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Chile: Strike At Chuquicamata Copper Mine Continues

by Barbara Khol
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On the evening of July 6, Chuquicamata miners' union representatives said the strike would continue, following the collapse of another round of talks with management. The unions' commitment to the strike, which commenced July 1, was enhanced July 5 when the state-run Copper Corporation (CODELCO) filed a lawsuit against 14 union members. (See Chronicle, 07/02/91, 07/04/91 for previous coverage of strike.) Union spokespersons said management merely reiterated its June 30 offer, which was rejected and triggered the call to strike. CODELCO offered a raise equivalent to the estimated rate of inflation for 1991 (18%), plus a $930 bonus "for ending the dispute." Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley expressed concern over the impact of the strike on the nation's balance of payments and the federal budget. The strike began after CODELCO rejected a union demand for a 10% real wage increase. (Basic data from AFP, EFE, AP, 07/06/91)

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