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Update On Chilean Fruit Exporters' Suit Against U.S. Government

by Barbara Khol

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On Feb. 7 in Santiago, Ronald Bown (or Brown), spokesperson for the Chilean Exporters Association, told reporters that export companies and fruit growers affected by the 1989 embargo are suing the US government for US\$212 million in damages. He added that the suit is to be filed in Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) by Feb. 12. (See Chronicle 01/30/92.) In March 1989, the US Food and Drug Administration reported discovering traces of cyanide in two grapes belonging to a Chilean shipment, and decreed a seven-day embargo of all Chilean fruit imports. Although supported by the Chilean government, the lawsuit is the sole responsibility of the Exporters Association. (Basic data from Spanish news service EFE, 02/07/92)

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