



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging Foote Mineral Company of Exton, Pennsylvania, and Metallgesellschaft, A. G. of Frankfurt am Main, West Germany, with conspiring to allocate certain international markets for lithium sales in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said the civil suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

Lithium, the lightest of all metals, is used in various products ranging from glass and ceramics to lubricating greases and is consumed in substantial quantities by all industrial countries.

Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Kauper, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that the complaint charged the defendants with conspiring to create and allocate between themselves exclusive territories in the international trade in lithium.

As a result of this agreement, the suit said, competition in the sale of lithium has been restrained, consumers have been deprived of open competition in the purchase of lithium and the exportation of lithium from the United States and the importation of lithium into the United States have been restrained.

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The suit asked that the defendants be permanently enjoined from entering into or maintaining any contract, agreement or understanding to allocate international markets for lithium, or from engaging in any other practice having a similar purpose or effect.

In addition, the suit sought cancellation of all or any portion of agreements between the two companies unreasonably restraining the sale of lithium

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