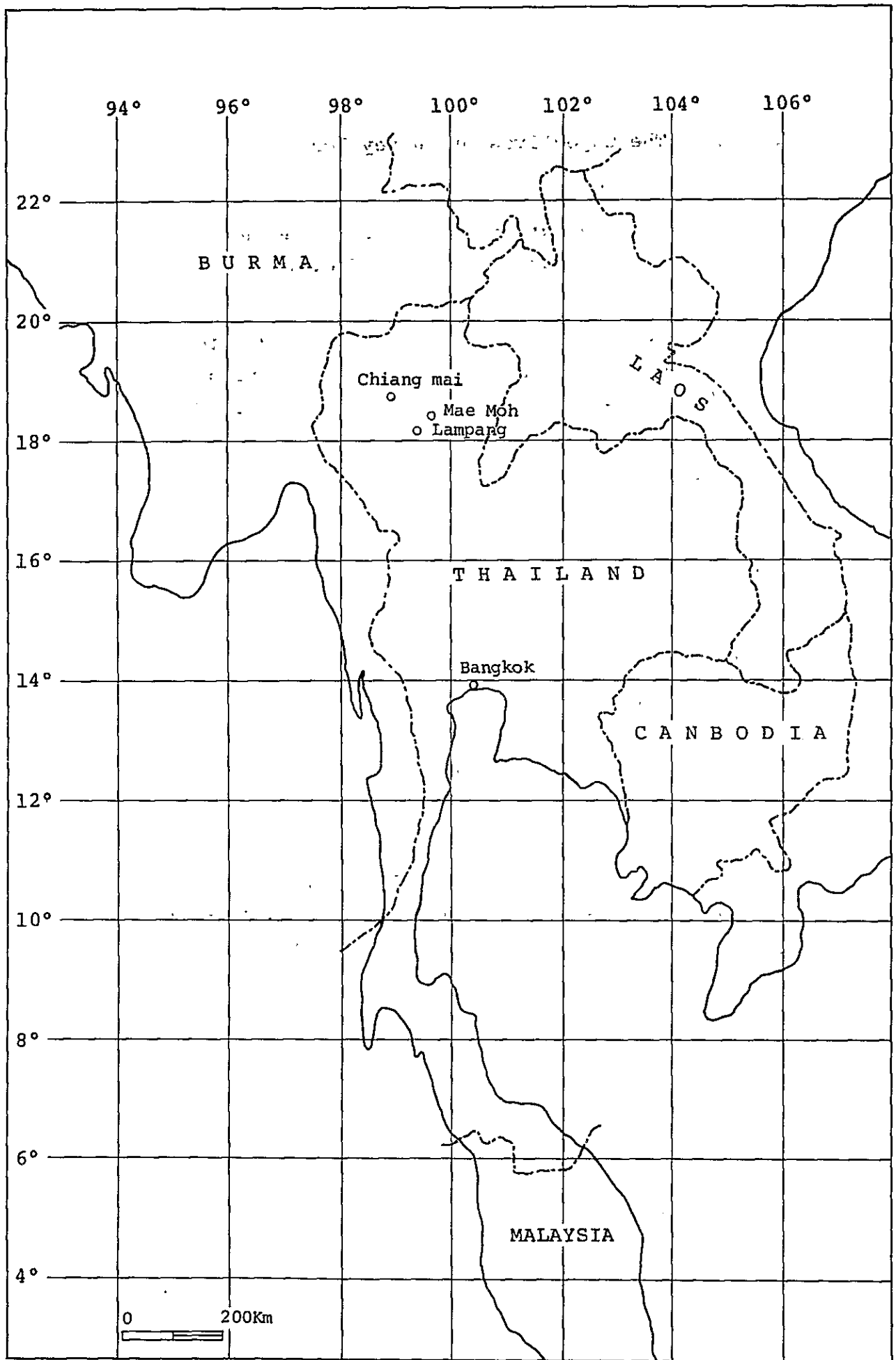
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has trusted to Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals Inc. to survey the Mae Moh factory in Thailand.

The survey team has been dispatched twice. The first survey team was composed of 7 crews and dispatched for 1 month, from Feb. 19 to Mar. 18 of 1978. The crews were as follows.

Leader (Process engineer)	1
Process engineer	2
Machine "	1
Instrument "	2
Chemist	1

Following to the results of the first Survey team, the second survey team was dispatched to put forward the research. The survey team was composed of 6 crews except the leader of the first team and dispatched 3 months from June 25 to Sep. 24.

Mr. Shimomichi, a staff of JICA, went together with the first team for 2 weeks, and also 2 welding specialists went together with 2nd team for 1 and half months.



1-2 Mae Moh Factory

Mae Moh factory was constructed by the engineering company of West Germany utilizing the loan from World Bank. The construction was started on 1963 and operation on 1965.

Chemical Fertilizer Co., Ltd. (hereinafter CFC) which possesses Mae Moh factory, is a private company capitalized at 700 million Baht (7 billion Japanese yen), yet the Company is actually a government enterprise, because of its 97% shares are being held by Financial ministry of Thailand.

Factory is located about 600 Km north of Bangkok and 30 Km east of Lampang city where is the seat of Lampang prefectural government.

The basin, in which Mae Moh village lies, has an altitude of 370 meters above sea level and an atmospheric pressure of 737 mmHg. The atmospheric temperature of the basin is 3 to 5°C lower than the temperature of Bangkok on the average.

The address of Mae Moh factory;
Mae Moh, Lampang, Thailand

The composition of Mae Moh factory is as follows;

Boiler (2)	Austrian made	(rent from EGAT)
Feed water plant	West German made	Levatit
Air Separation plant	"	Linde
Coal gasification plant	"	Koppers
Desulphurization plant	"	Shell
Ammonia Synthesis plant	"	Uhde
Urea Synthesis plant	"	Uhde (Stami)

Sulphuric acid plant	West German made	Lurgi
Ammonium sulphate plant	"	"

Besides above listed, as the Auxiliary section, there are Machine, instrument and electricity workshops and laboratory in Mae Moh factory.

The brown coal (Lignite), which is the main raw material of Mae Moh factory, is supplied by open wagon from the strip coal mine in the neighborhood.

The produced ammonia is converted mainly to fertilizer and a part of products is bottled and put on market.

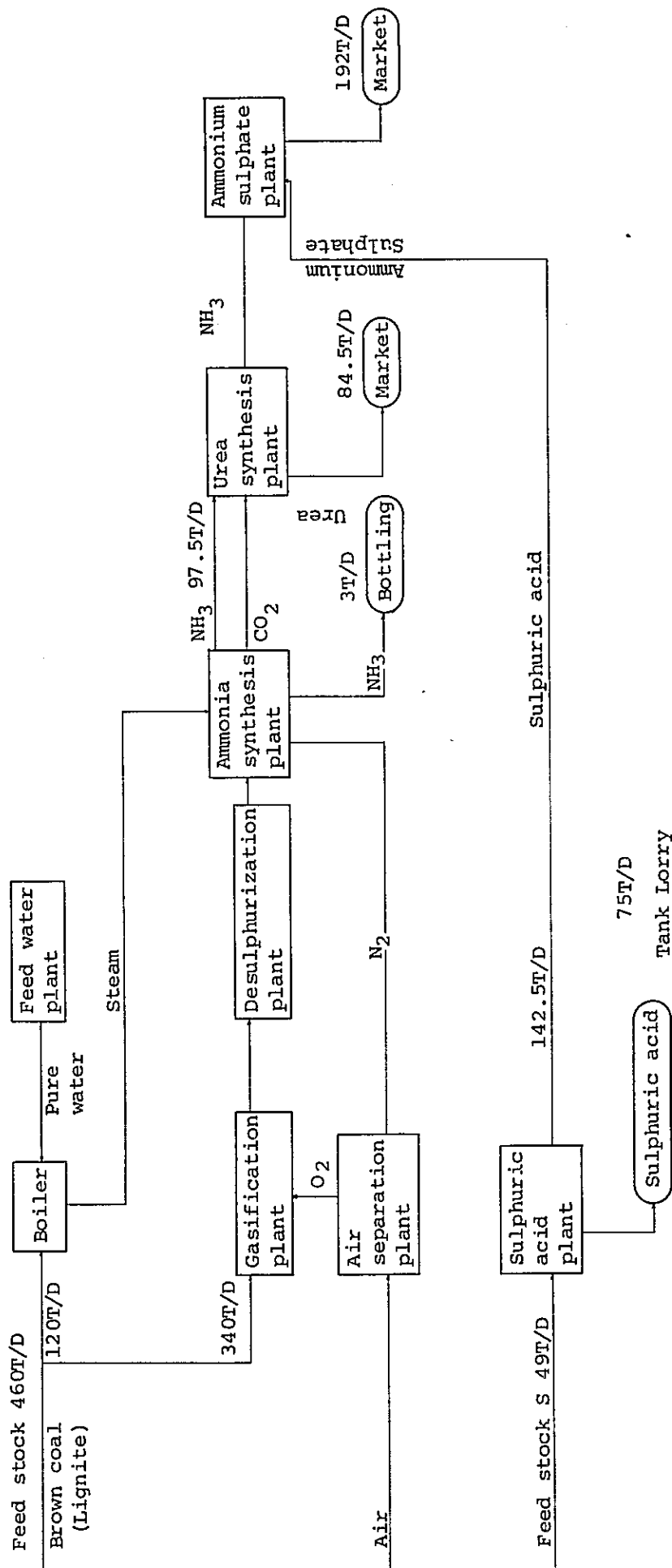
The produced sulphuric acid is also converted mainly to fertilizer and also a part of products is put on market carried by tank lorry.

The urea and ammonium sulphate are bagged and carried out by rail way or truck.

The liquid ammonia which is put on market is consumed mainly at refrigerated warehouse in Bangkok. The sulfuric acid is consumed for water treatment of Bangkok city water. The produced urea is consumed as the raw material of plastics and industrial chemical besides it is consumed as fertilizer. The ammonium sulphate is consumed as fertilizer.

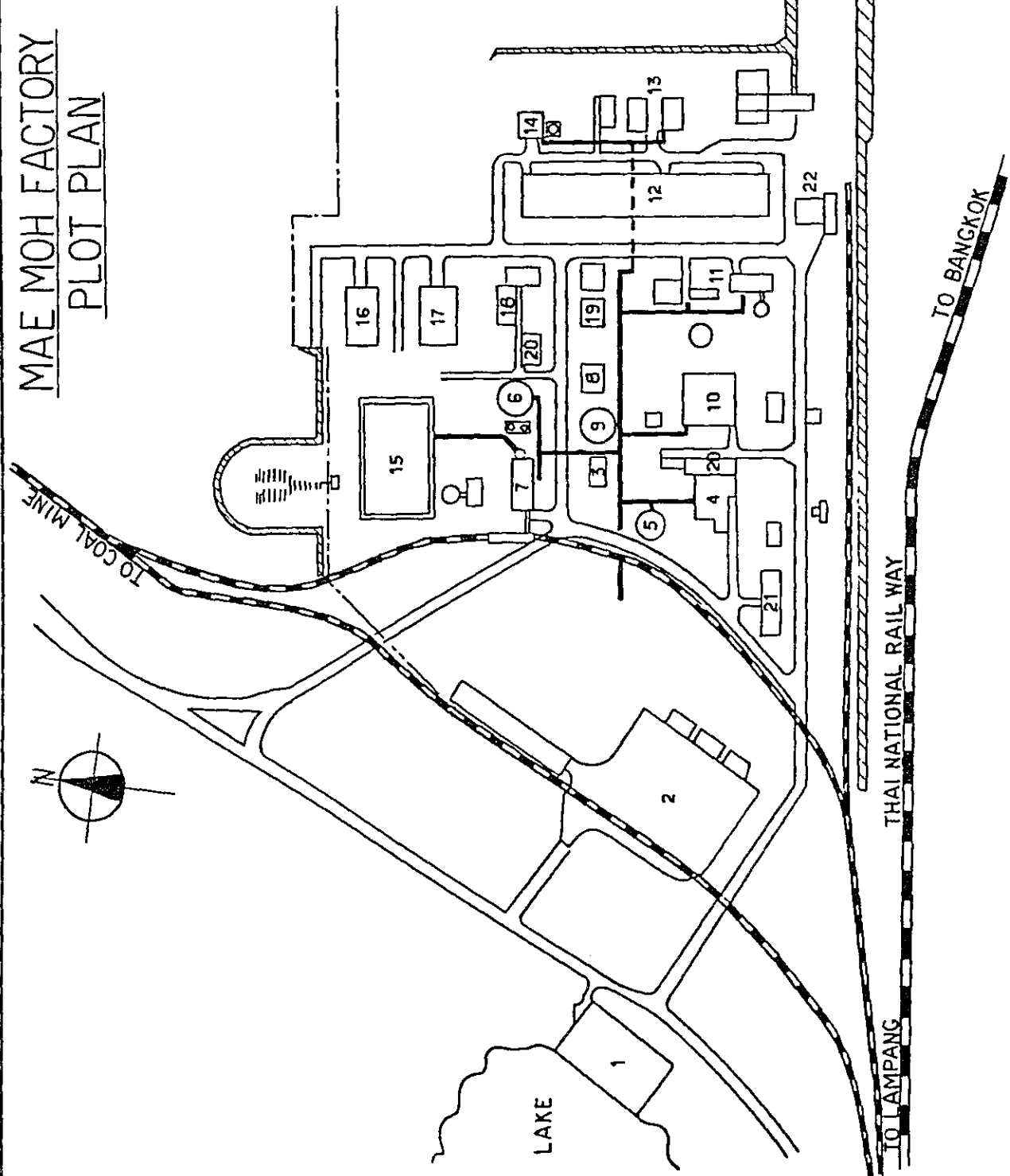
The each production was being shorter than market demand, so that the warehouse and tank was always nearly empty during our stay in Mae Moh.

FLOW DIAGRAM of Mae Moh FACTORY
(Design Base)



MAE MOH FACTORY PLOT PLAN

NO.	PLANT NAME
1	PUMP HOUSE
2	EGAT BOILER
3	FEED WATER PLANT
4	AIR SEPARATION PLANT
5	O ₂ HOLDER
6	N ₂ HOLDER
7	GASIFICATION PLANT
8	DESULPHURIZATION PLANT
9	SYN GAS HOLDER
10	AMMONIA PLANT
11	UREA PLANT
12	PRODUCTS WAREHOUSE
13	SULPHURIC ACID PLANT
14	AMM. SULPH. PLANT
15	WATER TREATMENT
16	MACHINE WORKSHOP
17	SPARE PARTS WAREHOUSE
18	LABORATORY
19	INST. ELEC. WORKSHOP
20	ELECTRICITY CONTROL ROOM
21	OFFICE
22	BAGGING



1-3 The objectives of survey

The actual annual out put of Mae Moh factory are as follows.

Year	Ammonia TON	Urea TON	Ammonium Sulphate TON
1970	14,796	12,630	25,235
71	12,803	10,219	25,970
72	10,602	5,487	25,603
73	8,506	6,135	19,227
74	10,120	5,083	23,906
75	6,584	3,314	15,883
76	9,522	3,368	25,267
77	9,925	6,232	19,104
average	10,358	6,559	22,524
design	30,000	25,000	58,000

The average annual production of Mae Moh factory has been 30% of design. The objectives of survey team is to research the problems and possibility of rehabilitation and to study the propriety of the rehabilitation of Mae Moh factory, which is greatly distressed by these deteriorated production.

Survey team has investigated the following items.

1. Actual production records.
2. Basic design of whole plants.
3. Organization and technical level of factory.
4. Environmental pollution.

5. Inside inspection of equipment.
6. Test run of plants.
7. Gather the data for improvement of factory.

1-4 The schedule of Survey team

 The plan and actual result of 2nd Survey team is shown on next page.

SCHEDULE OF MAE MOH FACTORY INVESTIGATION

JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER 24
 20 22 24 26 28 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

- Departure
- Reporting to CFC (Primary Report)
- Bangkok → Mae Moh
- Welding Specialists (2)
- Preparation for Opening Inspection
- Opening Inspection
- Preparation for Test Run
- Investigation of Plant start up
- Gather the data of Operation Record
- Stabilize the Operating condition
- Test Run
- Investigation of equipment performance
- Gather the data for Improvement
- Departure from Bangkok
- Repairing of Gasification plant
- Change the Ammonia converter catalyst

————— plan
 ~~~~~ actual result



SECTION 2

PROCESS OF MAE MOH FACTORY



## Section 2. Process of Mae Moh factory

Prior to explain the problems and improvements of Mae Moh factory, the process of Mae Moh factory shall be introduced.

### 2-1 General (DWG NO D100)

The industrial water is sent from artificial damed lake. The water is utilized for cooling water and raw water of clean water and pure water, which are supplied to whole factory. The steam, which is sent from EGAT Boiler and other waste heat boilers, is controlled in Feed Water plant and supplied to whole factory.

Electricity is supplied from neighbored substation where the voltage of 30 KV is transformed to 6.6 KV. The voltage in factory is 6.6 KV, 380 V and 220 V, and the frequency is 50 Hz.

The gasification plant is composed of griding unit where the brown coal (Lignite) is pulverized and gasification unit where the pulverized coal is gasified to ammonia synthesis gas (syn gas) by partial oxidation of pulverized coal with oxygen ( $O_2$ ). Oxygen is sent from air separation plant.

Desulphurization plant removes sulphur compound (mainly hydrogen sulphide,  $H_2S$ ) from synthesis gas.

Ammonia synthesis plant is composed of 3 sections.

The first section is CO - conversion section where the carbon monoxide (CO) in syn. gas is converted to carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) and hydrogen ( $H_2$ ).

The second is purification section where the  $CO_2$  and remaining CO are removed from syn. gas.

Third is synthesis section where the  $H_2$  and nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) are reacted under the high temperature and high pressure to be converted into Ammonia ( $NH_3$ ).

In urea synthesis plant,  $NH_3$  and  $CO_2$  from ammonia plant are reacted to urea and the synthesised urea is purified and prilled.

The unreacted  $NH_3$  is sent to ammonium sulphate plant.

In sulphuric acid plant, sulphure is burned with air formed sulphure dioxide ( $SO_2$ ).  $SO_2$  is further oxidized to sulphure trioxide ( $SO_3$ ) with  $O_2$  in gas by the action of catalyst.

The produced  $SO_3$  is absorbed into sulphuric acid and diluted by water to produce sulphuric acid ( $H_2SO_4$ ). In ammonium sulphate plant,  $NH_3$  from urea plant and  $H_2SO_4$  from sulphuric acid plant are reacted and produced ammonium sulphate ( $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ ).



2-2 The feature of Mae Moh factory

The specific character of this factory is utilizing the coal as the main raw material. This process is unique in the world and is designed on the newest technic at the time of its construction.

Although up to recently the raw material of ammonia plant (chemical industry) has been switched over to petroleum or natural gas, yet recently various kind of coal utilization is being planned and researched. Actually in India the same kind process of Mae Moh is now being under construction. It is very significant for Thailand that the coal handling technology is kept at Mae Moh factory from the view point of effective utilization of domestic resources.

The production amount is insufficient, far from filling up the domestic demands, yet to keep the chemical fertilizer producing technology is important for the development of agricultural country of Thailand.

Further the marketing liquid ammonia and sulphuric acid from Mae Moh factory are the essential material for chemical industries and are acting the important roles on chemical industries, therefore in future the significance of existing the Mae Moh factory shall be more increased.

The third feature is that this factory is also only one factory in Thailand utilizing the high temperature and pressure technology. The technology to keep and maintain the high temperature and pressure factory is the foundation of chemical industries, actually in past ten years engineers and technicians more than 100 left factory and have been working on various chemical industries in Thailand.

As above mentioned this factory is very important factory from the view point of effective utilization of domestic resources and keeping the technical level of Thai chemical industry. Therefore it is reasonable that CFC is hold as government enterprise.

#### 2-3-1 Feed Water Plant (DWG NO D 101)

In this feed water plant (FW Plant), cooling water, clean water, pure water and boiler Feed water are produced and steam is controlled.

##### Cooling water

Cooling water is pumped up from artificial lake. There are 3 pumps and normally 2 pumps are used. The design value of cooling water flow rate is 3,600 T/H.

##### Clean water

The raw water of clean water is taken from cooling water and sent to clarifier. In the clarifier, Ferrous hydroxide ( $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ ) is added as coagurator, and the suspended solid in water is coagurated by coagulator and water is cleaned by sand filter to make clean water. Clean water is sent to whole factory as the utility water.

##### Pure water

The raw water of pure water is clean water. The solved ion in clean water is purified by ion exchanger. The quality of pure water is good.

##### Boiler feed water

Pure water is sent to deaerator in which the desolved oxygen in pure water is separated and, after the deaerator, the pure water is added the boiler treating chemicals and sent to whole plants as boiler feed water.

## Steam

There are 3 kind of steam in Mae Moh factory, that is 30<sup>K</sup>, 10<sup>K</sup> and 3.5<sup>K</sup>.

30<sup>K</sup> steam is generated at EGAT Boiler and waste heat boiler in sulphuric acid plant and consumed mainly in ammonia plant.

There are 2 kind of 10<sup>K</sup> steam, one is generated in WHB of gasification plant and the another is produced by reducing the pressure and temperature of 30<sup>K</sup> steam. 10<sup>K</sup> steam is mainly consumed in urea plant.

3.5<sup>K</sup> steam is provided to whole factory as utility steam by reducing the pressure of 10<sup>K</sup> steam.

The temperature and pressure of steam is controlled by Feed water plant.

### 2-3-2 EGAT BOILER (DWG NO D102 A & B)

There are 2 boilers and one is for normal operation and the other is stand-by.

The steam generation capacity is max. 26.5 T/H, pressure 48<sup>K</sup> and temperature 450°C. The fuel is Lignite.

Lignite carried from the strip coal mine is transferred to hopper with bucket. The received Lignite is carried to coal bunker through bucket elevator and belt conveyor.

The boiler has coal spread stoker furnace and is bi-drum type.

The furnace pressure control is balanced forced draft type, that is, the combustion air is provided by forced draft fan through air preheater to furnace and the flue gas is led to stack controlling the furnace

pressure by induced draft fan. The flue gas is passed through the economizer and airpreheater to recover the heat of flue gas.

There are two boiler feed water pump, one is motor driven and the other is steam turbine driven for respective boiler, and boiler is designed as to use the steam turbine driven pump for normal operation, yet the pump has not been used because of its mal-maintenance, and only motor driven pump is used.

The deaerated and checmicals added boiler feed water is pressurerized by boiler feed water pump and fed to drum through level control valve and economizer.

The generated steam is controlled its temperature by passing through the primary steam superheater, desuperheater and secondary steam superheater, and sent to Mae Moh factory through pressure reducing valve, controlled by feed water plant.

These boilers had been constructed and worked for electric power generation by EGAT, yet recently big power generation station had been constructed in neighborhood and started, therefore these boilers are rented from EGAT to CFC and CFC (Mae Moh factory) are operating and maintain the boilers.

2-3-3 Air separation plant (DWG NO D-103 A & B)

Air separation plant is generating oxygen ( $O_2$ ) gas and nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) gas by liquifying and rectifying the air.

The air is compressed up to  $4.5^K$  by centrifugal air compressor and sent to air separation apparatus. On the suction line of air compressor, an air filter is installed to eliminate the dust in the air.

The remaining dust in the air after compression is washed by water in the water spray cooler.

The compressed and cleaned air is sent to regenerator in which air is chilled to  $-150^\circ C$  flowing over the cold stone and coil loaded in regenerator.

Two regenerators make one set. When one regenerator is cooling the air, the other is being cooled the stones. When the stones in regenerator became warm by chilling the incoming air the regenerator is switched to another one, and cooled down again by outgoing impure  $N_2$  or produced  $O_2$ .

The air chilled in regenerator is sent to rectifier bottom. A part of air before going into rectifier, is liquified when it is passed through liquifier ( $E_1$ ) by heat exchanging with outgoing impure  $N_2$ .

A part of air in the rectifier bottom is again sent back to coil side of regenerator and heat exchanged with incoming air and after that it is lead to expansion turbine, where the air is expanded adiabatically from  $4.5^K$  to  $0.5^K$  and produced the cold. This cold is compensating the cold loss of air separation unit.

In the lower column of rectifier the air is roughly separated into  $N_2$  gas and liquified  $O_2$  rich air,  $N_2$  and liquid air are sent to upper column where  $O_2$ ,  $N_2$

and impure N<sub>2</sub> are separated and pulled out from bottom, top and middle of upper column respectively.

The separated O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> are sent to O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> holder passing through inside the coil of regenerators. Impure N<sub>2</sub> is vented to atmosphere after passing over the stone in the regenerators to recover the cold.

The instrument air is extracted from the air before the regenerators and dried by the dryer in which silica gel is filled as drying agent and supplied to whole plants.

The dryer is regenerated by N<sub>2</sub> from lower column of rectifier.

The capacity of this plant.

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| O <sub>2</sub> | 3700 Nm <sup>3</sup> /h |
| N <sub>2</sub> | 3500 "                  |
| Instrument Air | 350 Nm <sup>3</sup> /h  |

2-3-4 Gasification plant (DWG NO D-104 A,B & C)

Lignite carried from strip coal mine by wagon to . this plant is pulverized and partially oxydized by oxygen in gasifier to produce ammonia synthesis gas (syn. gas).

Grinding unit (DWG NO D-104 A)

Carried Lignite is put down to underground bunker and then carried up to hopper by raw Lignite conveyor.

The spec. of raw Lignite is as follows.

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| water content      | 35 wt%                             |
| ash                | 12 " (FeO, CaO, SiO <sub>2</sub> ) |
| heat of combustion | 3500 Kcal/Kg wet coal.<br>(high)   |

Lignite in hopper is carried out by Erko belt and fallen down to duct where Lignite is mixed with hot gas from hot gas producer, and the mixture is charged into hammer mill where Lignite is pulverized and dried.

The dried and pulverized Lignite dust is carried to cyclone where Lignite dust and hot gas is separated. The separated Lignite dust fall down to the finished dust bunker under the cyclone.

The hot gas, out of the cyclone, is sent to electric precipitator. The remaining dust in hot gas is recovered in this electric precipitator.

The recovered dust is sent to the finished dust bunker by conveyor and the hot gas after the electric precipitator is vented to atmosphere, yet a part of the gas is recycled to the duct before the hammer mill to control the temperature of hot gas into the hammer mill.

The fuel of hot gas producer is the Lignite dust from finished dust bunker.

Lignite dust in finished dust bunker is sealed by N<sub>2</sub>.

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| size                      | <90 micron         |
| water content             | 7 wt%              |
| heat of combustion (high) | 5500 Kcal/Kg (wet) |

Gasification unit (DWG NO D104 B & C)

The Lignite dust prepared in finished dust bunker is charged to service bin by chain conveyor. The Lignite dust in service bin is fed to gasifier by screw feeder. Before the gasifier the dust is mixed with O<sub>2</sub> and injected into the gasifier. Inside the gasifier the Lignite dust is partially oxideized and reformed to CO rich syn. gas. The temperature inside the gasifier is estimated 1600 ~ 1700 °C, and the pressure is controlled at 100 mmH<sub>2</sub>O by manual control valves.

The usual composition of produced syn. gas is as follows.

CO<sub>2</sub>=12%, CO=57%, H<sub>2</sub>=25%, N<sub>2</sub>=3%, H<sub>2</sub>S=3%

The melting point of ash from Lignite is around 1400°C and so it is melting condition inside the furnace.

A part of molten ash is flowed down along the furnace wall and dropped into the seal tank, installed at the center bottom of furnace. Molten ash dropped into the seal tank is quickly cooled and solidified with sealing water. The solidified ash carried out from seal tank by chain conveyor.

The molten ash in the gasifier is mainly fly ash and flow with syn. gas and at the outlet nozzle of gasifier the gas and ash are quenched to 900 ~ 1000°C by water spraying. Here the molten fly ash is to be solidified.



The heat of syn. gas out of gasifier is recovered passing through the radiation boiler and tubular boiler . generating  $10^K$  steam.

The produced syn. gas is then passed through the washer, theisen washer and final cooler in which the gas is contacted with washing water to remove the fly ash and to cool down the gas.

Especially at the washer the CaO, one of the component of ash, is solved into the washing water and it reacts with  $H_2S$  in the gas. Therefore most of  $H_2S$  in the gas is removed from syn. gas before desulphurization plant.

Regarding the emergency trip system of gasification unit, an automatic oil mechanism is installed, which shut off the oxygen into the furnace and sweep out the gas in the furnace with  $N_2$  by only pushing a button.

2-3-5 Desulphurization plant (DWG NO D-105)

This is the plant to remove sulphur compound ( $H_2S$ , COS) in syn. gas with aqueous solution of Amine Di Iso Propanol (ADIP).

The syn. gas from gasification plant is introduced to scrubber where the gas is brought into contact counter-currently with washing water and eliminated the dust in the gas. The packings in this tower is 2<sup>B</sup> ceramic rashig ring.

Syn. gas out of scrubber is led to absorber. Here the sulphure compound and other acidic gas in syn. gas is absorbed by downflowing ADIP solution on the valve trays.

Desulphurized gas is sent to syn. gas holder.

ADIP solution of absorber is sent to regenerating tower via a heat exchanger, where the ADIP solution is heated and distilled by steam and released the absorbed acidic gas.

ADIP solution regenerated in regenerator is recycled to abosrber top by pump via a heat exchanger and coolers.

On the other hand the released acidic gas is cooled in the condenser (dephlegmator) which is mounted on the regenerator and sent to Sulphur recovery plant. Sulphur recovery plant is not used now because of the sulphure quantity to be recovered is too small and only the flare stack in the plant is used to dispose the acidic gas. A part of syn. gas before scrubber is mixed to the acidic gas from condenser. The mixed syn. gas is the aid of combustion.

2-3-6 Ammonia synthesis plant (DWG NO D-106 A,B,C & D)

There are two of 7 staged reciprocating syn.gas compressors which have 55% capacity respectively. The syn.gas is sucked by this syn.gas compressors from syn.gas holder and compressed up to  $22^{\text{K}}$  by the first 3 stages.  $22^{\text{K}}$  syn.gas is introduced to CO conversion section where carbon monoxide (CO) in syn.gas is converted to hydrogen ( $\text{H}_2$ ) gas and carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) gas in CO converter. Further after CO conversion section, syn.gas is led into  $\text{CO}_2$  absorber to remove most of  $\text{CO}_2$  in syn. gas.

CO converted and  $\text{CO}_2$  eliminated syn.gas is then mixed with  $\text{N}_2$  from  $\text{N}_2$  compressor in air separation plant to provide the syn.gas which  $\text{H}_2$  to  $\text{N}_2$  ratio is 3 to 1. The ratio of 3 to 1 is most suitable to synthesize the ammonia.

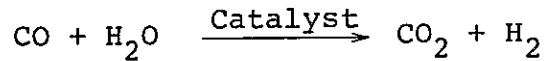
The gas adjusted its composition is again sent back to 4th stage suction of syn.gas compressor and by 4th and 5th stage, the gas is pressurized up to  $110^{\text{K}}$  and led to purification section where the gas washed with copper solution and aq. ammonia solution to removed remaining CO and  $\text{CO}_2$  respectively.

Purified gas is again sent back to syn.gas compressor and further compressed up to  $430^{\text{K}}$  by 6 & 7 stg. and sent out to ammonia synthesis section.

(CO conversion section)

The effluent gas of syn.gas compressor 3rd stage is introduced to saturator, where syn.gas is heated and humidified by contacting countercurrently with hot water flowing down from the tower top. The water is become cool and sent back to demosture. The saturator effluent

gas is further added the high temperature steam and heated up by heat exchangers and led to CO converter where by the reaction of



most of CO in syn.gas is converted to H<sub>2</sub>. H<sub>2</sub> gas is required to synthesis NH<sub>3</sub> and CO or CO<sub>2</sub> is the poison of ammonia synthesis catalyst.

The CO converter effluent gas is led to demoiseure via heat exchanger and water preheater. The function of demoiseure is reverse to saturator, ie, the gas is cooled and dehumidified by contacting countercurrently with water flowing down from the top. The water becomes hot and is sent back to saturator via water preheater. A portion of hot water is sent to feed water plant where the hot water being exchanged the heat with deaerator feed water and itself becomes cool and returns to the top of demoiseure via cooler. In this section, the hot water is being recycled in the system, therefore the impurity of gas (CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, NH<sub>3</sub>) is accumulated in hot water and induced the severe corrosion of equipment. To reduce these corrosion, a portion of hot water is blowed down and further more the pH of hot water is controlled by caustic soda which is sent from feed water plant.

(CO<sub>2</sub> Removal section)

The outlet gas of CO conversion section is led to CO<sub>2</sub> absorber where the gas is contacted countercurrently with water flowing down from tower top and most CO<sub>2</sub> in gas is absorbed by water. The CO<sub>2</sub> removed gas mixed with N<sub>2</sub> and sent back to syn.gas compressor. The water absorbed CO<sub>2</sub> is led to water tubine of pump. In the

first stage of water turbine, the pressure of water is reduced from  $21^{\text{K}}$  to  $10^{\text{K}}$  and the gas released by reducing the pressure is separated in the separator and sent to the suction of syn.gas compressor, because of the gas is rich of  $\text{H}_2$ . Further the water is passed through the 2nd stage of water turbine and sent to degasifier. In degasifier,  $\text{CO}_2$  is separated and the separated  $\text{CO}_2$  is sent to  $\text{CO}_2$  holder in urea synthesis plant.

(Purification section)

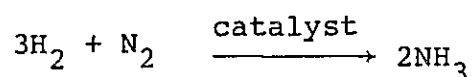
Syn.gas, removed  $\text{CO}_2$  and mixed  $\text{N}_2$ , is led into 4th stage suction of synthesis gas compressor, and pressurized up to  $110^{\text{K}}$  and introduced to copper solution scrubber. Remaining CO in syn.gas is absorbed by the copper solution which is the complex compound of copper and ammonia. Copper solution, absorbed CO, is returned to copper solution regenerator where the solution is heated and released CO which is sent back to the suction of syn.gas compressor. The regenerated copper solution is recycled to absorber after it is cooled by cooler. The outlet gas of absorber is then led to ammonia water scrubber where remaining  $\text{CO}_2$  in syn.gas is absorbed by aqueous  $\text{NH}_3$  solution.  $\text{CO}_2$  absorbed solution is sent to ammonium sulphate plant.

Purified gas is compressed with 6th and 7th stage of syn.gas compressor up to  $430^{\text{K}}$  and sent to ammonia synthesis section. The gas composition inlet of ammonia synthesis section is as follows.

$\text{H}_2 = 74.3\%$      $\text{N}_2 = 24.8\%$      $\text{Ar} = 0.9\%$      $\text{CO} + \text{CO}_2$  is less than  
50 ppm

(Ammonia synthesis section)

The inlet gas of ammonia synthesis section is mixed with recirculating gas and which is then separated the produced ammonia in the gas and sent to ammonia synthesis converter (ACV) via recirculating gas compressor. Ammonia is synthesized in ACV by the reaction of



ACV has three catalyst beds and at the inlet portion of each catalyst bed, a quenching device is installed to control the each catalyst bed inlet gas temperature. Quenching is performed by injecting the cold syn. gas which is branched (the syn .gas.) from ACV inlet. ACV is usually operated at  $410^{\text{K}}$  and  $460 \sim 450^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The outlet gas of ACV is cooled stepwisely by waste heat boiler and gas cooler.

The produced ammonia is condensed in the gas cooler. In the waste heat boiler  $3.5^{\text{K}}$  steam is generated and it is used for the regeneration of copper solution. The effluent of gas cooler is mixed with fresh syn.gas from syn.gas compressor and sent to ammonia separator. To avoid the accumulation of inert gas (Argon gas) in the recirculating gas, a part of recirculating gas out of ammonia separator is vented to atmosphere via scrubber. The gas composition inlet and outlet of ACV is as follows.

|           | $\text{H}_2$ | $\text{N}_2$ | $\text{NH}_3$ | Ar  |      |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----|------|
| ACV inlet | 61.7         | 22.0         | 9.2           | 7.1 | vol% |
| outlet    | 55.1         | 19.8         | 17.0          | 8.1 | vol% |

The separated liquid ammonia is led to flash vessel where the resolved gas is released by the reduction of pressure. The separated ammonia is sent to ammonia and the released gas is led to tail gas scrubber where

the  $\text{NH}_3$  component in the released gas is absorbed with water. Then after the gas is sent to ammonium sulphate plant, and the  $\text{NH}_3$  solution is sent to ammonia water scrubber as the absorbent of scrubber.

#### 2-3-7 Urea synthesis plant (DWG NO D-107 A,B & C)

In urea synthesis plant,  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  is reacted under high temperature and high pressure conditions to produce urea.

Liquid ammonia from ammonia reservoir is received in ammonia buffer tank and sucked by ammonia plunger pump by which ammonia is pressurized up to  $200^{\text{K}}$  and sent to primary reactor's coil.  $\text{CO}_2$  from  $\text{CO}_2$  holder is sucked by blower and introduced to desulphurizing tower to remove  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  in  $\text{CO}_2$  completely. Further  $\text{CO}_2$  is sent to drier. Drying agent (silica gel) in drier is regenerated by air. Dry  $\text{CO}_2$  is then sucked by  $\text{CO}_2$  compressor and pressurized to  $200^{\text{K}}$  and led to primary reactor's coil where  $\text{CO}_2$  and liquid ammonia is mixed and reacted. The heat of reaction is taken off by the waste heat boiler outside of primary reactor's coil. The mixture out of primary reactor is led to secondary reactor and synthesized urea. The effluent out of secondary reactor, after depressurizing, is led to separator 1st stage, where unreacted  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  is separated. Further the effluent liquid is depressurized in dissociation separator where, same as former, unreacted  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  is separated.

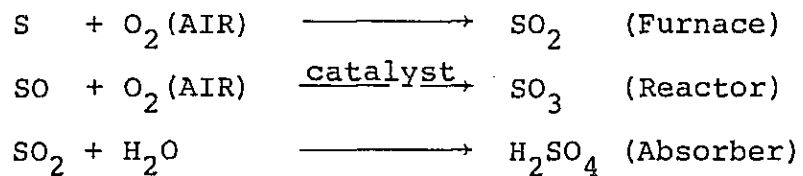
Urea solution removed the unreacted gas is sent to evaporator via urea storage tank. In the evaporator, urea solution is vacuumed and the moisture in the solution is evaporated. The solution, more than 98% is urea, is led to the top of prilling tower where urea

solution is injected into the tower and cooled and solidified to produce urea pellet.

NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> gas from separator 1st stage is sent to washing column where NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> is separated. Ammonia gas is led to ammonia condenser and condensed and recovered to ammonia buffer tank. NH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> from washing column and dissociation tank is sent to ammonium sulphate plant.

#### 2-3-8 Sulphuric acid plant (DWG NO D-108)

Solid sulphur (S), the raw material of sulphuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) is burned with air to make sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). SO<sub>2</sub> gas is further reacted with oxygen by the action of catalyst in reactor to make SO<sub>3</sub>. Then SO<sub>3</sub> is absorbed and reacted with 96% sulphuric acid to make H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.



Solid sulphur is heated and melted in melting pit by steam coil to prepare the liquid S. Liquid S is sent to furnace by pump. Air from the atmosphere is brought into contact with conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> countercurrently in the drying tower and the moisture in air is removed. Dry air is exchanged the heat with SO<sub>3</sub> gas and itself heated and then sent to furnace. Before the furnace, dry air is passed through the economizer to preheat the waste heat boiler feed water. Liquid S is burned with dry air to make SO<sub>2</sub> and the gas temperature becomes around 1000°C. The flue gas out of furnace is cooled down in the waste heat boiler and sent to reactor. The reactor



inlet gas temperature is 430°C and pressure is +1000 mmH<sub>2</sub>O. In the waste heat boiler, 30<sup>K</sup> steam is generated and it is sent to feed water plant. A part of generated steam is consumed for heating the melting pit.

The reactor is composed of 4 catalyst beds and each catalyst bed inlet temperature is controlled by injection of cold air or by heat exchanging with combustion air.

More than 99% of SO<sub>2</sub> is converted to SO<sub>3</sub> in the reactor and effluent of reactor, that is SO<sub>3</sub> mixture, is sent to absorbing tower and drying tower is pulled out, that is the products.

Produced H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is sent to sulphuric acid tank. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is mainly consumed to produce ammonium sulphate, but a portion of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is being marketed carried by tank lorry.

#### 2-3-9 Ammonium sulphate plant (DWG NO D-109 A & B)

In this plant NH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is reacted and produced the ammonium sulphate. NH<sub>3</sub> from urea synthesis plant and ammonia synthesis plant is reacted with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> from sulphuric acid in the saturator.

When urea plant is not working, liquid NH<sub>3</sub> is sent from ammonia plant directly to the evaporator in this plant and evaporated and consumed to produce ammonium sulphate.

Ammonium sulphate formed in the saturator is sent to centrifuge by pump. Water eliminated ammonium sulphate is then dried by rotary drier. The dried products is bagged and carried out from factory.

2-4 Organization of factory

The number of person in Mae Moh factory is 567. as tabled on next page.

The working of operation is 3 shift by 4 groups. The working time cycle is 8<sup>00</sup> ~ 16<sup>00</sup>, 16<sup>00</sup> ~ 24<sup>00</sup>, 0<sup>00</sup> ~ 8<sup>00</sup>.

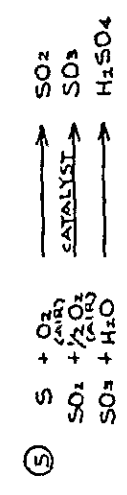
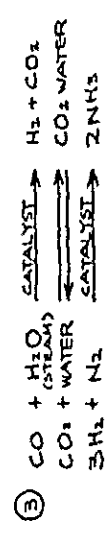
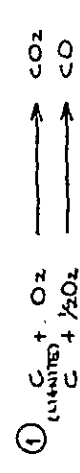
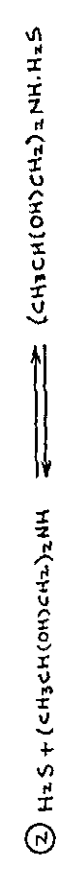
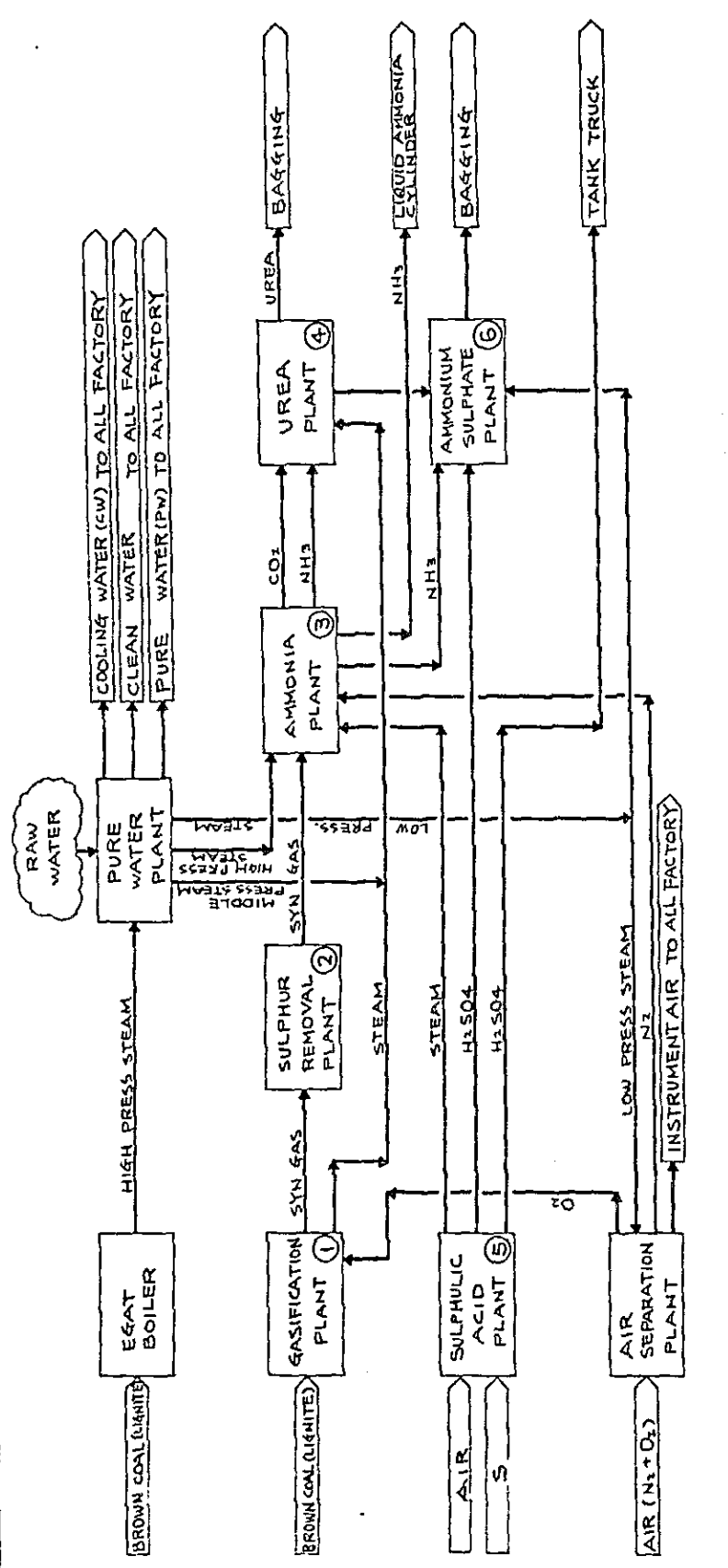
Each plant has own maintenance team which is maintain the rotating machine and repairing the small equipment.

Engineers have 3 ~ 4 years experience and managers of operation section have been working in this factory 7 ~ 12 years long.

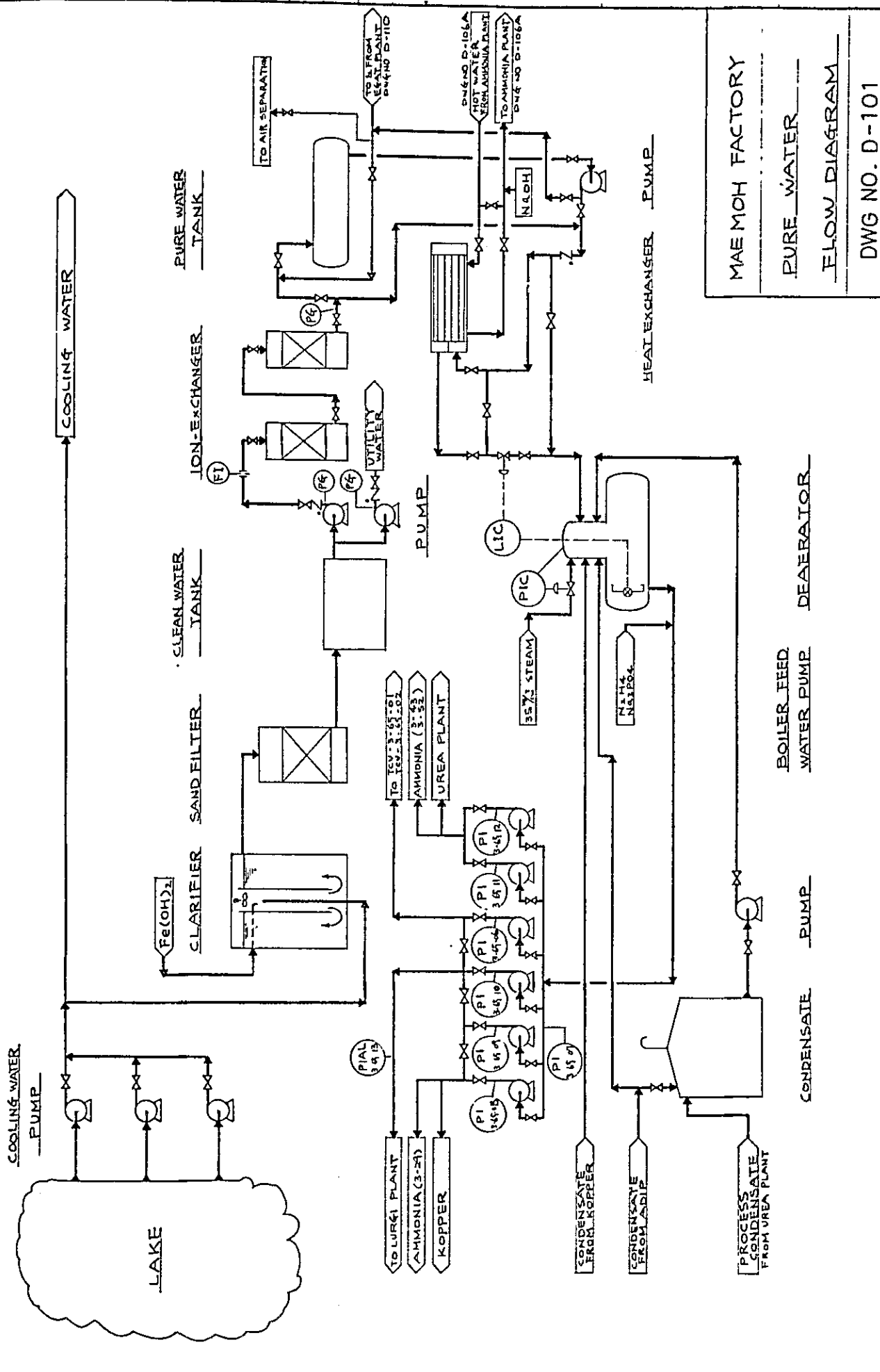
Organization of Mae Moh factory

Factory Manager

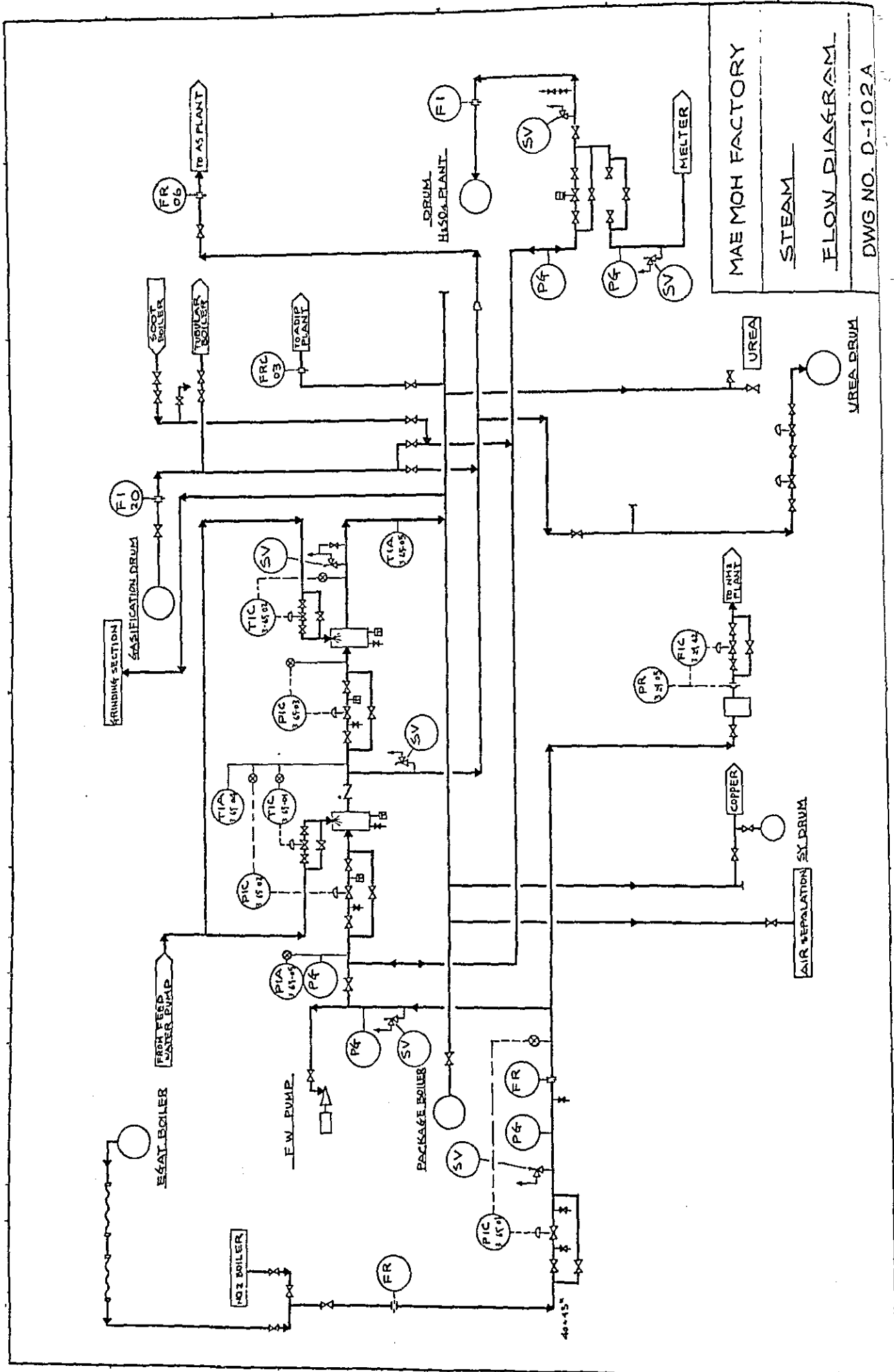
| section position | Operation sections |          |     |         |      |             | Auxiliary sections |             |               |         |               | General affairs |            |         | Total |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|-----|---------|------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|
|                  | Boiler             | Air Sep. | Gas | Ammonia | Urea | Amm. Sulph. | Utility            | Labo-ratory | Elect. Instr. | Machine | Prod. Control | Account.        | Perso-nnel | Medical |       |
| manager          | 1                  | 1        | 1   | (1)     | (1)  | 1           | 1                  | 1           | 1             | 1       | 1             | 1               | 1          | -       | 10    |
| enginner         | 1                  | -        | -   | 1       | 1    | -           | -                  | -           | 2             | 1       | 1             | -               | -          | -       | 9     |
| assist. manager  | 1                  | 1        | 3   | 2       | 2    | 4           | 2                  | 3           | 2             | -       | 2             | 2               | 1          | -       | 23    |
| workers          | 42                 | 22       | 58  | 37      | 31   | 43          | 40                 | 51          | 67            | 4       | 50            | 53              | 6          | 6       | 525   |
| Total            | 45                 | 24       | 62  | 40      | 35   | 48          | 42                 | 55          | 72            | 6       | 53            | 55              | 6          | 6       | 567   |
|                  | 296                |          |     |         |      |             | 157                |             |               |         |               | 114             |            |         | 567   |



M A E M O H F A C T O R Y  
 F L O W D I A G R A M  
 ( C O V E R A L L )  
 D W G . N O . 0 . - 7 0 0



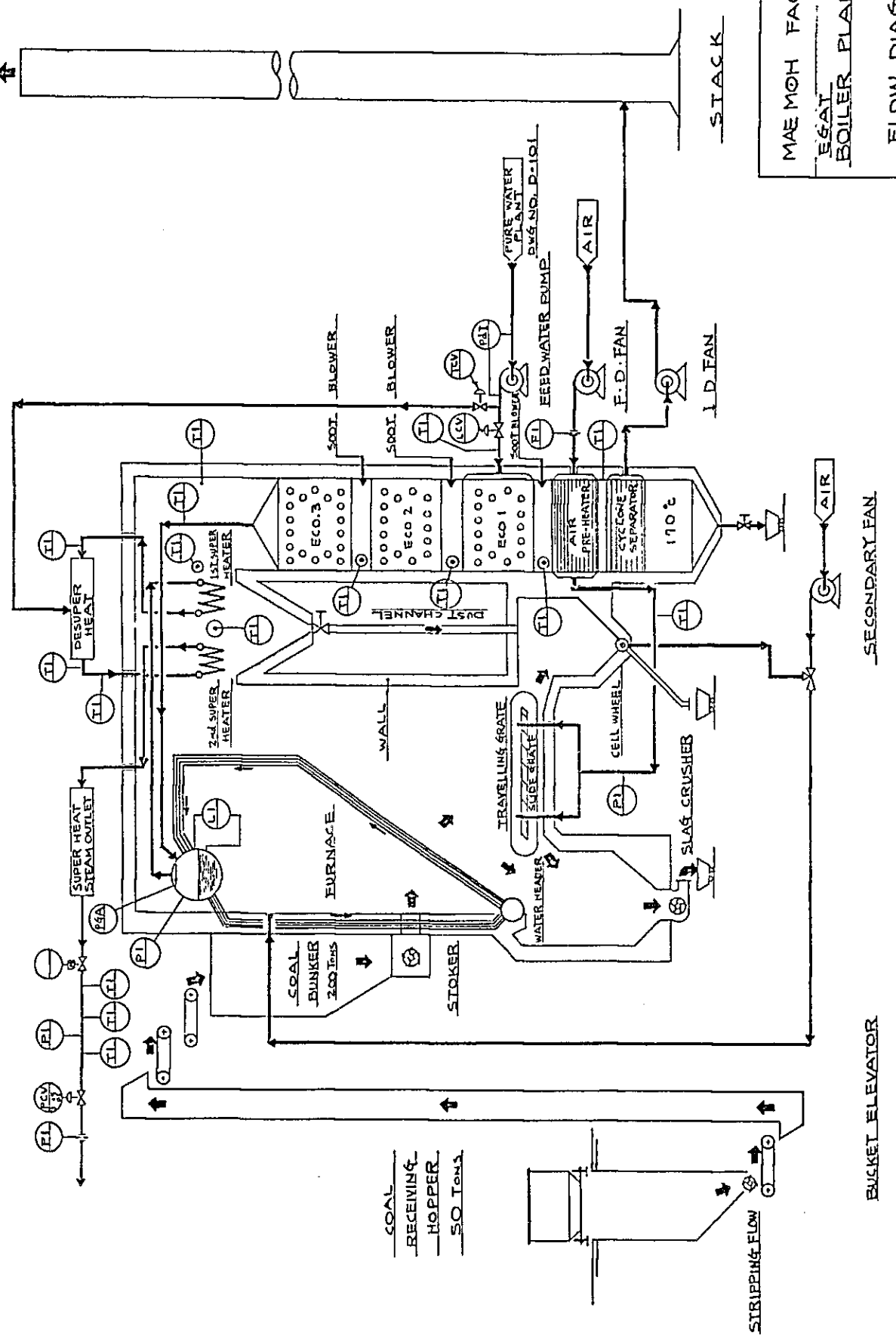
MAE MOH FACTORY  
 PURE WATER  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-101



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 STEAM  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-102A

15-7-58  
MAE MOH BOILER PLANT

FLUE GAS OUTLET



PURE WATER PLANT  
PWG NO. D-101  
FEED WATER PUMP  
AIR  
F.D. FAN  
I.D. FAN  
BLOWER  
BLOWER  
SOOT. BLOWER  
SOOT. BLOWER  
WATER HEATER  
TRAVELLING GRATE  
SLAG CRUSHER  
CELL WHEEL  
WALL

STACK

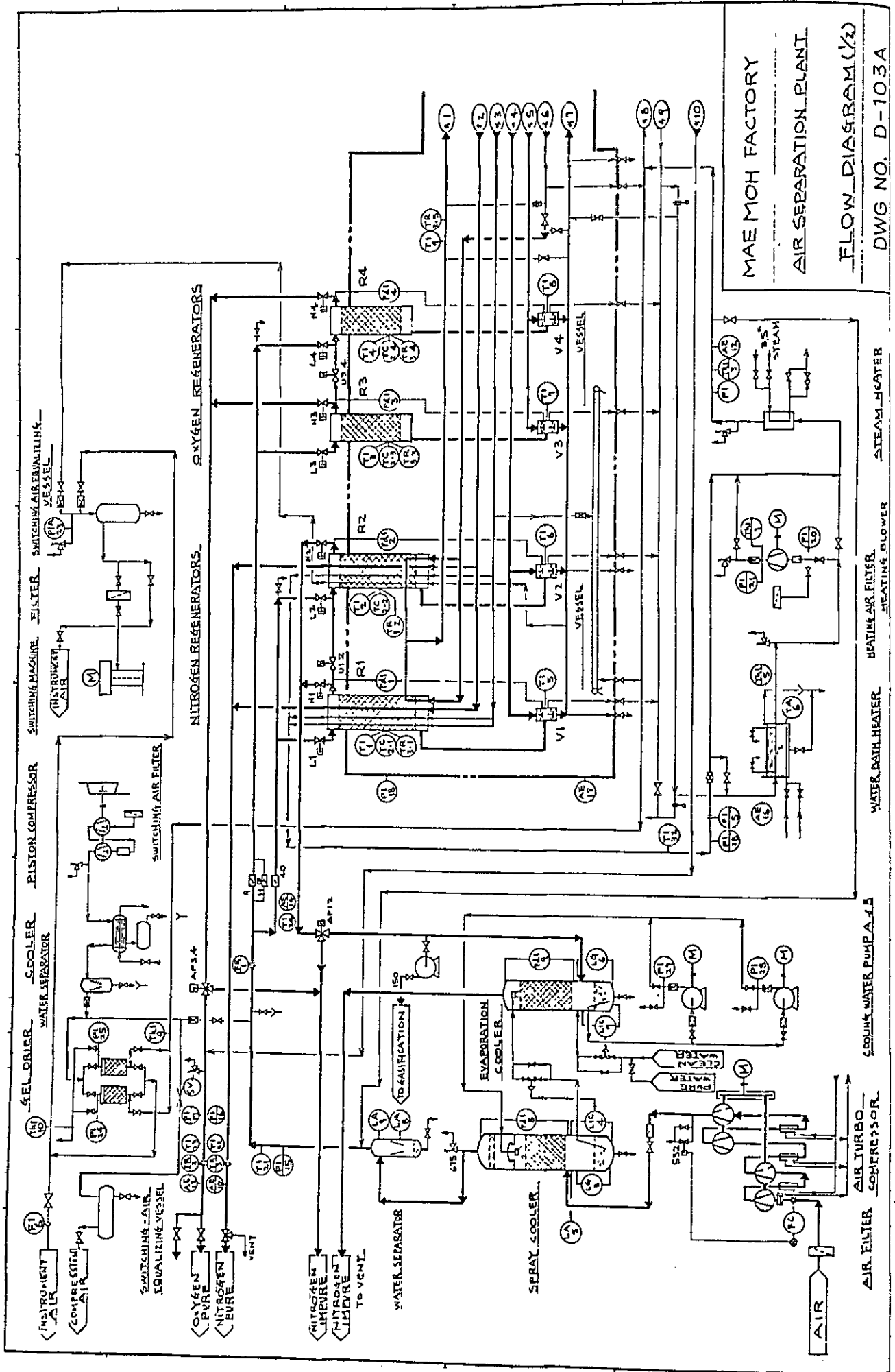
SECONDARY FAN

BUCKET ELEVATOR

COAL  
RECEIVING  
HOPPER  
50 TONS

STRIPPING FLOW

MAE MOH FACTORY  
BOILER PLANT  
FLOW DIAGRAM  
DWG NO. D-102B



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 AIR SEPARATION PLANT  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (1/2)  
 DWG NO. D-103A

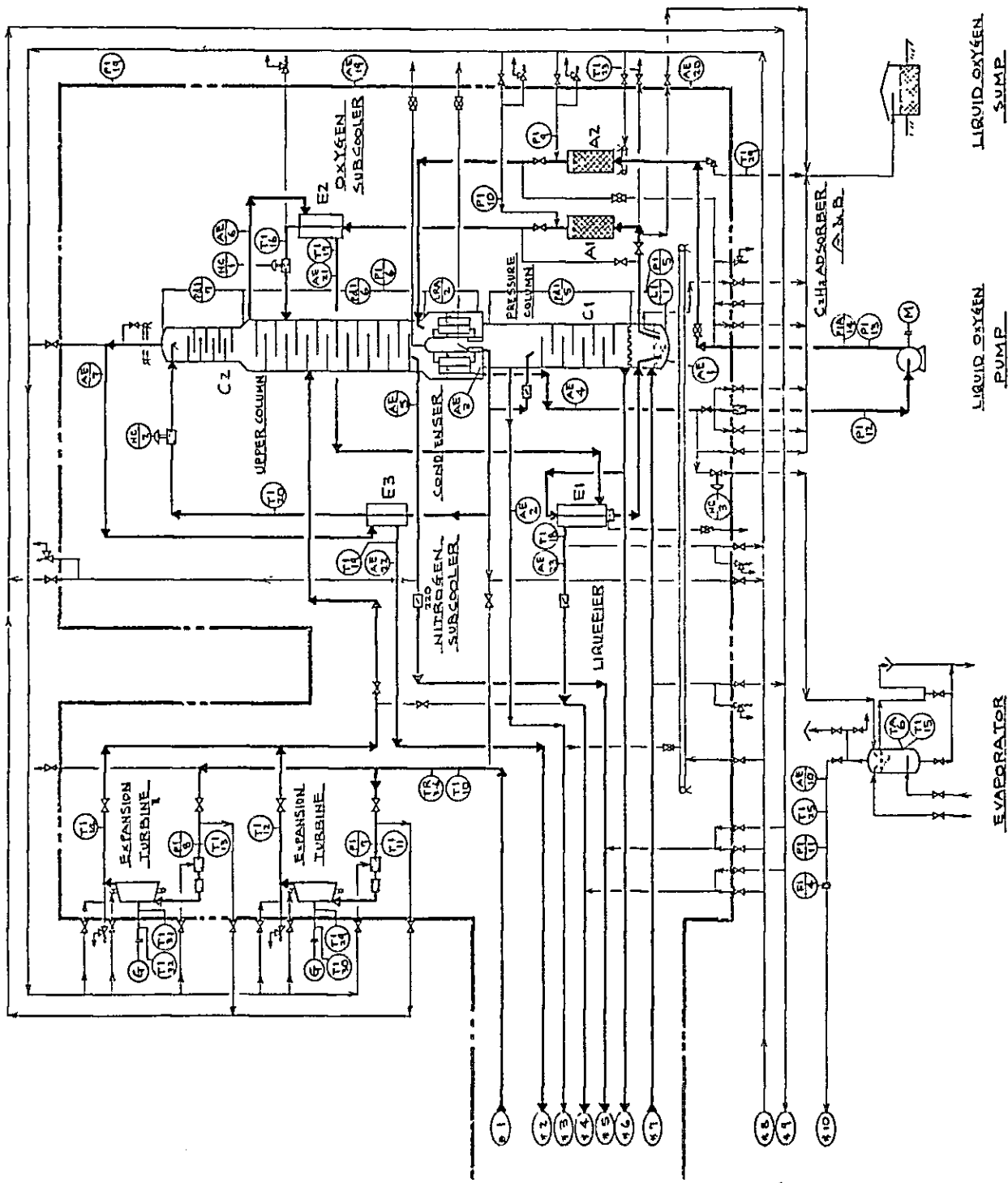
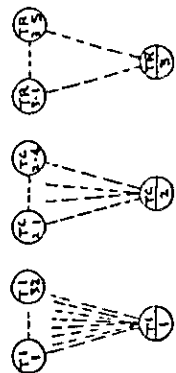


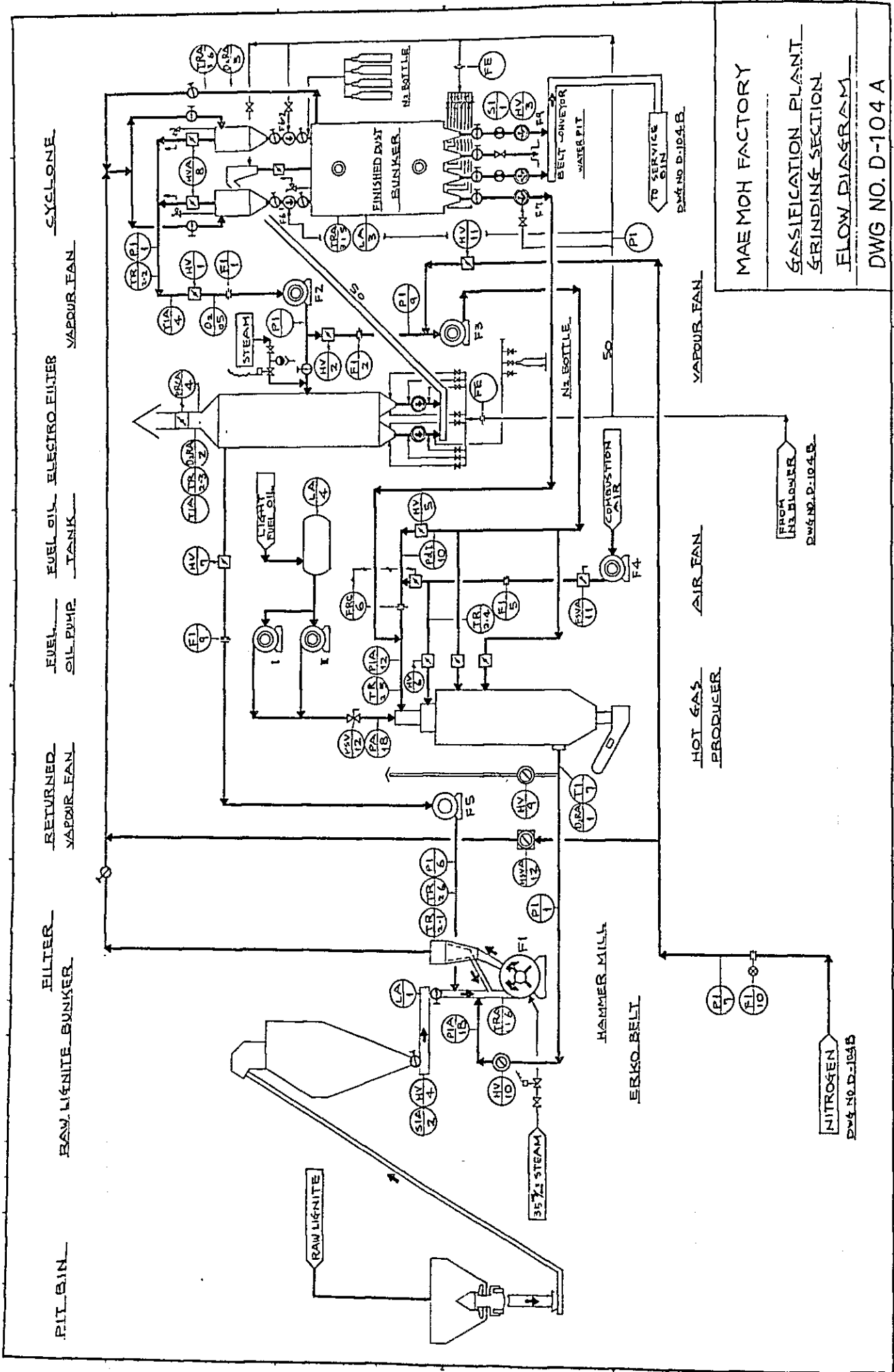
MAE MOH FACTORY

AIR SEPARATION PLANT

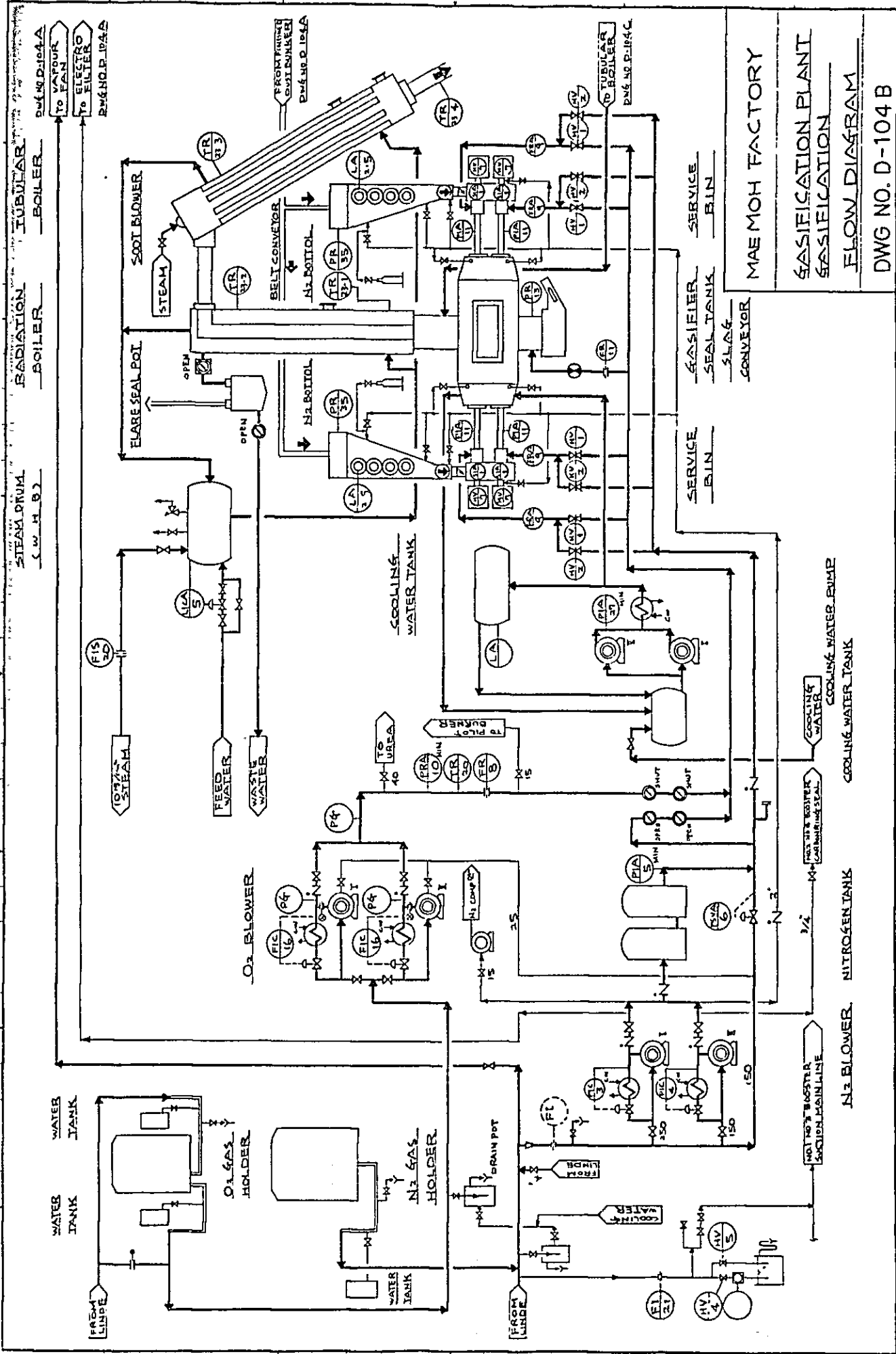
FLOW DIAGRAM (3/2)

DWG NO. D-103 B





MAE MOH FACTORY  
 GASIFICATION PLANT  
 GRINDING SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-104 A



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 GASIFICATION PLANT  
 GASIFICATION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-104 B

TUBULAR BOILER (27)

WASHER (28)

HEISEN WASHER (29)

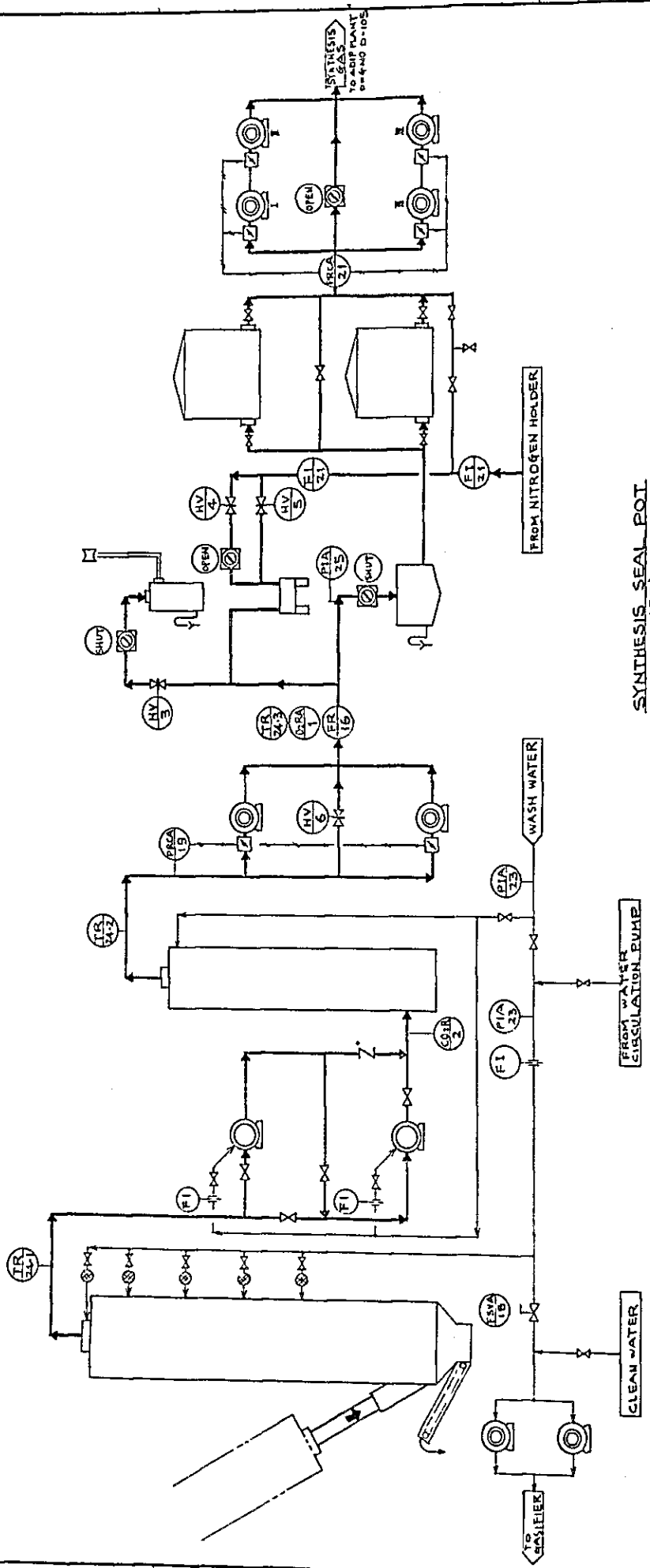
FINAL COOLER (30)

SYNTHESIS GAS-BLOWER (31)

SYNTHESIS FLARE STACK (34)  
SEAL POT (35)  
NITROGEN SEAL POT (33)

NO-REMOVAL (35)

BOOSTER (36)



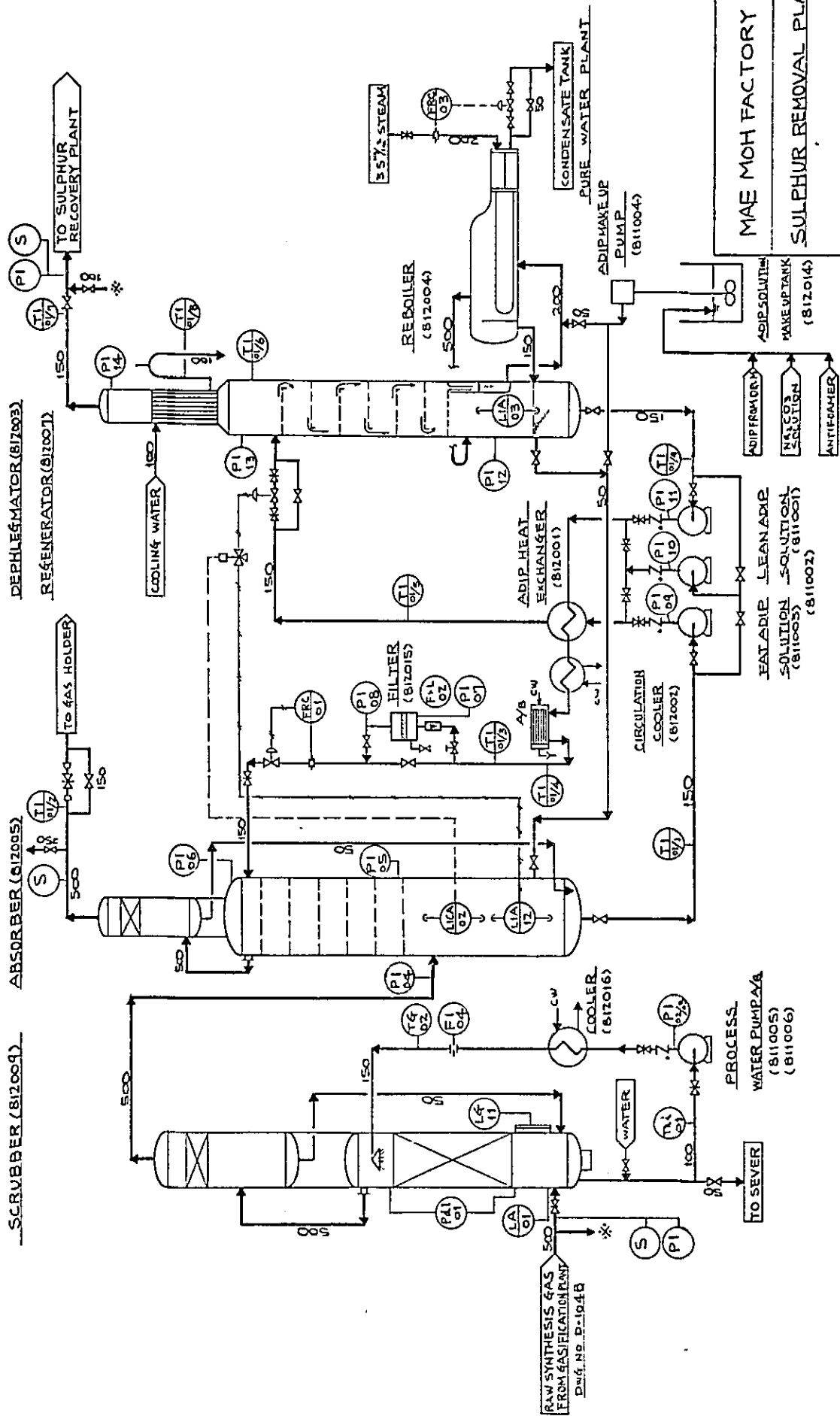
SYNTHESIS SEAL POT (33)

MAE MOH FACTORY  
 GASIFICATION PLANT  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-104C

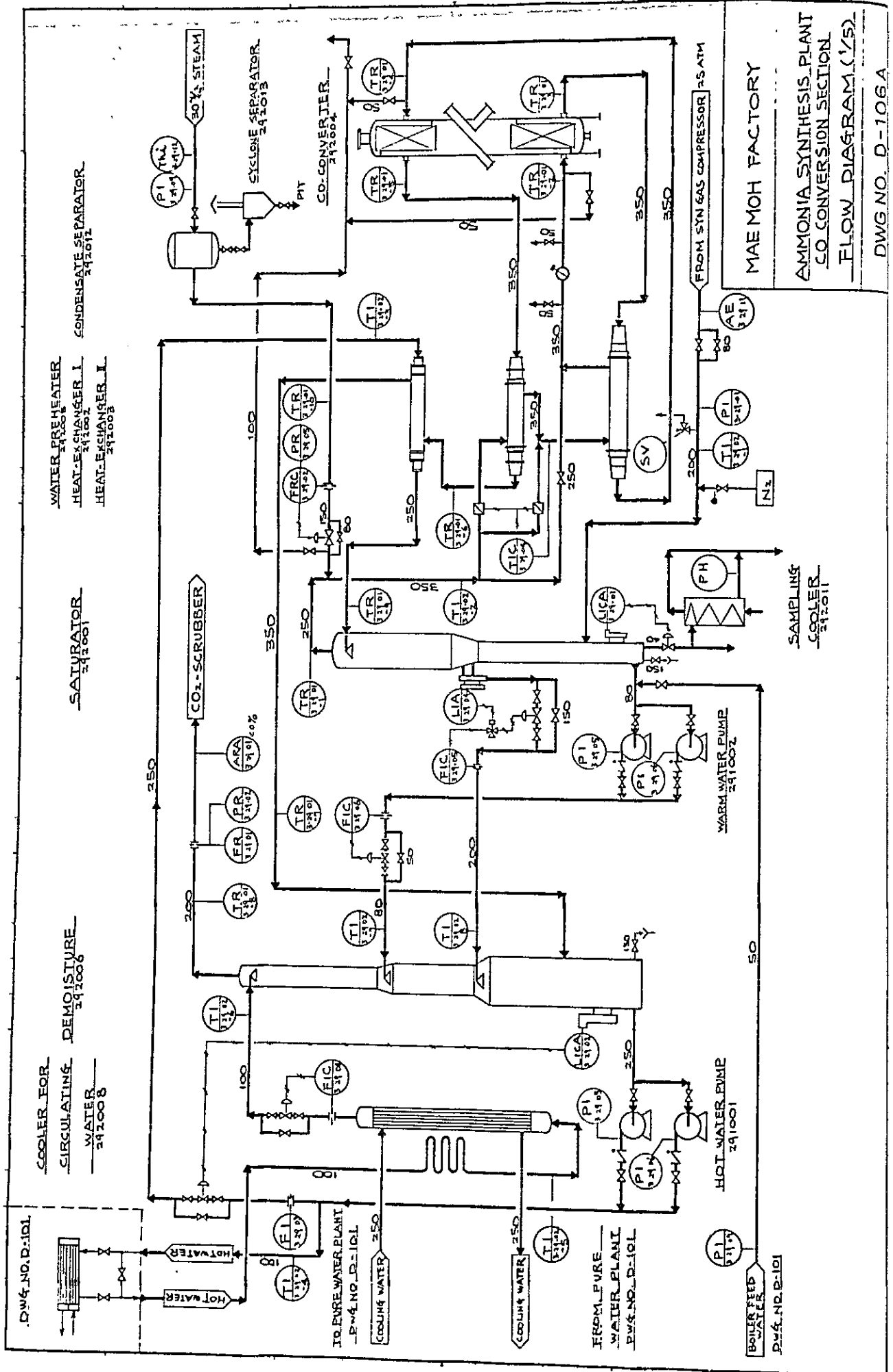
KNOCK OUT DRUM (812001)  
 SCRUBBER (812004)

ADIP ENTRAINMENT CATCHER (812012)  
 ABSORBER (812005)

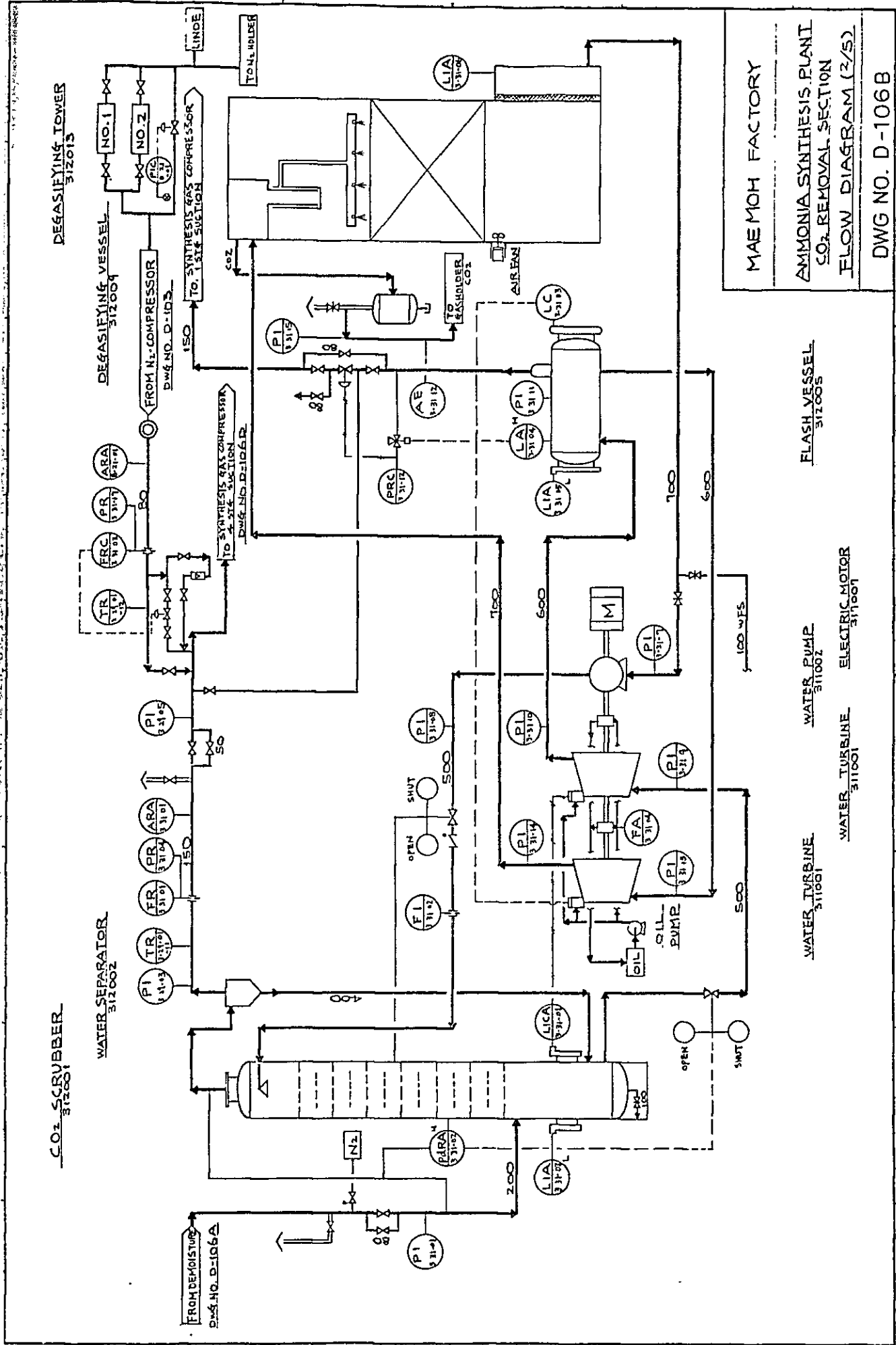
ADIP ENTRAINMENT CATCHER (812013)  
 DEPHLEGMATOR (812003)  
 REGENERATOR (812007)



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 SULPHUR REMOVAL PLANT  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-105



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 AMMONIA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 CO CONVERSION SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (1/5)  
 DWG NO. D-106A



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 AMMONIA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 CO<sub>2</sub> REMOVAL SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (2/5)  
 DWG NO. D-106B

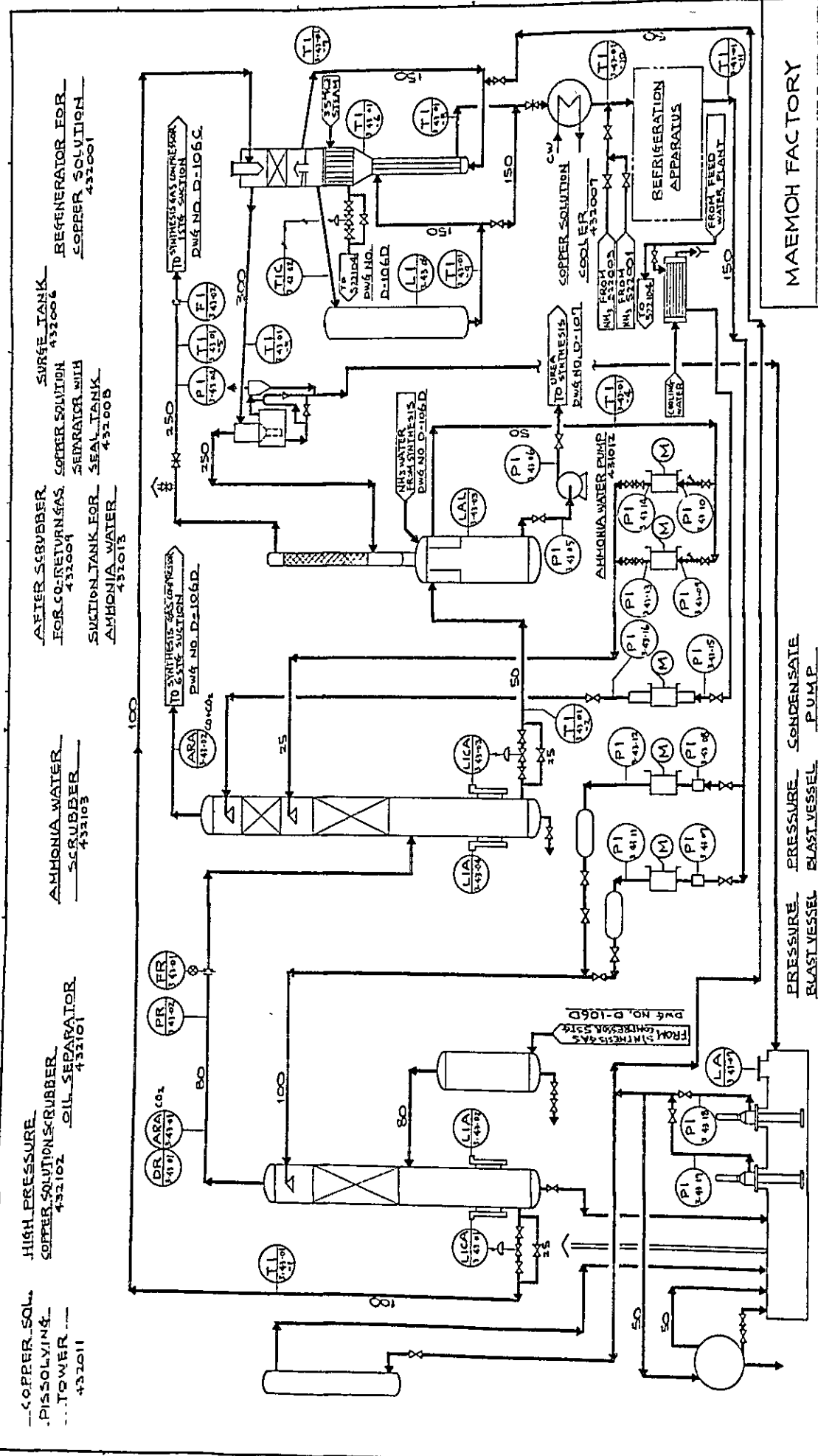
FLASH VESSEL  
 312005

WATER PUMP  
 311002

WATER TURBINE  
 311001

WATER TURBINE  
 311001

ELECTRIC MOTOR  
 311001



--COPPER SOL. DISSOLVING TOWER 432011  
 HIGH PRESSURE COPPER SOLUTION SCRUBBER 432102  
 OIL SEPARATOR 432101  
 AMMONIA WATER SCRUBBER 432103  
 AFTER SCRUBBER FOR CO. RETURN GAS SEPARATOR WITH AMMONIA WATER 432008  
 SURGE TANK FOR COPPER SOLUTION 432004  
 SEAL TANK FOR AMMONIA WATER 432009  
 REGENERATOR FOR COPPER SOLUTION 432001

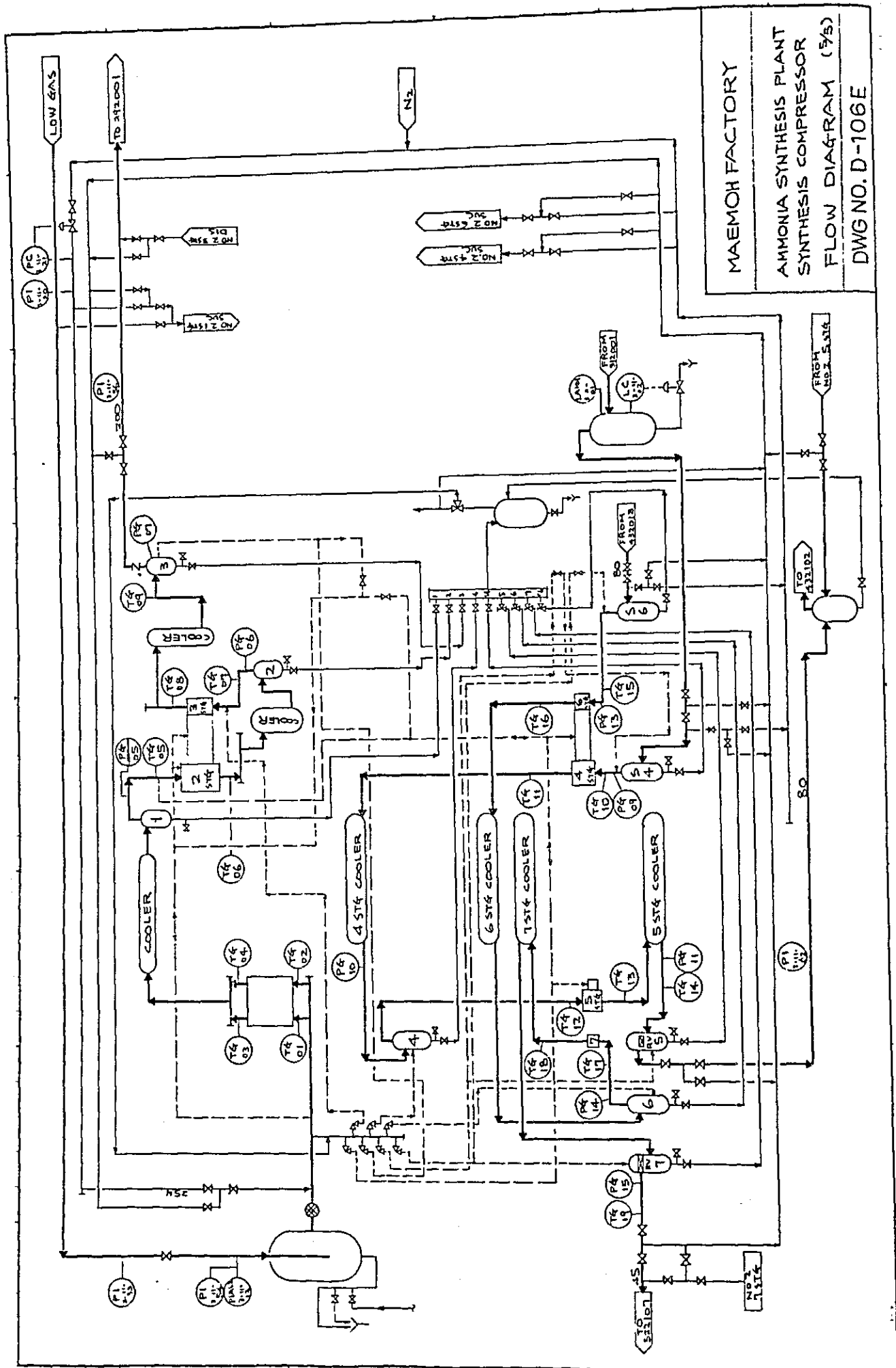
MAEMOH FACTORY  
 AMMONIA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 FINAL PURIFICATION SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (3/5)  
 DWG NO. D-106C

TO SYNTHESIS GAS COMPRESSOR PLANT SECTION DWG NO. D-106C  
 TO USE IN SYNTHESIS PLANT SECTION  
 FROM CONDENSER 432104  
 TO SYNTHESIS GAS COMPRESSOR PLANT SECTION DWG NO. D-106C  
 FROM FEED WATER PLANT

SOLLECTING TANK 432010  
 COPPER SOLUTION PUMP 432011  
 PRESSURE VESSEL 432104  
 CONDENSATE PUMP 432103  
 COPPER SOLUTION PUMP 432011  
 HIGH PRESSURE AMMONIA WATER PUMP 432008



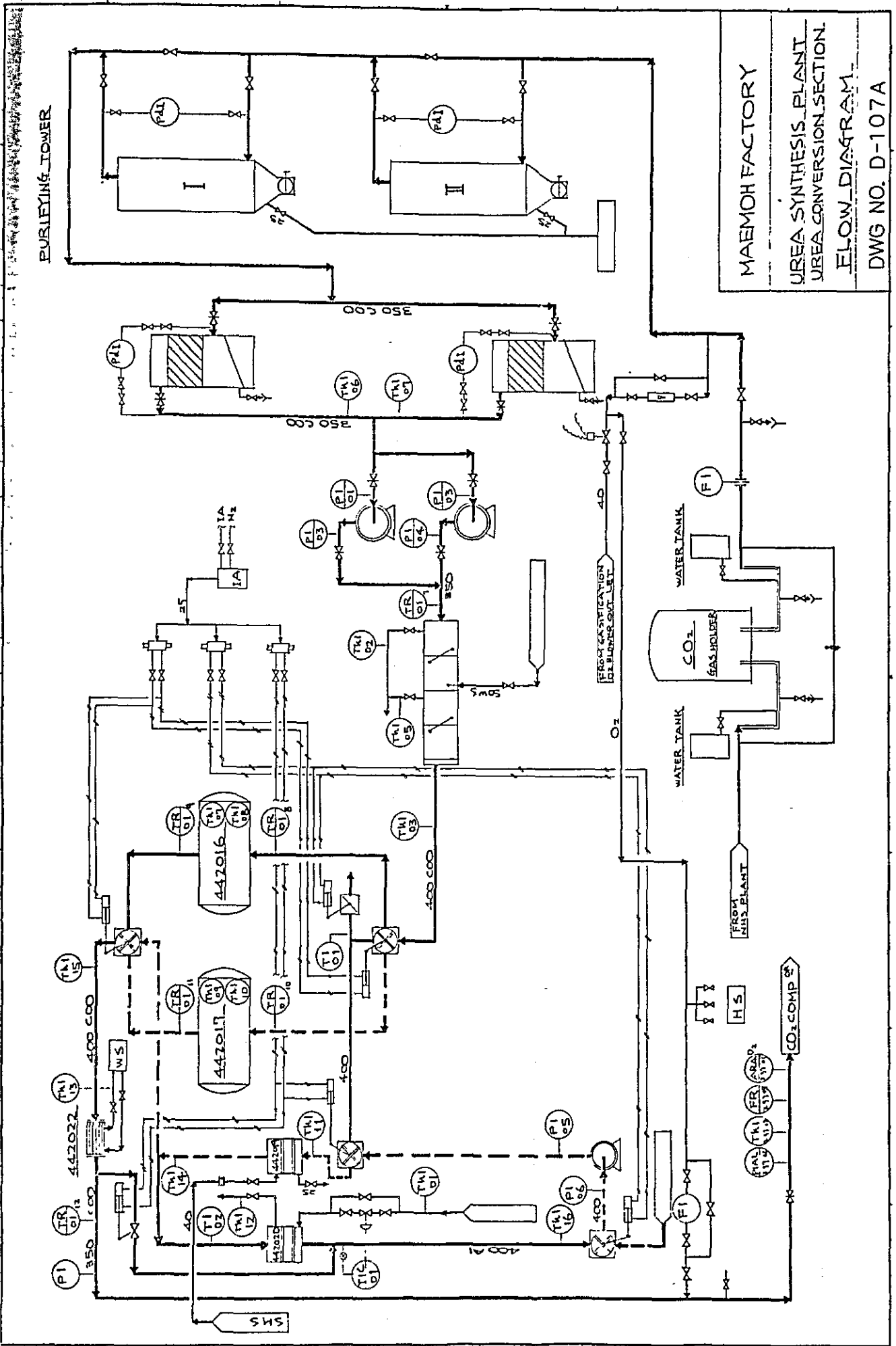




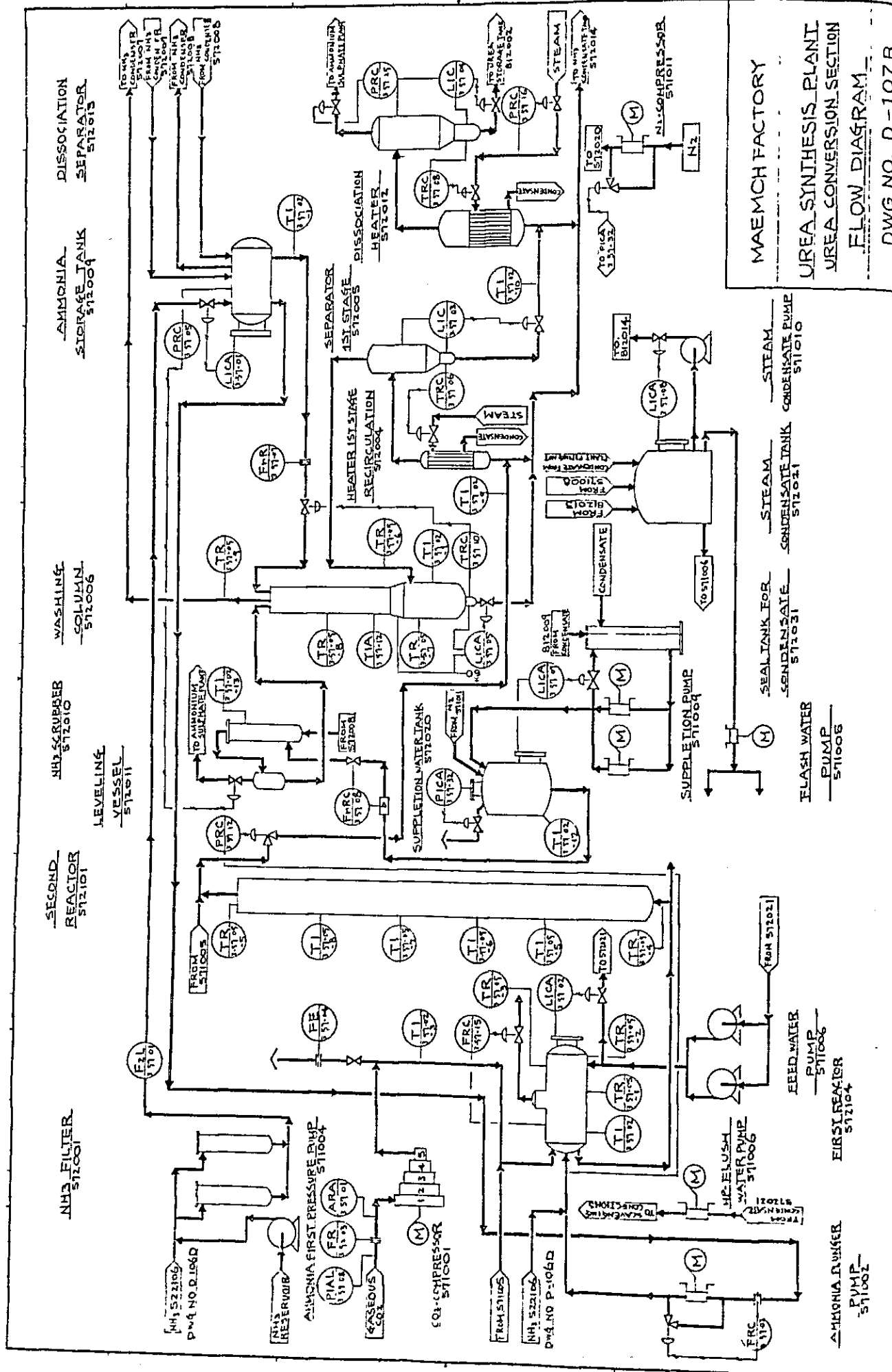
MAEMOH FACTORY

AMMONIA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 SYNTHESIS COMPRESSOR  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (5/5)

DWG NO. D-106E



MAEMOH FACTORY  
 UREA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 UREA CONVERSION SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-107A



MAEMCH FACTORY  
 UREA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
 UREA CONVERSION SECTION  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-107B

PRILLING TOWER

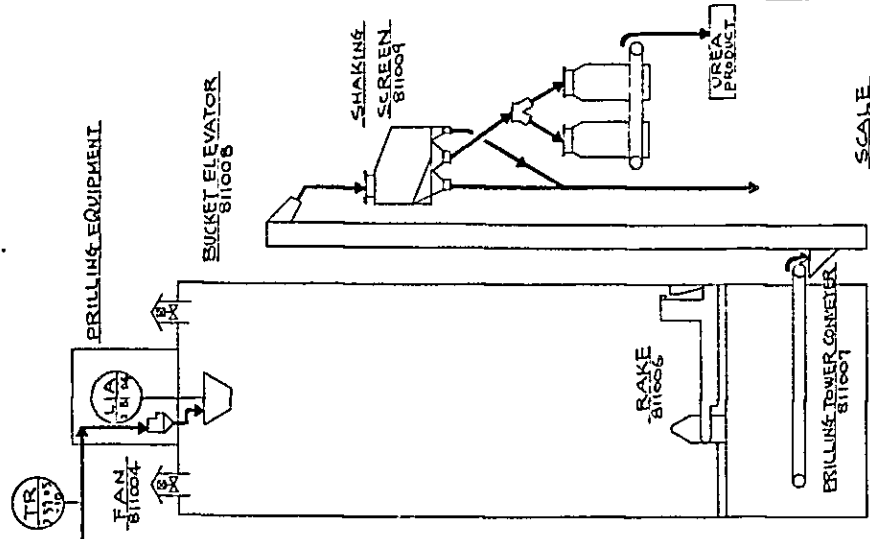
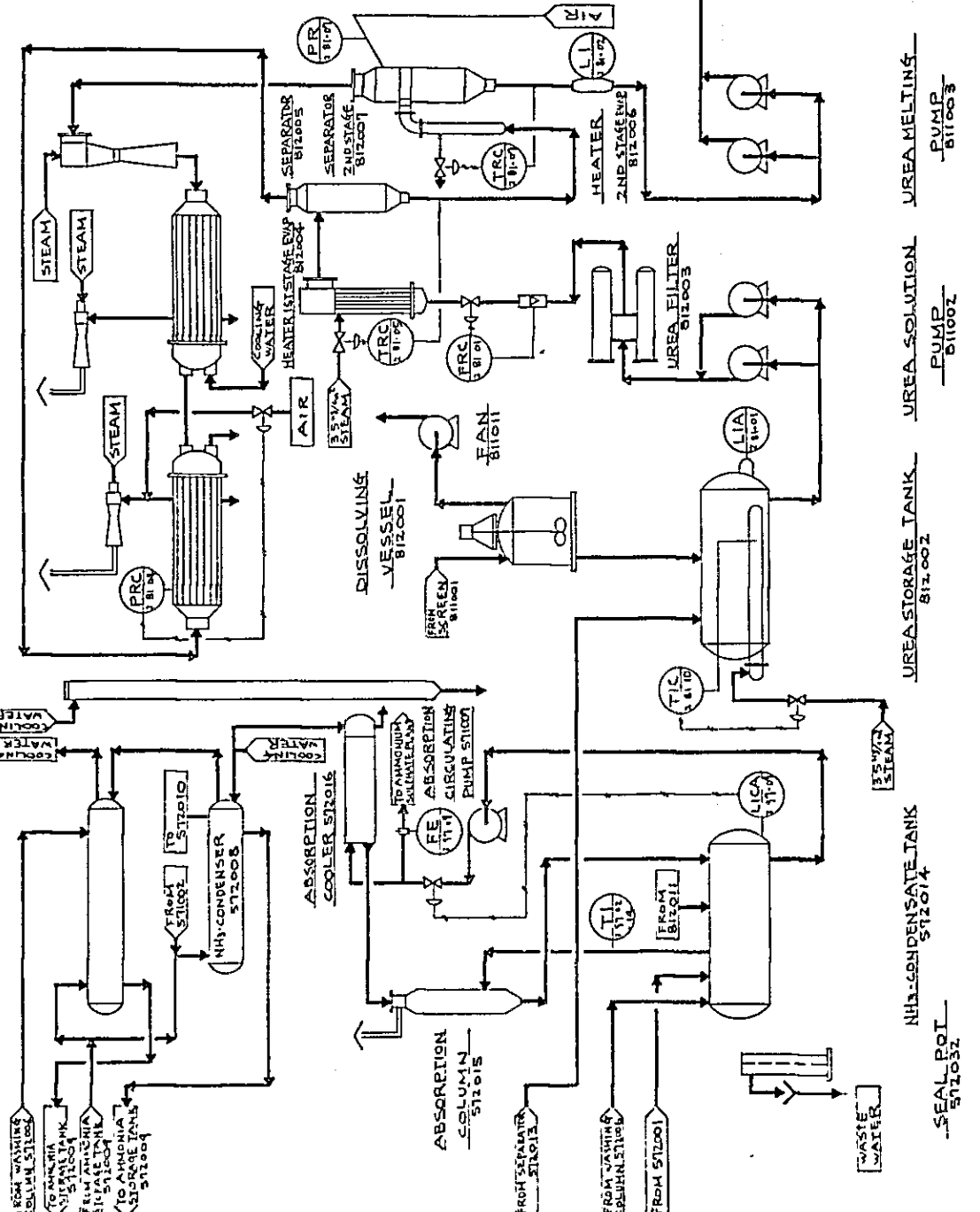
EJECTOR  
812008

EJECTOR  
CONDENSATOR 2ND STAGE EVAP  
812009

EJECTOR  
CONDENSATOR  
812011

WASTE STEAM  
CONDENSER  
812033

NH<sub>3</sub>-CONDENSER  
812007



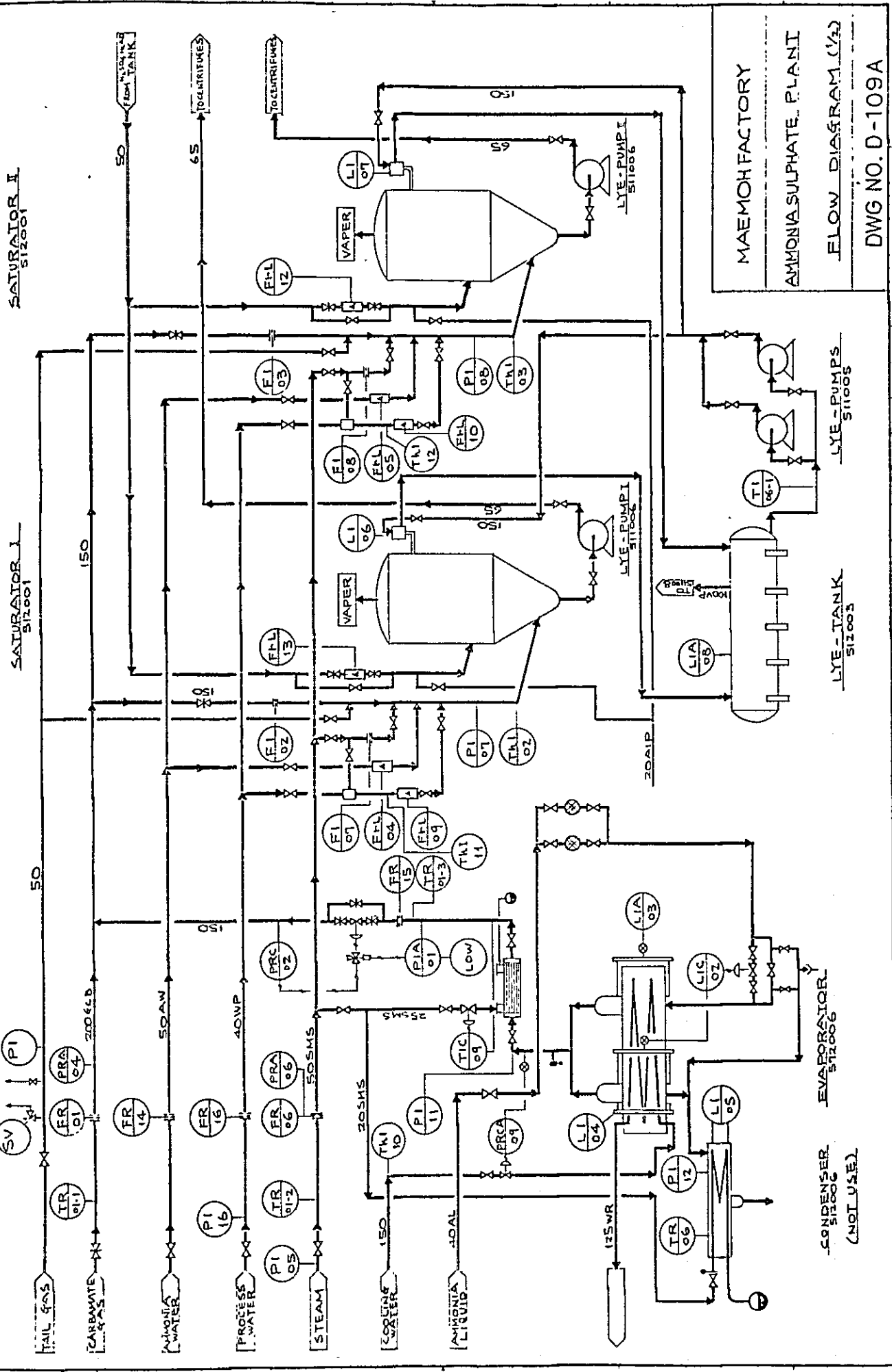
MAEMOH FACTORY

UREA SYNTHESIS PLANT  
UREA PRILLING SECTION  
FLOW DIAGRAM (2/2)

DWG NO. D-107C



Fig. No. 101



SATURATOR I  
512001

SATURATOR II  
512002

MAEMOH FACTORY  
 AMMONIA SULPHATE PLANT  
 FLOW DIAGRAM (1/2)  
 DWG NO. D-109A

LIE-PUMPS  
511006

LYE-TANK  
512003

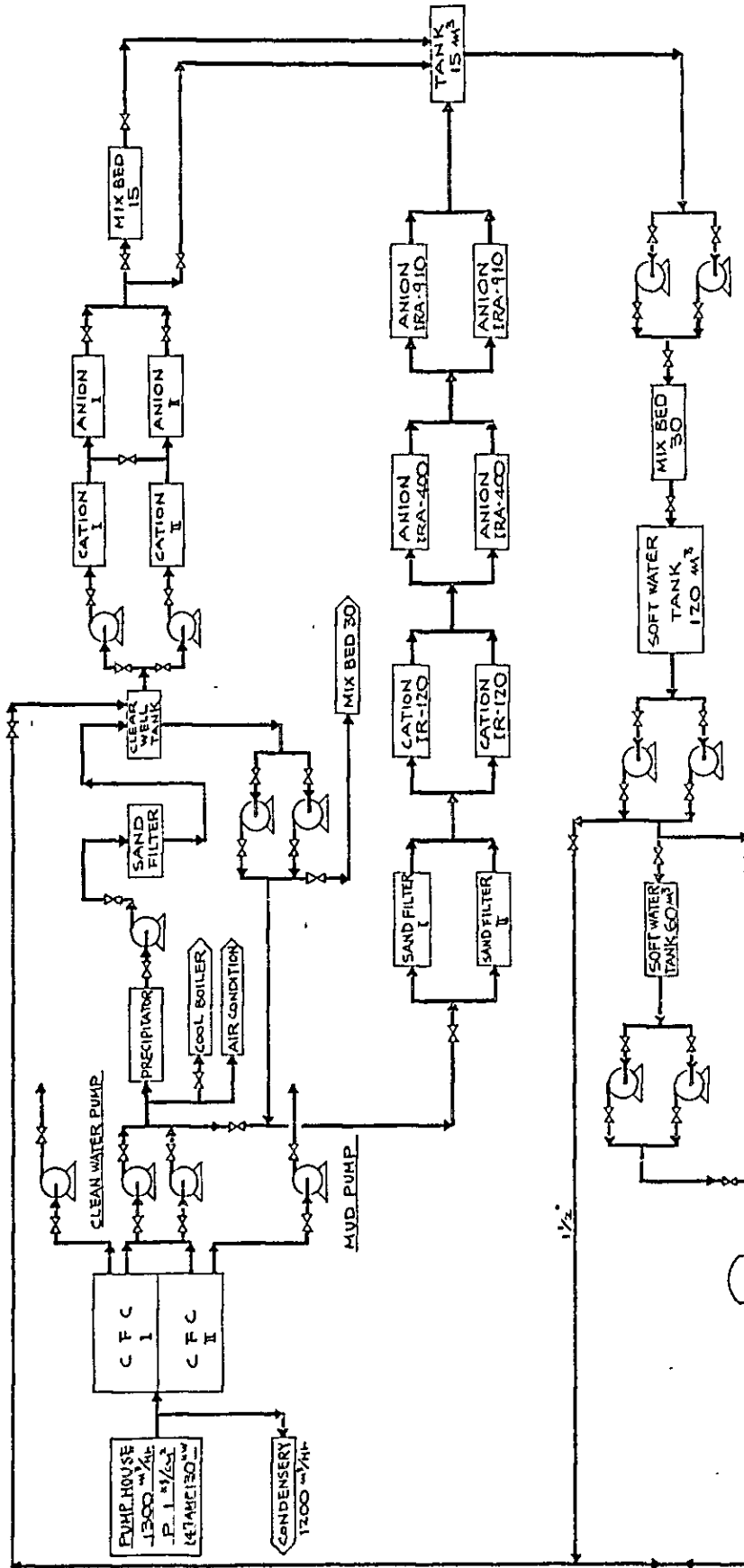
EVAPORATOR  
512006

CONDENSER  
512006  
(NOT USED)



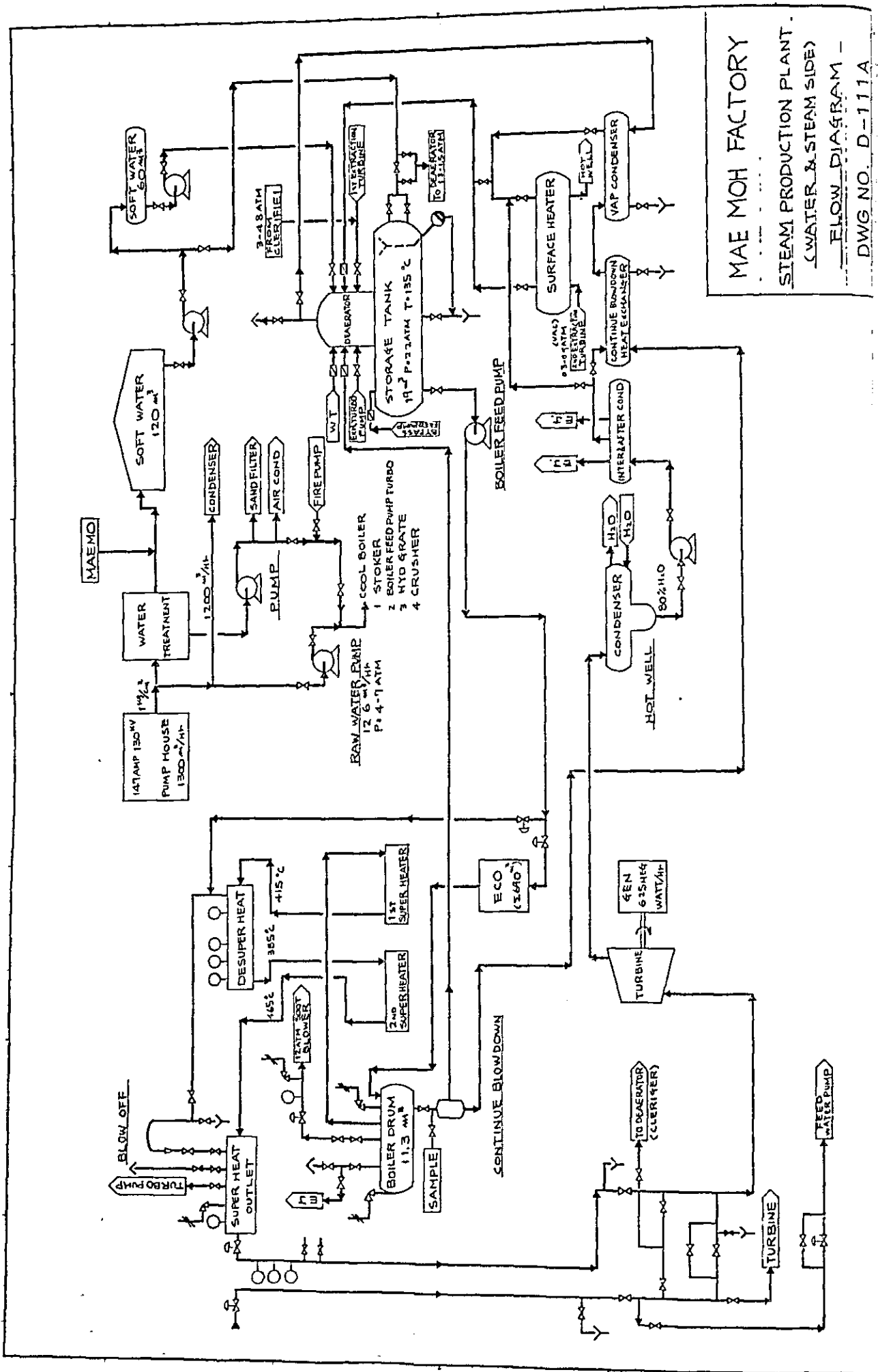


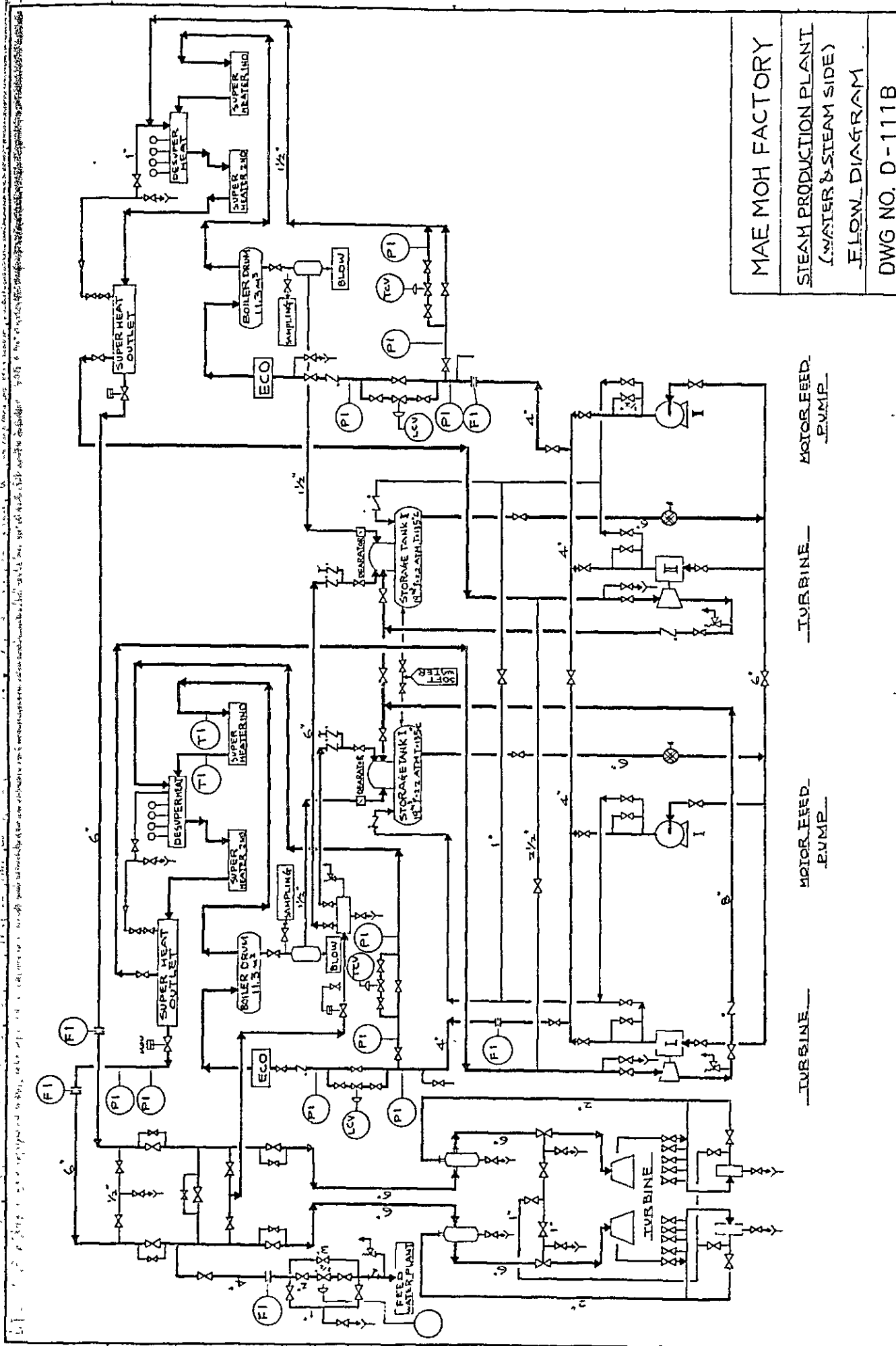
TRANSFER PUMP PERMILLI PUMP



MAE MOH FACTORY  
 STEAM PRODUCTION PLANT  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-110

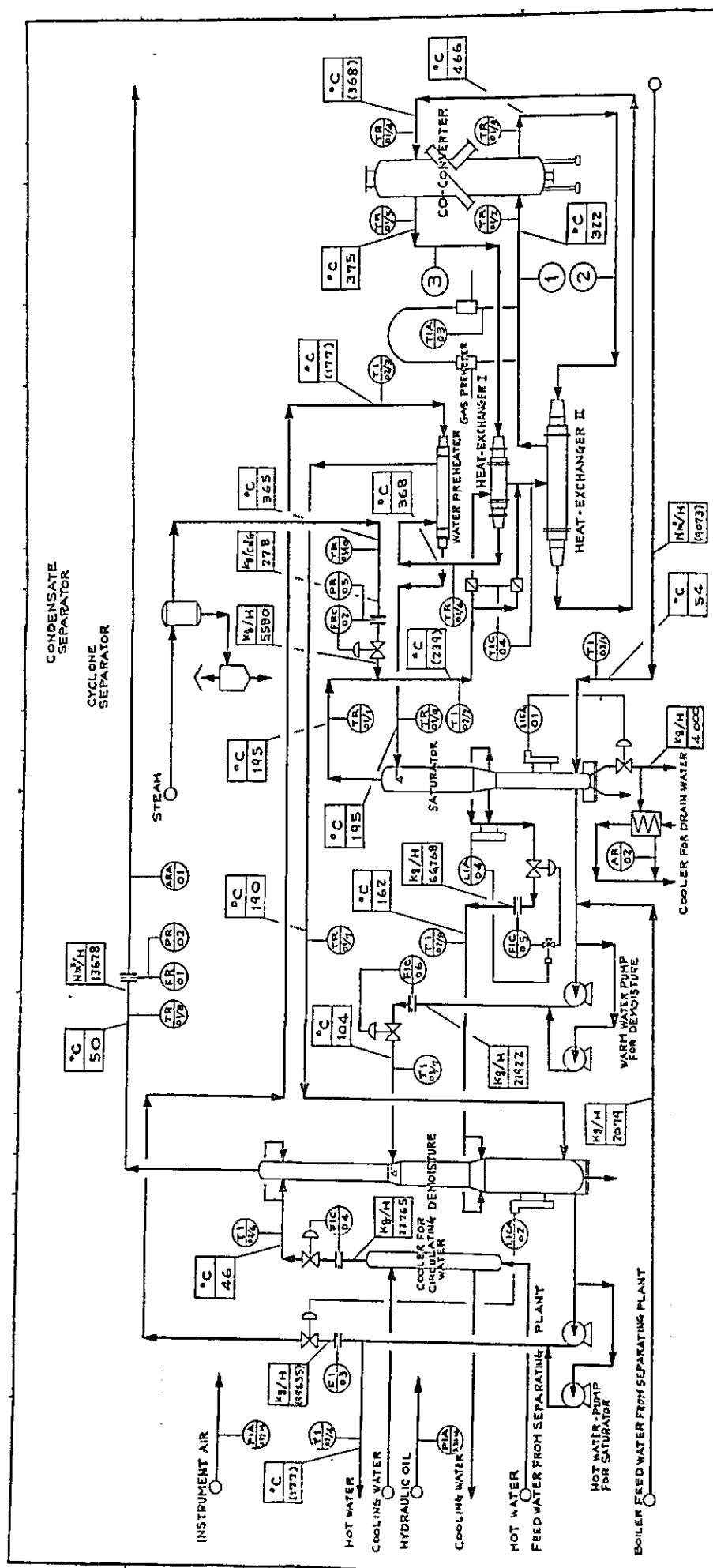
SOFT PUMP





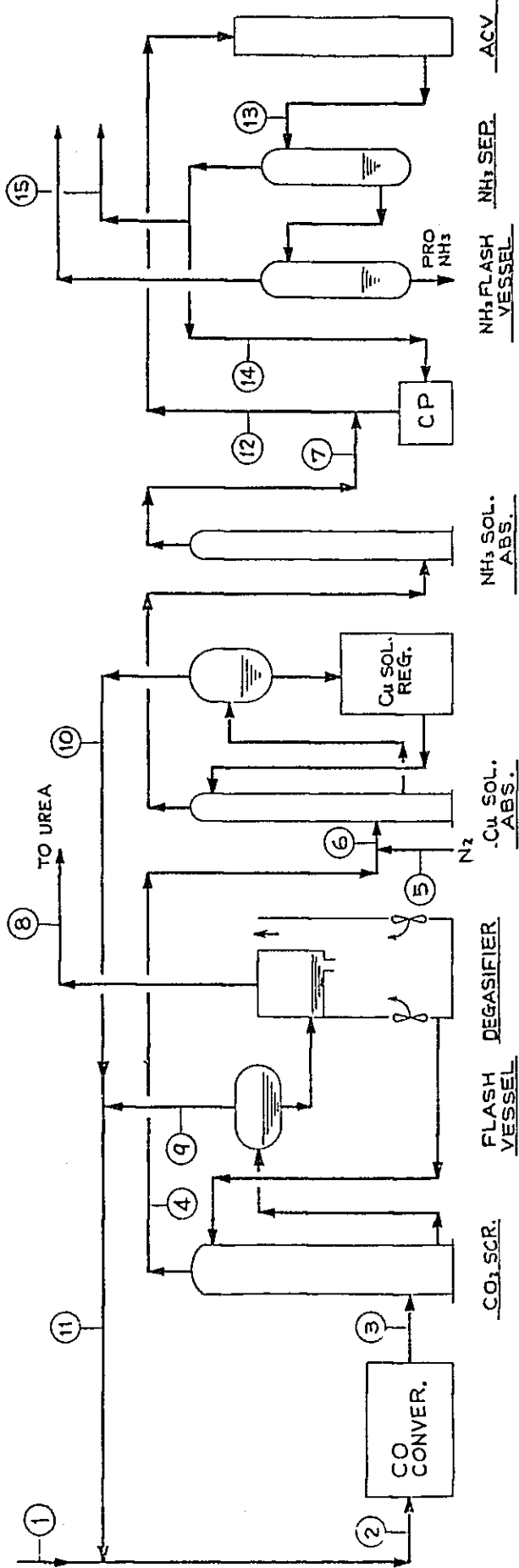
MAE MOH FACTORY  
 STEAM PRODUCTION PLANT  
 (WATER & STEAM SIDE)  
 FLOW DIAGRAM  
 DWG NO. D-111B

—TURBINE— MOTOR FEED PUMP  
 —TURBINE— MOTOR FEED PUMP



|                  | CCV #1 INLET ① |               | CCV #1 OUTLET ② |               | CCV #2 OUTLET ③ |               |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                  | Nm³/H          | DRY/WET VOL % | Nm³/H           | DRY/WET VOL % | Nm³/H           | DRY/WET VOL % |
| CO <sub>2</sub>  | 1167           | 130/ 42       | 5432            | 40.9/ 195     | 5706            | 421/ 20.5     |
| CO               | 4824           | 53.5/ 17.3    | 559             | 4.2/ 2.0      | 285             | 2.1/ 1.0      |
| H <sub>2</sub>   | 2671           | 29.7/ 9.6     | 6936            | 52.2/ 24.9    | 7210            | 53.2/ 25.9    |
| N <sub>2</sub>   | 271            | 2.9/ 1.0      | 271             | 2.1/ 1.0      | 271             | 2.0/ 1.0      |
| Ar               | 81             | 0.9/ 0.3      | 81              | 0.6/ 0.3      | 81              | 0.6/ 0.3      |
| H <sub>2</sub> O | 18856          | - / 67.6      | 14591           | - / 52.3      | 14317           | - / 51.3      |
| TOTAL            | 27870          | 1000/100.0    | 27870           | 1000/1000     | 27870           | 1000/1000     |

MAE MOH FACTORY  
 MASS BALANCE  
 CCV SECTION  
 DWG. NO.

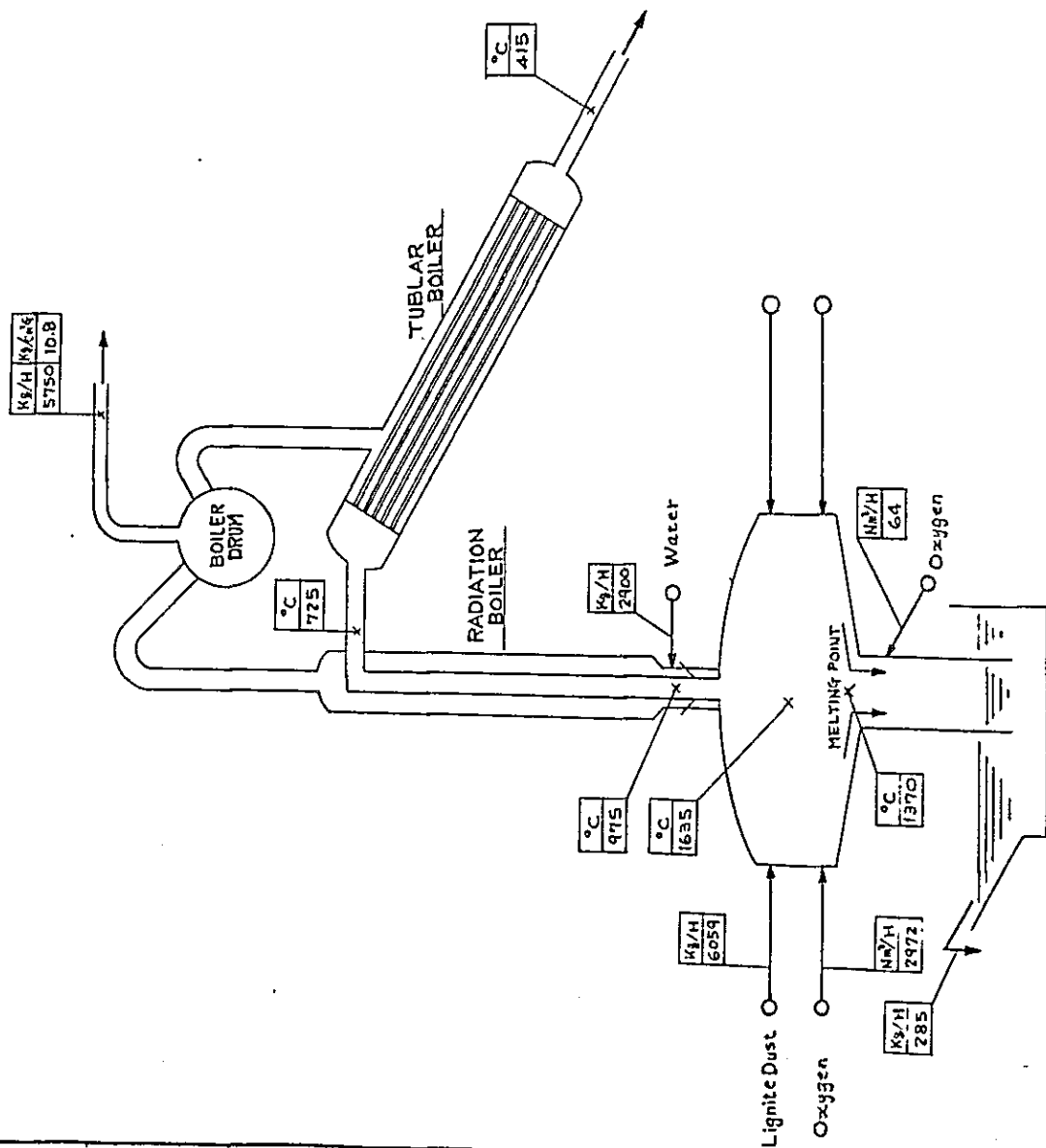


CO<sub>2</sub> SCR. FLASH VESSEL DEGASIFIER NH<sub>3</sub> SOL. ABS. NH<sub>3</sub> FLASH VESSEL NH<sub>3</sub> SEP. ACV

|                 | 1                  |      | 2                  |      | 3                  |     | 4                  |      | 5                  |   | 6                  |      | 7                  |   | 8                  |      | 9                  |   |     |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|------|--------------------|---|--------------------|------|--------------------|---|--------------------|------|--------------------|---|-----|
|                 | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %   | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | % | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | % | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | % |     |
| CO <sub>2</sub> | 668                | 8.3  | 1167               | 13.0 | 5706               | 421 |                    |      |                    |   |                    |      |                    |   |                    |      |                    |   | 499 |
| CO              | 4539               | 56.4 | 4824               | 53.5 | 285                | 21  | 277                | 3.6  |                    |   | 277                | 2.9  |                    |   |                    |      |                    |   | 8   |
| H <sub>2</sub>  | 2501               | 31.1 | 2671               | 29.7 | 7210               | 532 | 6997               | 9.19 |                    |   | 6997               | 7.27 |                    |   | 6997               | 7.49 |                    |   | 170 |
| N <sub>2</sub>  | 259                | 3.2  | 271                | 2.9  | 271                | 20  | 259                | 3.4  | 2008               |   | 2267               | 2.36 |                    |   | 2267               | 2.43 |                    |   | 12  |
| Ar              | 78                 | 1.0  | 81                 | 0.9  | 81                 | 0.6 | 78                 | 1.1  |                    |   | 78                 | 0.8  |                    |   | 78                 | 0.8  |                    |   | 3   |
| NH <sub>3</sub> |                    |      |                    |      |                    |     |                    |      |                    |   |                    |      |                    |   |                    |      |                    |   |     |
| TOTAL           | 8045               |      | 9014               |      | 13553              |     | 7611               |      | 2008               |   | 9619               |      | 9842               |   | 4166               |      | 4166               |   | 692 |

|                 | 9                  |     | 10                 |      | 11                 |      | 12                 |      | 13                 |      | 14                 |      | 15                 |   |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|---|
|                 | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %   | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | %    | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | % |
| CO <sub>2</sub> | 721                | 1.2 | 499                | 5.15 |                    |      |                    |      |                    |      |                    |      |                    |   |
| CO              | 1.2                | 277 | 285                | 294  |                    |      |                    |      |                    |      |                    |      |                    |   |
| H <sub>2</sub>  | 246                | 1.7 | 170                | 17.6 | 31444              | 590  | 26098              | 52.5 | 24447              | 55.7 | 1651               | 7.46 |                    |   |
| N <sub>2</sub>  | 1.7                | 0.4 | 12                 | 1.2  | 13160              | 24.7 | 1378               | 2.29 | 10893              | 24.8 | 485                | 21.9 |                    |   |
| Ar              | 0.4                |     | 3                  | 0.3  | 3771               | 7.1  | 3771               | 7.6  | 3693               | 8.4  | 78                 | 3.5  |                    |   |
| NH <sub>3</sub> |                    |     |                    |      | 4884               | 9.2  | 8448               | 17.0 | 4884               | 11.1 |                    |      |                    |   |
| TOTAL           |                    |     | 969                |      | 53259              |      | 49695              |      | 43917              |      | 2214               |      |                    |   |

MAE MOH FACTORY  
 MASS BALANCE  
 GAS PURIFICATION &  
 SYNTHESIS SECTION  
 DWG.NO.



|                    | SY-GAS OUT OF GASIFIER |           |           |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                    | Nm³/H                  | DRY VOL % | WET VOL % |
| CO <sub>2</sub>    | 868                    | 10.7      | 8.6       |
| CO                 | 4658                   | 57.7      | 46.0      |
| H <sub>2</sub>     | 2102                   | 26.0      | 20.7      |
| N <sub>2</sub> +Ar | 319                    | 4.0       | 3.1       |
| CH <sub>4</sub>    | 8                      | 0.1       | 0.1       |
| H <sub>2</sub> S   | 125                    | 1.5       | 1.2       |
| H <sub>2</sub> O   | 2053                   | -         | 20.3      |
| TOTAL              | 10133                  | 100.0     | 100.0     |

FLY ASH 640 kg/H

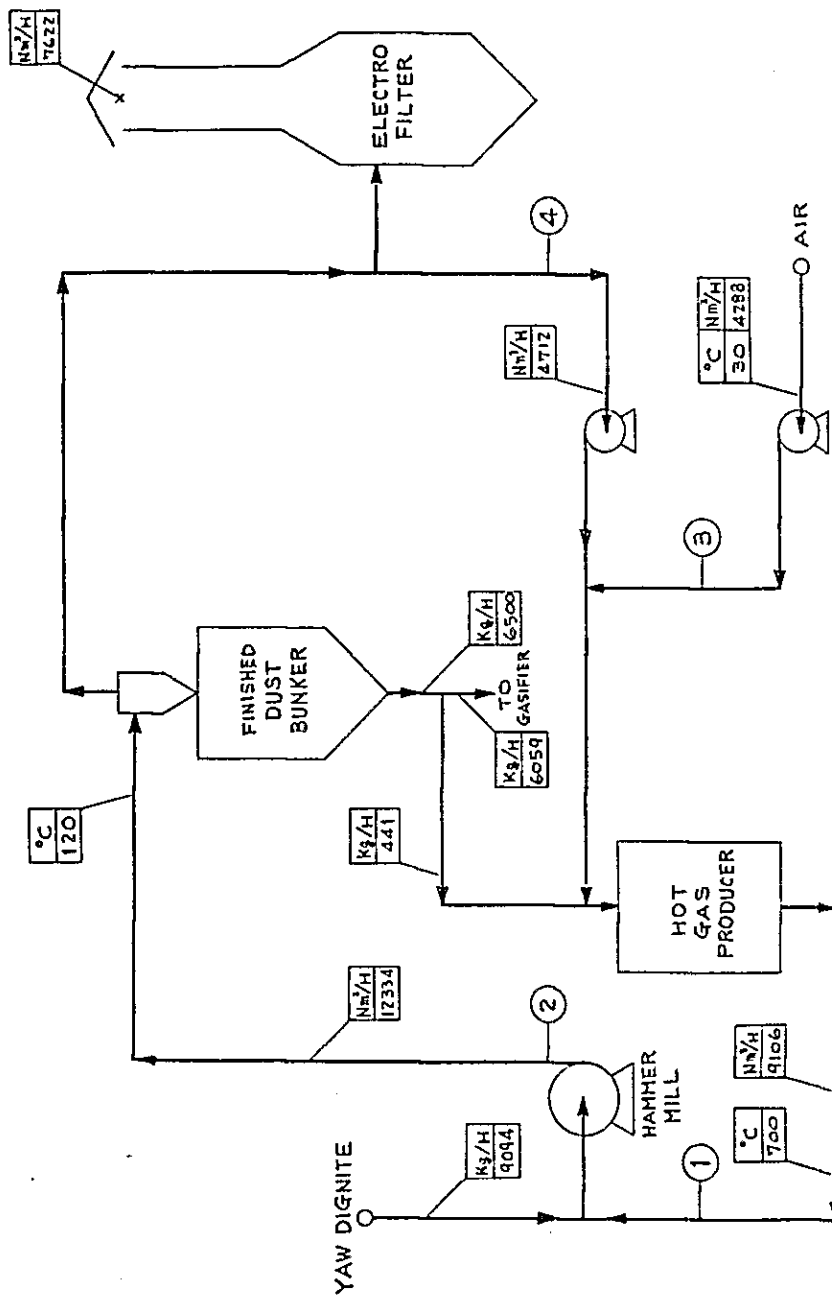
| Lignite Dust                 |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                              | Wt %                  |
| Moisture                     | 9.06                  |
| Ash                          | 15.27                 |
| C                            | 48.93                 |
| H                            | 3.49                  |
| S                            | 2.70                  |
| CO <sub>2</sub> Heat of Comb | 35.5 Kcal/Kg (148553) |

MAE MOH FACTORY

MASS BALANCE

GASIFICATION SECTION

DWG.NO.



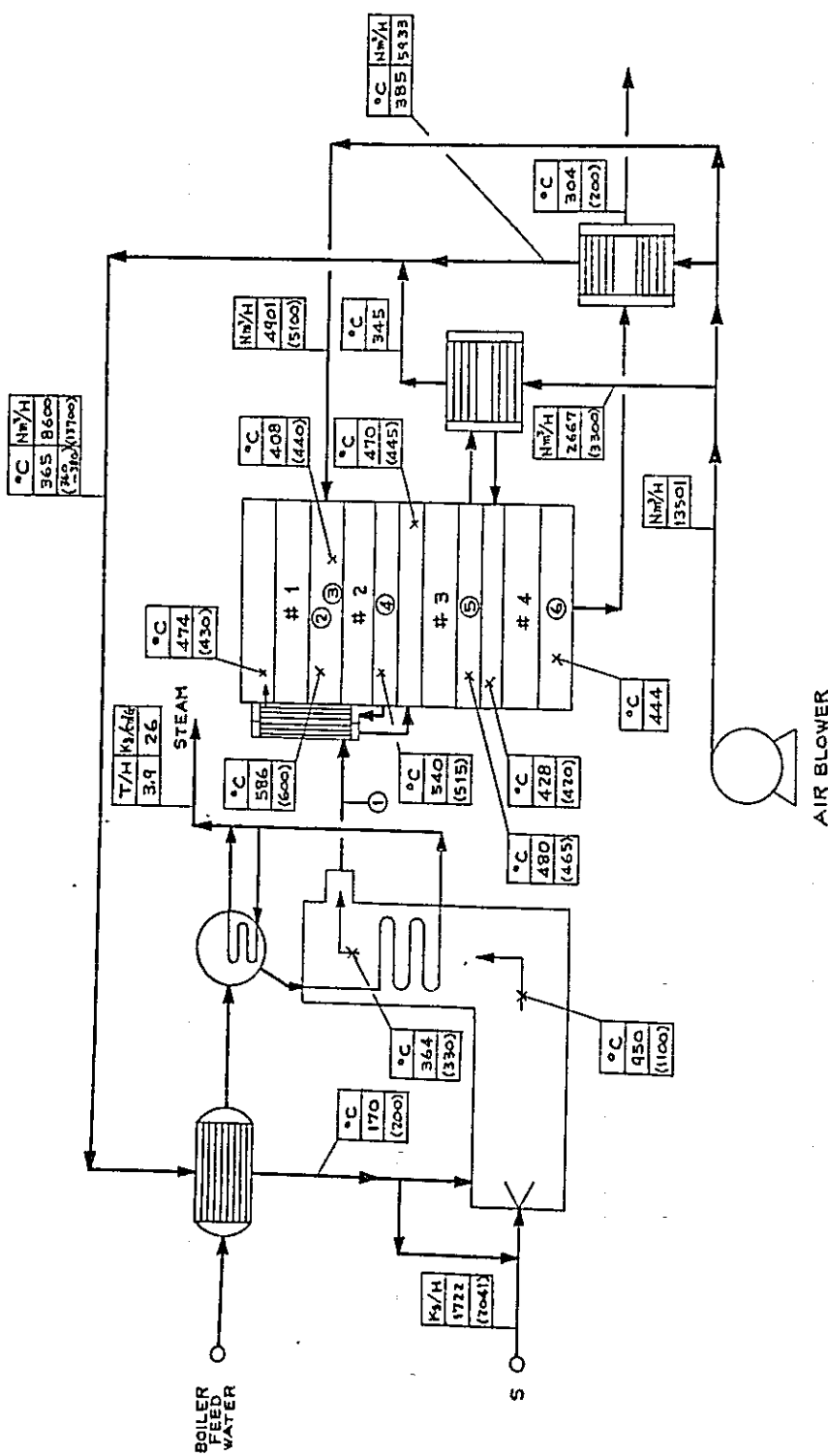
|                  | (1)                |        | (2)                |        | (3)                |        | (4)                |        |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
|                  | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | Vol. % | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | Vol. % | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | Vol. % | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | Vol. % |
| CO <sub>2</sub>  |                    |        |                    | 5.3    |                    |        |                    |        |
| O <sub>2</sub>   |                    |        |                    | 4.48   |                    |        |                    |        |
| N <sub>2</sub>   |                    |        |                    | 57     |                    |        |                    |        |
| H <sub>2</sub> O |                    |        |                    | 44.2   |                    |        |                    |        |
| TOTAL            | 9106               |        | 12334              |        | 4288               |        | 4712               |        |

MAE MOH FACTORY

MASS BALANCE

GRINDING SECTION

DWG. NO.



|                 | ① FURNACE OUT      |      | ② #1 OUT           |      | ③ #2 IN            |      | ④ #2 OUT           |      | ⑤ #3 OUT           |      | ⑥ #4 OUT           |      |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
|                 | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% | Nm <sup>3</sup> /H | VOL% |
| SO <sub>2</sub> | 1203               | 140  | 831                | 99   | 831                | 62   | 190                | 15   | 119                | 0.9  | 16                 | 0.1  |
| SO <sub>3</sub> | -                  | -    | 372                | 4.4  | 372                | 28   | 1013               | 7.8  | 1084               | 8.4  | 1187               | 9.2  |
| O <sub>2</sub>  | 603                | 7.0  | 417                | 4.9  | 1445               | 10.8 | 1124               | 8.6  | 1089               | 8.4  | 1037               | 8.0  |
| N <sub>2</sub>  | 6801               | 79.0 | 6801               | 80.8 | 10674              | 80.2 | 10674              | 82.1 | 10674              | 82.3 | 10674              | 82.7 |
| TOTAL           | 8607               | -    | 8421               | -    | 13321              | -    | 13001              | -    | 12966              | -    | 12914              | -    |

MAE MOH FACTORY  
 MASS BALANCE  
 SULPHURIC ACID PLANT  
 DWG. NO.



## SECTION 3

### CONCLUSION OF SURVEY TEAM



### Section 3 Conclusion of Survey team

The survey team has concluded from the results of the investigation that the rehabilitation of Mae Moh factory is possible from the view point of equipment and economy, and to rehabilitate Mae Moh factory is necessary and beneficial for Thai national advantage.

The annual ammonia production records of Mae Moh factory are a little more than 30% of design production, that is, 70% reduction. The causes of this 70% reduction are summarized as follows;

- |                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) Troubles of equipment (deterioration of equipment) | 30% |
| (ii) Problem on operational technics                   | 15% |
| (iii) Problem on the process                           | 25% |

Referring to the troubles of equipment, the problem was induced from disregarding the maintenance of equipment, while they are being superannuated year by year. From the results of equipment's inside inspection, we suppose to repair the equipment is rather simple problem, although it requires a considerable amount of investment and some of the repairing jobs will require the supervision by specialists from Japan or other countries. In this report the detailed list of equipment to be repaired is explained.

Relating to the problems on operational technics, it is induced by following causes.

- (i) Insufficient number of engineers.
- (ii) Insufficient technical level of engineers in Mae Moh factory.
- (iii) Deterioration of operators' spirit, induced from the insufficient reliability of machine.
- (iv) Unstable operating conditions, induced from the insufficient reliability of instrument.

To solve the problems of (i) and (ii), it is necessary to recruit the engineers urgently and to program the improvement of technical level by the correct instruction, yet the improvement of technical level will require a number of years.

On the other hand, as for the problems of (iii) and (iv), when the maintenance problems of equipment would have been solved and consequently the reliability of the equipment promoted, spontaneously the operating conditions would be stabilized and the morale would be improved.

It is the gasification plant that has the problem on the process. This process is difficult to operate. (The hard technics of operation is required to gasify the coal, and it is one of the reasons that the raw material for ammonia production had been switched over to petroleum in the world.) And it is really difficult to find a way to settle the problem without the remodeling the plant under the present technical level of the world.

However the situation of gasification plant would be improved remarkably when the operational technics would be promoted. The economical rehabilitation of Mae Moh factory would be feasible, as discussed in later chapter concerning the economical study, while the settlement of this gasification plant problem would take a rather long term.

Referring the economical balance of Mae Moh factory, the cost for production and investment for the rehabilitation had been studied. And the possibility of production had been estimated with due regard to the operation records and the present technical level of Mae Moh factory.

The summary of the conclusion is as follows.

The rehabilitation of Mae Moh factory would be able to be realized within the next 5 years, and the investment for the rehabilitation might be around 40 million baht.

In this conclusion, the ammonia production is expected to be 20,000 Ton/Year, which is double of present and 70% of design. And the proceeds of Mae Moh factory will exceed the break-even point fairly and bring forth not small benefits to Mae Moh factory.

As described formerly, the position of Mae Moh factory in Thailand is as follows.

- (i) Mae Moh factory is only one heavy chemical factory which is availing the high pressure and high temperature technology.
- (ii) In Mae Moh factory, Thai domestic resources of brown coal is utilized as the main feedstock.
- (iii) The chemical fertilizer produced in Mae Moh factory has the significant meaning for agricultural country of Thailand and besides the chemical fertilizer, liquid ammonia and sulphuric acid, marketing from Mae Moh factory, are essential chemicals for Thai chemical industries.

When the development of chemical industries in Thailand is considered, the technology kept in this factory is significant. Actually in past ten years, a large number of engineers have left Mae Moh factory and have been active in the fields of plastics and other chemical industries. Further, in Mae Moh factory the latest technology at the time of its construction has been greatly utilized and so the factory, still now, is

standing among the foremost factories in the world.

It is mentionable that the equipment market for high pressure and high temperature chemical industries is not existing in Thailand and this is one of the indirect causes induced the deterioration of Mae Moh factory. Considering reversely this fact, there is no high pressure and high temperature chemical industries in Thailand, except Mae Moh factory. Therefore if Mae Moh factory would be scrapped, a significant stagnation in the field of Thai chemical industries would come about.

Moreover it is estimated that around 1.5 billion baht might be required, if the factory same scale as Mae Moh factory would be newly constructed. Comparing to scrap and build this variable factory, it is obvious that to rehabilitate and maintain this factory shall bring advantage to Thailand.

As formerly described, liquid ammonia and sulphuric acid produced in Mae Moh factory are essential chemicals of chemical industries and especially sulphuric acid is important requisite of Thailand, because it is consumed at water treatment plant for Bangkok city water.

Consequently it is correct for Thailand to keep Mae Moh factory, considering technical, economical and national purposes of Thailand.

SECTION 4

RESULTS OF SURVEY





## Section 4 Results of Survey

### 4-1 Summary

It has been 13 years since the factory construction and, as a whole, been superannuated corresponding to the number of years, however we did not discover the equipment or apparatus which had the serious problem or defects on continuing the operation. It is possible to restore the equipment to the complete conditions by repairing and also it is possible to continue the operation more than five years.

Regarding the operation of the factory, the leading members of the factory had made a great effort on the rehabilitation and we similarly working in the chemical factory, were impressed. While, it is regrettable that the effort has not been brought to fruition yet, because of the insufficient number and knowledge of engineers.

4-2 Past record of ammonia production

4-2-1 Monthly ammonia production

Monthly ammonia production record is as follows.

|       | 1970   | 71     | 72     | 73    | 74     | 75    | 76    | 77    | average        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| JAN.  | 1915.  | 817.   | 1657.  | 1251. | 1271.  | 142.  | 1749. | 956.  | 1220.          |
| FEB.  | 1258.  | 1262.  | 1372.  | 1127. | 1401.  | 981.  | 1192. | 1079. | 1209.          |
| MAR.  | 886.   | 565.   | 1084.  | 1005. | 1007.  | 1108. | 1034. | 16.   | 838.           |
| APR.  | 1095.  | 1360.  | 202.   | 399.  | 781.   | 980.  | 597.  | 1001. | 802.           |
| MAY   | 1151.  | 814.   | -      | -     | 88.    | 453.  | 32.   | 673.  | 401.           |
| JUN.  | 1521.  | 1487.  | 142.   | 551.  | 630.   | 846.  | 787.  | 1155. | 890.           |
| JUL.  | 1165.  | 1392.  | 1294.  | 345.  | 992.   | 140.  | 896.  | 1480. | 963.           |
| AUG.  | 1288.  | 47.    | 1056.  | 496.  | 807.   | 486.  | 958.  | 1145. | 785.           |
| SEP.  | 1408.  | 1409.  | 922.   | 1102. | 1085.  | -     | 443.  | 967.  | 917.           |
| OCT.  | 1307.  | 998.   | 1002.  | 445.  | 899.   | -     | -     | 1002. | 707.           |
| NOV.  | 1141.  | 1208.  | 818.   | 810.  | 758.   | -     | 781.  | -     | 690.           |
| DEC.  | 663.   | 1444.  | 1053.  | 975.  | 401.   | 1448. | 1053. | 451.  | 936.           |
| TOTAL | 14798. | 12803. | 10602. | 8506. | 10120. | 6584. | 9522. | 9925. | 863.<br>10358. |

The causes of reduced production following to Mae Moh factorie's report and our suggestion to the causes are summarized below.

|    | Date |             | Mae Moh factory report                                         | Our Suggestion                                                |
|----|------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1971 | Aug.        | Badness of N <sub>2</sub> gas purity.                          | Leakage of O <sub>2</sub> in regenerator or switching valves. |
| 2  | 1972 | Apr. ~ May  | Tubular boiler of gasification.                                | Equipment was damaged and the spare parts couldn't prepare.   |
| 3  | "    | Jun.        | Leakage of Heat Exchanger in ammonia plant.                    | Repairing technics is insufficient.                           |
| 4  | 1973 | Apr. ~ May  | Repairing of gasification plant.                               |                                                               |
| 5  | "    | Jun.        | Tubular boiler.                                                |                                                               |
| 6  | "    | Jul.        | Leakage of Heat Exchanger in ADIP plant.                       |                                                               |
| 7  | 1974 | May         | Net, and CO converter catalyst support, were damaged.          | To use the net for this catalyst is inadequate.               |
| 8  | 1975 | May         | Replacement of CO converter catalyst.                          | Insufficient maintenance.                                     |
| 9  | "    | Jul.        | Leakage of Heat Exchanger in Ammonia plant.                    |                                                               |
| 10 | "    | Aug. ~ Nov. | Explosion of degasifying tower in ammonia plant.               | Operation miss.                                               |
| 11 | 1976 | Apr. ~ May  | Explosion of piping in CO conversion section of ammonia plant. | In sufficient maintenance.                                    |
| 12 | "    | May ~ Jun.  | Badness of N <sub>2</sub> gas purity.                          |                                                               |
| 13 | "    | Spe. ~ Oct. | Repairing heat exchanger in ammonia plant.                     |                                                               |
| 14 | "    | Mar. & Nov. | Annual repairing.                                              |                                                               |

Considering the causes of deteriorating of the production, following tendencies become clear.

- (i) The direct causes of plant shut down were leakage of equipment. These are due to the superannuation of equipment, that is, insufficient maintenance.
- (ii) The indirect causes of deteriorating the production were due to too long repairing term taken a month or more to repair a equipment which, if it was in Japan, would take less than 2 weeks. It is assumed that the each shut down was not scheduled one, therefore it took long term to prepare the field conditions and the materials for repairing.
- (iii) Considering the records of ammonia plant in 1974 and 1975, it is assumed that when plant was shut down by one equipment failure, the other equipment were not repaired and maintained. And soon after the repairing, the other defect come out and again the plant was shut down.

#### 4-2-2 Cause of plant shut down

The cause of plant shut down in 1970, 1976 and 1977 (Which annual ammonia production was 14,798 TON, 9,522 TON and 9,925 TON respectively) are summarized in next page.

|              | Causes                                  | 1970       |                 | 1976       |                 | 1977       |                 |      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------|
|              |                                         | No of stop | No of stop days | No of stop | No of stop days | No of stop | No of stop days |      |
| Gasification | Gasifier & Slag conveyor trouble        | 11         | 34              | 14         | 34              | 8          | 22              |      |
|              | Tubular Boiler's chalking               | -          | -               | 4          | 7               | 6          | 18              |      |
|              | Grinding section trouble                | 2          | 6               | 1          | 1               | 2          | 11              |      |
|              | Emergency trip system                   | 1          | 3               | 1          | 1               | 1          | 1               |      |
|              | Others                                  | 3          | 13              | 6          | 19              | 1          | 1               |      |
|              | SUM                                     | 17         | 53              | 26         | 62              | 18         | 53              | ( )% |
|              |                                         | (37.8)     |                 | (49.1)     |                 | (38.3)     |                 |      |
| Ammonia      | CO <sub>2</sub> Removal section trouble | 2          | 13              | 1          | 1               | 4          | 16              |      |
|              | Syn.gas comp <sup>or</sup>              | 2          | 3               | 4          | 7               | -          | -               |      |
|              | Heat Exchanger leakage                  | -          | -               | 2          | 19              | 2          | 4               |      |
|              | Steam Mixer leakage                     | -          | -               | 1          | 4               | 3          | 12              |      |
|              | CO Removal section trouble              | -          | -               | 1          | 29              | 3          | 12              |      |
|              | Saturator leakage                       | -          | -               | 1          | 6               | 2          | 8               |      |
|              | Water Pipe leakage                      | -          | -               | 1          | 3               | 3          | 7               |      |
|              | Others                                  | -          | -               | 2          | 3               | -          | -               |      |
| SUM          | 4                                       | 16         | 13              | 72         | 17              | 59         | ( )%            |      |
|              |                                         | (8.9)      |                 | (24.5)     |                 | (36.2)     |                 |      |
| Other Plants | Electric Failure (Supply)               | 8          | 17              | 1          | 1               | 5          | 5               |      |
|              | Electrical trouble in the factory       | 4          | 7               | 3          | 3               | 2          | 4               |      |
|              | Air Separation plant trouble            | 3          | 5               | 5          | 31              | 1          | 1               |      |
|              | Cooling water leakage & Pump stop       | 1          | 1               | 2          | 2               | 2          | 2               |      |
|              | Boiler                                  | 1          | 3               | -          | -               | 1          | 4               |      |
|              | Lignite (Shortage of supply)            | 3          | 17              | -          | -               | -          | -               |      |
|              | Others                                  | 4          | 18              | 3          | 13              | 1          | 6               |      |
|              | SUM                                     | 24         | 68              | 14         | 50              | 12         | 22              | ( )% |
|              |                                         | (53.3)     |                 | (26.4)     |                 | (25.5)     |                 |      |
| TOTAL        | 45                                      | 137        | 53              | 184        | 47              | 134        | (194)           |      |

(194) Including the plant stopping days for annual repairing

Causes of plant shut down has been studied.

- (i) The major causes of plant shut down were due to the gasification plant and ammonia synthesis plant. Recently the tendency is strong. Regarding ammonia synthesis plant, recently the number of plant shut down was increased remarkably, comparing to 1970. The cause is assumed to be due to the superannuation of equipment and the troubles were come out in the form of leakage. These circumstances are due to the insufficient maintenance of high pressure equipment neglecting the superannuation of equipment. About these facts survey team had reconfirmed at the time of equipment inside inspection.
- (ii) On 1976 and 1977, the troubles of electric failure and shortage of Lignite supply were reduced comparing to 1970. These appearance were indicating that being stabilized. Although in 1977 electric failure troubles were increased, yet this is supposed to be depended on the initial start up of the new power generation plant constructed in neighborhood, which fuel is Lignite. The troubles are being expected to be rapidly decreased.
- (iii) Supposing apart from the settlement of gasification plant's problem, the reappearance of 15,000 TON/YEAR ammonia production, realized on 1970, would be rather easier. That is, if the leakage trouble in ammonia plant is eliminated and the shut down days by electric failure and shortage of Lignite supply are switched over to the scheduled repairing of the whole factory.

4-2-3 Operation record

To clear the operating situation, the operation records were rearranged according to following items.

(Table 4-2-3)

- (a) Monthly production
- (b) Stabilized operation days in each month
- (c) Stopped times in each month
- (d) Max. production per day of each month
- (e) Max. production by one continuous operation of each month and the number of days and the average of the continuous operation.

Table 4-2-3 Operation record

|                        | JAN.    | FEB.    | MAR.   | APR.  | MAY   | JUN.    | JUL.   | AUG.   | SEP.   | OCT.    | NOV.  | DEC.  | AVE.     |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| 1970                   |         |         |        |       |       |         |        |        |        |         |       |       |          |
| Monthly production T/M | 1915.   | 1258.   | 886.   | 1095. | 1151. | 1521.   | 1165.  | 1288.  | 1408.  | 1307.   | 1140. | 663.  | 1233.    |
| Steady prod. days      | 24      | 17      | 11     | 14    | 14    | 21      | 14     | 17     | 19     | 17      | 15    | 6     | 15.8     |
| Plant shut down times  | 2       | 3       | 3      | 5     | 5     | 2       | 5      | 6      | 3      | 3       | 3     | 5     | 3.8      |
| Max prod. T/DAY        | 93.8    | 62.2    | 60.8   | 63.1  | 63.5  | 61.3    | 61.8   | 62.5   | 61.1   | 65.1    | 60.7  | 82.6  | 66.5     |
| One series days/prod.  | 23/1487 | 17/1023 | 11/642 | 4/237 | 5/299 | 19/1080 | 12/707 | 13/732 | 16/902 | 23/1310 | (*)1  | 3/226 | 133/786  |
| prod. Ave prod. T/D    | 65.     | 60.     | 58.    | 59.   | 60.   | 57.     | 59.    | 56.    | 56.    | 57.     |       | 75.   | 60.2     |
| 1976                   |         |         |        |       |       |         |        |        |        |         |       |       |          |
| Monthly production T/M | 1749.   | 1192.   | 1034.  | 597.  | (32.) | 787.    | 896.   | 958.   | 444.   | -       | 782.  | 1053. | 949.     |
| Steady prod. days      | 22      | 9       | 9      | 4     | 0     | 1       | 4      | 5      | 1      | -       | 8     | 9     | 7.2      |
| Plant shut down times  | 3       | 6       | 6      | 6     | (2)   | 6       | 5      | 9      | 2      | -       | 4     | 4     | 5.1      |
| Max prod. T/DAY        | 81.2    | 82.7    | 70.5   | 71.5  | (22.) | 63.7    | 62.7   | 58.6   | 61.0   | -       | 68.3  | 70.2  | 69.0     |
| One series days/prod.  | 15/960  | 7/345   | 5/293  | 6/293 | -     | 3/130   | 8/334  | 6/281  | 3/147  | -       | 5/286 | 8/399 | 6.6/347. |
| prod. Ave prod. T/D    | 64.     | 49.     | 59.    | 49.   | -     | 43.     | 42.    | 47.    | 49.    | -       | 57.   | 50.   | 52.5     |
| 1977                   |         |         |        |       |       |         |        |        |        |         |       |       |          |
| Monthly production T/M | 956.    | 1079.   | (16.7) | 1002. | 673.  | 1156.   | 1480.  | 1145.  | 967.   | 1002.   | -     | 451.  | 998.     |
| Steady prod. days      | 8       | 12      | 0      | 6     | 7     | 11      | 19     | 8      | 8      | 11      | -     | 3     | 9.3      |
| Plant shut down times  | 7       | 3       | -      | 5     | 3     | 7       | 3      | 5      | 6      | 3       | -     | 5     | 4.7      |
| Max prod. T/DAY        | 71.0    | 80.3    | -      | 68.3  | 70.7  | 72.4    | 77.6   | 72.6   | 63.6   | 69.0    | -     | 69.3  | 71.5     |
| One series days/prod.  | 5/297   | 6/319   | -      | 6/257 | 8/398 | 17/1069 | 11/663 | 8/446  | 5/241  | 7/359   | -     | 3/115 | 7.6/416  |
| prod. Ave prod. T/D    | 59.     | 53.     | -      | 43.   | 50.   | 63.     | 60.    | 56.    | 48.    | 51.     | -     | 38.   | 54.8     |

\*1 one series 21/OCT ~11/NOV



Considering the table 4-2-3 following facts are obvious.

- (i) The potential of ammonia production rate in these days is 70 ~ 80 T/day.
- (ii) The continuously operationable days is 5 ~ 10 days by recent operating conditions, yet it should be expectable to operate continuously more than 10 days if the trouble would be caused only by gasification plant. The fact is obvious, considering the operation record of 1970, when the troubles of ammonia plant were few.
- (iii) It is supposed from the past operation records that the potential of continuous operation days is 20 days.

Further the situation of Mae Moh factory observed during our stay in Mae Moh is as follows.

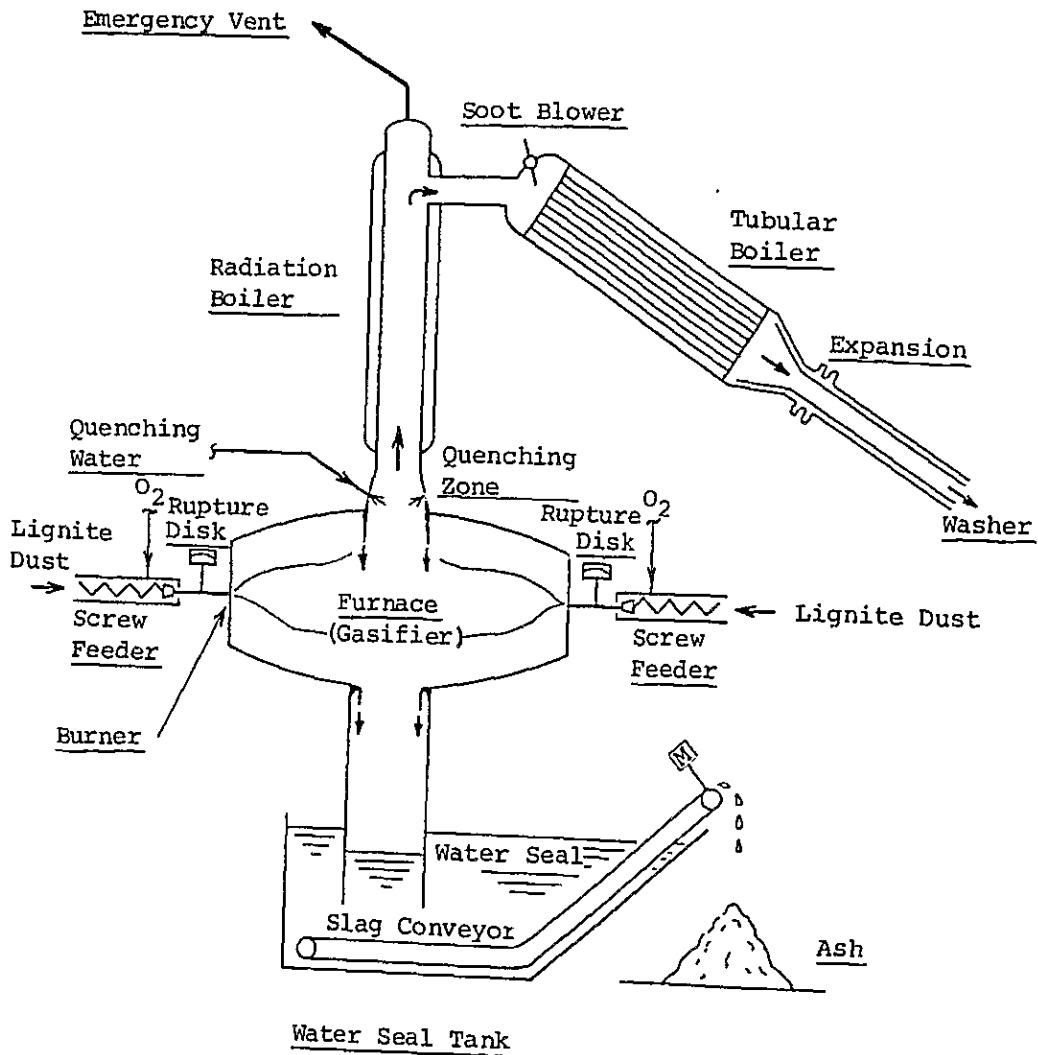
- (i) The operation was extremely unstable. Especially it was in ammonia plant. (Survey team has recommended and instructed the modification of steam control system and N<sub>2</sub> mixing control system, to stabilize the operation. Including these modification the recommendation to stabilize the operation are explained later.) Consequently, while the syn.gas was provided enough quantity to produce more than 70 T/day from gasification plant, the production was not sufficient.
- (ii) The most important improvement to increase the production is to reduce the number of the plant shut down and that is to reduce the trouble of leakage in the ammonia plant.

4-3 Problems of each plant

4-3-1 Gasification plant

Among the problems decreasing the operation rate of Mae Moh factory, the process, which has the fundamental problems, is the gasifier and tubular boiler in gasification plant. Hereinafter the problem shall be discussed fully.

Gasification unit



## Process flow

Lignite dust (pulverized coal) is fed to burner by screw feeders. Oxygen gas ( $O_2$ ) is mixed to Lignite dust at just upstream of the top corn of screw feeders, and it acts as the carrier of Lignite dust passing through the inlet pipe before burners. The mixture is fed into the furnace. The Lignite dust is oxidized partially in the furnace and produced the synthesis gas, and which is led to radiation boiler installed on the center of furnace through the quenching zone. The ash component from Lignite is molten state in the furnace and a part of molten ash flow down along the furnace wall and drop into the seal tank. In the bottom of seal tank, a conveyor is installed and the ash, cooled and solidified by sealing water, is carried out by this conveyor. The furnace pressure is controlled to +100 mmH<sub>2</sub>O and sealed by water.

Ash carried with gas is also melt condition and is cooled down to 900 ~ 1000°C by spray water when the mixture passing through the quenching zone. The fly ash should be solidified at here. (furnace temp. 1600 ~ 1700°C and melting point of ash 1350 ~ 1450°C)

The syn.gas out of quenching zone pass through the radiation boiler and is cooled to 600 ~ 700 °C. The heat of gas is recovered as 10<sup>K</sup> steam. Further the gas is cooled in the tubular boiler to 350 ~ 450 °C. The heat is recovered as 10<sup>K</sup> steam. The radiation and tubular boiler are in one set of steam system. The effluent gas of tubular boiler is sent to washer via the castable line.

During operation, solidified ash is hung, like as icicle, at the edge of quenching zone inlet and seal tank inlet. Operators are sticking off and down these icicle every 2 hours from peeping hole using a iron pipe. And at the top of tubular boiler, a soot blower is installed which blow away the ash accumulated on the tube sheet.

The problems, causes and their countermeasures are summarized in next table.

| Problem                                      | Cause                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Countermeasure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Rupture disk exhaust (upstream of burners) | 1 Back fire<br>a Inequality of 4 burners<br>b Back fire from the lack of gas speed<br>2 Blockade of burners<br>a Mal-flame of burners (by erosion of burners port)<br>b Leakage of water jacket of burners, molten ash solidified on burners port<br>3 Overload<br>a Overload of Lignite in screw feeders<br>4 Superannuation of disk                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of O<sub>2</sub> flow meter, screw feeder and back pressure gauge</li> <li>• Load of 50% is the min. flow of burners</li> <li>• Maintenance of burners</li> <li>• Control of Lignite dust size (&lt;90μ)</li> <li>• Maintenance of burners</li> <li>• Watch the flame condition</li> <li>• Maintenance of corn and its clearance of screw feeder</li> <li>• Maintenance of revolution speed meter</li> <li>• Control the pressure of service bin</li> <li>• Maintenance and periodical replacement of disk</li> </ul>                                            |
| 2 Blockade of gasifier                       | 1 Malcombustion by the oversize of Lignite dust<br>2 Inferiority of burners<br>3 Low furnace temp.<br>a Insufficient quantity of O <sub>2</sub><br>b Overplus of moisture in Lignite<br>c Oversupply of spray water<br>4 Malfunction of spray nozzle<br>a Leakage of water from tip conn.<br>b Malfunction of nozzle<br>c Inadequate nozzle position<br>5 Malfunction of sticking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of Lignite dust size (&lt;90μ) by maintenance of hammer mill</li> <li>• CO<sub>2</sub> in effluent gas be 11 ~ 13%</li> <li>• Pigeonhole the operation record</li> <li>• Lignite dust size by under 90μ</li> <li>• Outlet temp of hammer mill is 120°C</li> <li>• Pigeonhole the operation record</li> <li>• Radiation boiler inlet temp. be 800 ~ 900°C</li> <li>• Furnace center temp. be 1400 ~ 1500°C</li> <li>• Test the spray before installation</li> <li>• ditto /the droplet size be smaller than 100μ</li> <li>• Correct utilization of stopper</li> </ul> |



From the table it is comprehensible that the blockade problem of gasifier and the tubular boiler is the contrary relation, that is, when the temperature of gasifier is increased, the trouble of gasifier blockade would be reduced yet reversely trouble of tubular boiler would be increased. Therefore the temperature range of furnace to settle these contrary problems is narrow. Nevertheless it is very difficult to prepare the uniform quality of Lignite, therefore it becomes difficult to adjust and to keep the optimum furnace temperature. Usually in the world the idea to install the stand-by gasification unit is adopted to get the continuous operation. When the one gasification unit had troubles, the stand-by unit should be started and switched without shut down of the downstream processes.

Survey team has studied this idea to provide the stand-by unit and concluded that it is too early to install one more gasification unit, because of;

- (1) The investment to install the stand-by unit is estimated around 100 million baht and, by present situation of Mae Moh factory existing a lot of problems in other plants, the advantage to provide stand-by would not be exhibited satisfactory.
- (2) To operate the stand-by unit, the increment of operators are required and to prepare the skilled operators available for this plant, the training term of 2 ~ 3 years long is supposed.
- (3) To construct the stand-by plant near by existing plant, it is required to shut down the existing plant more than 2 months to level the area.

It is recommendable to consider again these subjects when the problems in other plants will have been settled and the gasification plant will be distinct as the bottle neck of Mae Moh factory.

Therefore at present it is recommendable that the effort to raise the operation rate should be concentrated to keep the better conditions of equipment and to establish and accumulate the know-how for longer continuous operation.

#### Instrument of gasification plant

The instrument in this plant, as a whole, are superannuated extinguishly and recommendable to be renewed. The lack of reliability and frequently occurring troubles instrument are disturbing to establish the operational know-how and to operate the plant carefully. When the instrument would not be renewed it is supposed that the operation is not only proceeded smoothly but also is dangerous. The instrument list and the specifications are described in later chapter.

#### NO Removal Tank

The NO Removal Tank of gasification plant is called as to remove nitrogenoxide ( NO ) in the gas, yet it is supposed that the fundamental purpose of this equipment is to remove the dust in the gas. Survey team has analysed the NO concentration in the gas following to the analysis method of JIS K-0104 and the NO in the gas was not detected. The washing water flowing in the washer, which is installed at the downstream of tubular boiler, is saturated with calcium compounds come from ash and accordingly it is alkaline solution. Therefore the acidic component such as H<sub>2</sub>S or NO in the tubular boiler



effluent gas are resolved into the washing water. Actually  $H_2S$  in the gas to be existed by the extent of a few percent following to the material balance of Lignite and gas, yet the analysed results were several hundreds ppm. On the other hand, the dust is existing in the gas out of washer and it is inducing the blocking troubles on the absorber of desulphurization plant and filters of synthesis gas compressors in ammonia plant. In this time survey team has designed to remodel this tank for the dust filter. The drawing is attached in the report of machine maintenance. By this remodeling the dust trouble should be eliminated remarkably.

#### Grinding section

The explosion had taken place twice at the finished dust bunker in the grinding section during our stay in Mae Moh. The damage of equipment were not serious. The cause of these accidents was supposed due to the penetration of air into the equipment and combustion by the spontaneous ignition or static electrical ignition. These causes are really possible and many accidents had been experienced in similar processes. Survey team had recommended to inactivate the Lignite dust in the equipment by sealing them with  $N_2$  gas and to convert the old deposited tower into  $N_2$  gas reservoir as emergency source of  $N_2$  gas. On the actual remodeling works of old tower, survey team instructed the procedure. Against the static electric problem, survey team has instructed to repair the bonding of grounding and to install new grounding electrode.

4-3-2 EGAT BOILER

This boiler has following 4 problems.

- (1) Providing the instrument
- (2) Steam generation rate
- (3) Pressure control of steam
- (4) Deterioration of equipment

This boiler has been scarcely provided the instrument and the instrument existing have been already superannuated as they are not fit to use. In this report, it is recommended to improve the level control system of drum and to renew the gas analyser.

This boiler was designed for electric power generation and the normal steam generation rate was 26 T/H, but in these days, as described formally, the generator had not been used and also the machine could not be used again. Therefore the steam generated by this boiler is consumed only in Mae Moh factory and the consumption is max. 12 T/H and normal is 8 T/H. The steam generation rate of 8 T/H would be the minimum operationable load of this boiler. Therefore operator should take care themselves not to reduce the load less than 8 T/H. The control of steam pressure is also very difficult, because the steam generation rate is too low to control the pressure. Therefore we think that to vent the steam of 3 T/H continuously to control the steam pressure and steam generation rate. However, this idea has the defect on economy of steam, therefore we would like to only suggest the idea here.

The material used in this boiler is mainly carbon steel and the operation temperature of this boiler is the

maximum usable temperature of the material. We instructed to repair the crack appeared on the header of steam desuper heater. We recommend to inspect the same points of operating boiler (No.1 boiler) and to keep the limitation of material.

#### 4-3-3 Feed water plant

In this occasion, survey team instructed to modify the steam pressure control system and the modification was succeeded that the steam pressure was stabilized extremely. Yet the control valves are superannuated and to be replaced. The detail of recommendation are explained in instrument report.

#### 4-3-4 ADIP PLANT

Adip plant has two problems, one of them is adhesion or blocking of tower inside by fly ash carried with syn.gas. This problem would be settled by the remodeling of NO removal tank in gasification plant.

The another problem is the breaking of the lowest tray in adip regenerator. The breaking of the tray was caused when the steam was charged to reboiler nevertheless the level of adip solution in regenerator was extra high. We recommend a trip system to cut off the steam to reboiler when the level becomes extra high or adip pumps, which pulls out the solution from generator, are stopped. (About the detail of plan, refer the instrument report)

4-3-5 Air separation plant

Air separation plant has 4 problems.

1. Air compressor
2. Switching valves
3. Instrument air
4. Insuration and spare parts

When the trouble had taken place in this plant, whole plant were forced to be stopped for long time. It is obvious from the operation records. And the causes of trouble were mainly come from air compressor or the switching valves of regenerator. Air compressor is very high grade machine for Mae Moh factory and it had never been overhauled after its construction. The overhaul should be put in force while the instruction by the specialist is required.

The troubles of switching valves are typical of these kind plant and the trouble have been usually solved by periodical replacement and repairing of the valves. Therefore the preparation of spare valves and their attachments are very important.

The capacity of drier and other equipment for instrument air had been already become dificient, and the regeneration of drier had been regulated manually. Therefore the quality of instrument air is bad as to induce the deterioration of instrument as explained in instrument report. Moreover emergency air compressor which is driven by diesel engine, had been already damaged its auto-stating device and also the capacity of compressor is not sufficient.

As above explained, the quality and quantity of instrument air is not satisfied and especially at the electric failure the whole factory would be passed the critical situation. Therefore it is recommendable to install a new instrument air apparatus. As for recommendable spec. of apparatus please refer the machine maintenance report.

The cold insulation of this apparatus was deteriorated as to be replaced. By the renewal of insulation, the performance of air separation plant will be improved and the time required to start up the plant will be reduced.

#### 4-3-6 Ammonia synthesis plant

Obviously, by past operation records, the major causes deteriorating the operation rate are due to the problems of gasification plant and this ammonia synthesis plant. The problems of ammonia synthesis plant are mainly the superannuation of equipment, and the plant had been forced to shut down by the leakage of pipings, towers and vessels. Since high pressure and high temperature combustible gases are treated in this plant, when the leakage have once been taken place, it is very difficult to repair the leaked point and moreover the leakage will be increased when the operation will be continued and it will induce the possibility of explosion. Therefore usually in this plant, when the leakage of gas had taken place, the plant should be shut down immediately and reduced its pressure and changed the gas into nitrogen.

Recently in Mae Moh factory, the repair and replacement of major equipment have been proceeding. Actually the separators and coolers of synthesis gas compressors and heat exchangers and towers in CO conversion

section, which were corroded seriously, have been replaced. And also in this occasion of inside inspection, we instructed and repaired ourselves the replacement of demoiseure's upper half and expansion bellow of heat exchanger.

In such a manner the maintenance of major equipment were advanced, yet the maintenance of branched small piping or inconspicuous parts of piping had not been sufficient. From hence the maintenance of these terminal piping should be put in force. When these maintenance would be neglected, the operation rate should never be raised. The maintenance will be very easy (in view of economy and technique) compairing to maintenance of major equipment, and the matter to be taken care in this maintenance jobs is to make the plan systematically and not to leave behind anything to be replaced.

The instrument in this plant have some problems of thermometers and analysers, yet the condition of instrument is far the better comparing to other plants. In this occasion we instructed to install the new automatic control systems of  $N_2$  gas mixed to syn.gas. They are the control system of nitrogen compressor discharge pressure in air separation plant and the control system of nitrogen flow rate. Same as the steam pressure control system in feed water plant, these control system were planed by the first survey team and applicated second team. Just after these installation, operators were a little confused on practice, yet after they were acquainted with the systems, the operation was stabilized remarkably. The spec. of these instruments were described on instrument report, considering the maintenance in future.

There are several big and high grade rotating machines in this plant and they were maintained satisfactorily by skillful technicians. The preparation of suitable spare parts will be the future problem to be solved.

Further, synthesis gas compressor was stopped by the trouble of electrical sequence during our stay. The start-stop sequence of the motor had been investigated. In the last of our investigation we could not define the cause of the motor trip, and we estimated that the cause might be attributed to the fluctuation of electric source regulating the sequence or the malfunction of the relay. The reason why we could not indentify the cause was the circuit drawings had not be kept sufficiently and also the circuit itself already remodeled without the revision of the drawings. In future the sequence should be rechecked synthetically. The detail of investigation was written in electricity report.

#### 4-3-7 Urea synthesis plant

In this factory, the pipings of CO<sub>2</sub> compressor were destroyed by the explosion on May, 1978, and during our stay in Mae Moh, this plant had been operated only a week just before we left Mae Moh.

The biggest problem in this factory is the maintenance of reactors, i.e. the material for the coil in the first reactor and the lining in the second reactor is used special stainless steel and, for the repair of these material, special care is required. Since the header (mixer) of the coil and the shoulder portion of lining had been fabricated and repaired by technicians in Mae Moh without such the knowledge and so the conditions of the equipment were not satisfactory. In these days

continuous inspection and repair are required and until 1980 these portion should be replaced under the supervision of the specialists.

Regarding the cause of CO<sub>2</sub> compressor piping explosion, we estimated that the mal-function of dampers in CO<sub>2</sub> drying unit had induced the explosion, i.e. at the time the damper to be opened was not opened and the damper to be switched over was not switched only just change its position a little, therefore the air, used for regeneration of drying agent, was sucked into CO<sub>2</sub> compressor instead of CO<sub>2</sub> and the air and lubricating oil made a combustible mixture in the discharge line of compressor, then the mixture was ignited by some of the shock in the machine and exploded. Survey team instructed to provide a device which detect the mal-function of dampers and force to stop the compressor. As for the detail please refer the instrument report.

As for the maintenance of other equipment please refer the machine maintenance report.

#### 4-3-8 Sulphuric acid plant

There are several problems caused by corrosion in this plant. These problems might be fate of sulphuric acid plant. Following equipment are the major problems of this plant.

- (1) Waste heat boiler
- (2) Shell of reactor
- (3) Heat exchanger in reactor
- (4) Absorber and drier
- (5) Stack



The situation of damaged tower and vessels are described in machine maintenance report. The common problems of repairing among those equipment are as follows.

(i) They are big jobs.

The repairing machines in Mae Moh factory such as crane car has not enough capacity to perform the listed repairs.

(ii) They are special jobs.

Each job has contained some of specialized technical problems. It is well understood in Mae Moh factory that these equipment are to be repaired, yet they had been idled because of they also understood the technical problems and the problems of repairing term, which is described next.

(iii) They require long terms for repairing.

Each job is big and moreover in this plant sulphure or sulphuric acid gas are treated which takes long time to sweep out from inside the equipment, therefore it is required 2 ~ 2.5 months to repair the equipment including the days for start and stop the plant. The long term for repairing is one of the big problems for Mae Moh factory because of the demand of marketing sulphuric acid is very strong.

The problems of instruments are mainly existing in the lead pipes or lead wires for instruments. Usually the pipes and wires for instruments are connected putting in the ducts, from local to control room and vice versa, to eliminate the noise or corrosion of material. However in this plant the ducts have been damaged already and the pipe and wires have been put disorderly around the equipment and they are in the condition easily to

be suffered the damage. They should be improved in full measure and this improvement would be also taken long term.

It will be big problem for Thailand that the repairing term shall be taken long term, because of the sulphuric acid from Mae Moh factory has been kept the important position in Thai chemical industries. Moreover, as described in later chapter of rehabilitation program, it is existing the possibility that the production of sulphuric acid would become to be the bottle neck of Mae Moh factory in future. Therefore the idea to install the new sulphuric acid plant and, after its completion, to carry out the repairing of existing plant, should be studied, taking the future demands of sulphuric acid in Thailand into consideration.

As for the repairing jobs, it is recommendable to invite the specialists to instruct the jobs, because if the repairing would be failed, the equipment might be suffered the serious damages.

#### 4-3-9 Ammonia sulphate plant

There are no special problems in this plant. In this occasion, we have instructed the repairing of the centrifuge.

4-4 The organization and the technical level of Mae Moh factory

4-4-1 The number of workers and their technical level

The number of workers is reasonable, considering from our experience, or it is rather shorter. Although it should be discussed the correctness of the number of workers from the view points of the quantity and quality required to the workers, since there should be a lot of experiences and history before come to this condition, it is difficult to judge the correctness of the number of workers.

The technical level of operators is not bad. Their fundamental knowledge about the chemical and chemical engineering is not sufficient and required the further training in future. They are able to response rather correctly to the plant start up or shut down. Especially the shift leaders, they have the experiences more than ten years in Mae Moh, fairly response to the drastic change of operating conditions. The operators, who can and will response to the drastic change of plant conditions, are indifference to stabilize and to adjust the operating conditions strictly or to check carefully the machine or vessels during the normal operation. There might be not clear indications about those matter from the manager to them. Hence, on the operating conditions, the operational standards should be provided. The situation is same to technicians, they have the useful technique, observing them individually. However on actual repairing, they have been working without regarding the fundamental cautions on processes, equipment and repairing procedures. Moreover planning, careness and earnestness are insufficient on doing the jobs. The situation might be produced by the insufficient instruction and supervision from the managers.

#### 4-4-2 Assistant manager

Assistant managers in each section of plant have their experiences more than 10 years long in Mae Moh, and enough knowledge on process and equipment. However it is regrettable that their experience and knowledge had not put to practical use. Assistant managers should utilize their knowledge themselves to educate and bring up the operators and technicians.

#### 4-4-3 Engineers (Managers)

The number of the engineers and their technical level are not sufficient to keep the good operation of Mae Moh factory. Henceafter it is required to supplement the engineers and level up them.

During our stay in Mae Moh, we heard that the engineers will be recruited, yet the leading managers should understand that it will take at least 3 years long education before they will be brought up as skilled engineers, although they will be educated in the suitable circumstances.

Survey team recommends to arrange at least one engineers for each plant, and especially for gasification plant and ammonia synthesis plant two engineers are recommendable, because of the troubles of Mae Moh factory were being concentrated in these 2 plants. Further at least two engineers are recommended for the machine workshop and instrument workshop respectively.

A good instructor should be provided to train the freshmen and existing engineers. Following subjects are expected to engineers.

(i) Management of every days operation

In present the operation data have been gathered, without utilizing them effectively. Henceafter to manage the plants adequately, the gathered data should be studied and fed back to plant operation.

(ii) Set up the operation standards

To stabilize the plant operation, the standards for operating conditions or procedures should be made clear and fixed by the managers (or engineers) after researching the past operation records and plant design conditions.

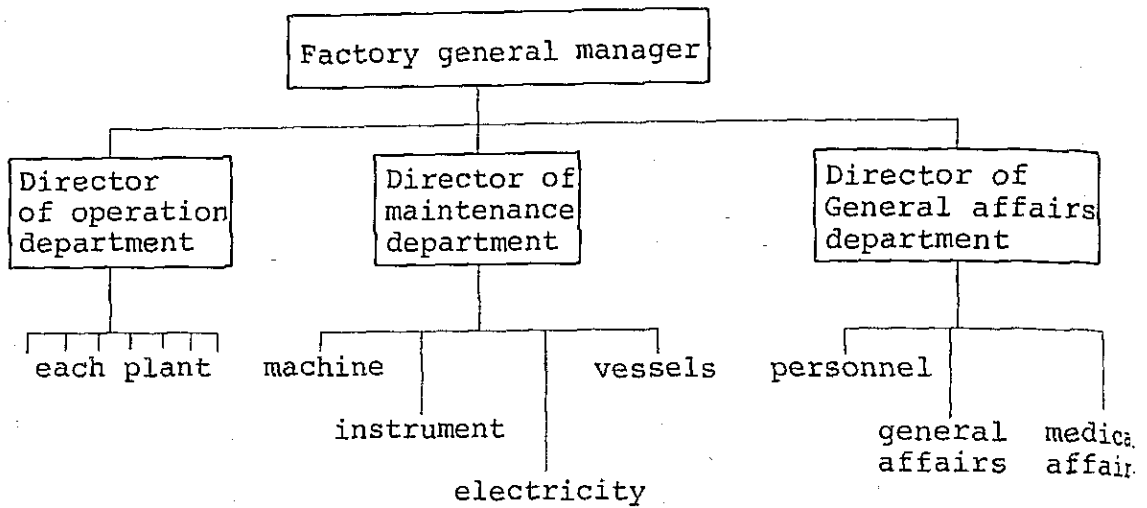
(iii) Analyse the plant problems and plan the counter-measures

Survey team are supposing that the plant problems and their countermeasures were wholly explained in this report. Therefore we are expecting to managers that they will study the detail of each job to put it in force.

4-4-4 Organization

Present organization of Mae Moh factory were too much expanded horizontally to keep the good communication among the plants and hence the communication troubles were disturbing the smooth operation.

We would like to recommend following organization.



The advantage of above described organization are:

- (1) To make the simplified situation for the direction and the communication
- (2) To make clear the each manager's responsibility
- (3) To make the fine management of plant
- (4) To make the good positions for engineers