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Mexico City Pollution Said To Cause Long-term Problems For Children's Health

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According to a Jan. 4 report by the Metropolitan Association to Improve the Environment (Asociacion de Lucha Metropolitana para el Mejoramiento Ambiental, ALMMA), one out of every four children in Mexico City will suffer breathing problems in the long term if air pollution continues at its current level. ALMMA president Bertha Cortes said a lack of oxygen in the city's air will also limit the physiological development of many of the children living in the capital. Cortes suggested the emergency measures taken by the government to control air pollution have not been effective enough to reduce the health hazard to the city's population. She said the situation is aggravated by the continuing increase in Mexico City's population. In a related matter, Mexico City authorities are attempting to combat pollution by funding a restoration of 900 hectares of forest land in the Santa Catarina Mountains, which are located within the Federal District. The cost of the project is estimated at US$43.5 million, of which US$17.5 million will come from a loan provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the rest from the Mexico City government. According to the government news service Notimex, restoration of the forest areas, located east of the capital, will help improve water and air quality and reduce erosion. The project includes planting 1.4 million trees and plants and restoration of 368 hectares of grassland. (Source: Notimex, 01/04/93)