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More On Study Linking Mexico City Pollution To Risk Of Cancer, Other Diseases

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Some government scientists and academics are disputing a Jan. 25 study released by the National Human Rights Commission (Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos, CNDH) that suggested Mexico City residents face greater risk of cancer and other diseases because exposure to high levels of ozone and other forms of air pollution (for more details see SourceMex, 01/27/93). On Jan. 27, Raul Cicero Sabido, a lung specialist at Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), said there is no concrete evidence linking cancer with high levels of ozone in the atmosphere. He said he had not heard of any deaths directly resulting from exposure to high ozone levels. On the other hand, he suggested that excessive smoking may be contributing more to lung cancer in Mexico City than high ozone levels. On Jan. 29, the Metropolitan Commission to Prevent and Control Environmental Pollution (Comision Metropolitana para la Prevencion de la Contaminacion, CMPC), citing a study by an interdisciplinary group, said there was no evidence to link the high ozone levels with such fatal lung diseases as pulmonary fibrosis or bronchial cancer. However, the CMPC study admitted that bronchitis, asthma or pneumonia can be aggravated during times when ozone levels are high. (Sources: Notimex, 01/27/93; Agence France-Presse, 01/29/93)

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