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## **Copper Miners Request Presidential Intervention**

*by Steven Ranieri*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Aug. 13, the union representing workers at the Compania Mexicana de Cananea (CMC) copper mining complex requested that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari intervene in resolving conflicts with management. The Cananea mines, Mexico's largest copper production facility, are located in Sonora state. A subsidiary of Industrial Minera Mexicana S.A. de C.V., owed by Jorge Larrea, acquired Cananea two years ago in a privatization deal with the federal government. According to the union, one year after the conclusion of contract negotiations, "labor relations remain unstable," and Larrea has not complied with terms specified by the government in the 1990 purchase contract. The union requested the president's intervention to stabilize labor relations at the mines, and to support the diversification of economic activities in the area. At present, 70% of the local labor force is employed in mining, and 6,000 workers are unemployed. (Source: La Jornada, 08/14/92)

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