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Mr. German Larrea Mota-Velasco, Chairman of the Board of Grupo Mexico comments about the rescue efforts at the Pasta de Conchos coal mine

Mexico DF, February 22, 2006.- Grupo Mexico, S.A. de C.V., ("Grupo Mexico"), the indirect parent company of Southern Copper Corporation, reported on February 21, 2006 that the Chairman of the Board of Grupo Mexico, Mr. German Larrea Mota-Velasco, confirmed that the absolute priority of its subsidiary Minera Mexico, S. A. de C. V. ("Minera Mexico") is to rescue the workers trapped at the Pasta de Conchos coal mine and the care of their families.

Mr. Larrea confirmed that, since the earliest hours of Sunday, the President of Minera Mexico, Engineer Xavier Garcia de Quevedo, and a group of his best technicians have been at the mine site directing the rescue efforts. Minera Mexico has also contracted the specialized services of the best international technical experts in rescue operations to deal with rescues as challenging as the one confronting Minera Mexico. Rescuers to date have progressed more than half a kilometer in the zone of the principal cave-in and it is known that there are other cave-ins, which must be overcome.

Mr. Larrea said: "I confirm that no effort or resource shall be spared in the rescue efforts of our miners. Their families must have absolute confidence that we are making maximum efforts to rescue the workers and that in no case or event the company will leave them unprotected."

Grupo Mexico thanks the Federal Government for the support given directly through the Labor Secretary, Mr. Javier Salazar, the support of the Mexican Army, other sister companies, and the leadership and care of Governor Mr. Humberto Moreira.

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