

September 8, 2005

MEDIA ALERT: Mayan-Q'eqchi communities to protest Canadian Nickel company operations in Guatemala.

BELOW: a press release from the Guatemalan based Q'eqchi organization AEPDI.

Contact: Daniel Vogt, Director of AEPDI in El Estor, Guatemala, (502) 7949-7735 or 7949-7708; dvogt@intelnet.net.gt.

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Q'EQCHI' MAYAN COMMUNITIES TO PROTEST AGAINST
SKYE RESOURCES NICKEL MINE PROJECT IN GUATEMALA

Frustrated and weary, after months of fruitless dialogue with Skye Resources personnel in Guatemala, nearly sixty Q'eqchi' Mayan communities will protest in a peaceful demonstration at the mine project's headquarters in El Estor on September 13.

The communities demand that Guatemala's Ministry of Energy and Mines immediately suspend Skye's exploration license granted in December of 2004, without previous consultation of the indigenous communities whose lands are affected by the mine project. As a result of the exploration drilling that began in April, the communities contend that their potable water reservoirs have been contaminated and damaged, crops have been destroyed and their owners not adequately compensated, and food security has been jeopardized. Furthermore, the communities argue that boundary limits between company owned and communal lands are not clearly defined, and they fear that their land rights are being compromised by the mine project.

Last March, a formal complaint called a representation was lodged with the International Labor Organization, claiming that Guatemala's government

violated its obligations under Convention 169 when it granted the exploration license without previously informing and consulting the affected indigenous communities. That complaint was filed in accordance with Article 24 of the ILO Constitution and is currently under investigation, and the Q'eqchi' Mayan communities are hopeful of a ruling that would condemn Guatemala's practice of granting mining licenses in indigenous territories in the absence of a transparent consultation mechanism.

Skye has been working in the area around the clock to complete its exploratory work and environmental impact assessment in 2005 and request an exploitation license for 2006. Once granted, Skye could immediately begin producing ferro nickel using the mine installations abandoned by Inco in 1981 that were acquired in 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Daniel Vogt, Director of AEPDI in El Estor, Guatemala, (502) 7949-7735 or 7949-7708; dvogt@intelnet.net.gt

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Please write to Skye Resources Inc. and your elected Canadian officials to support the demands of the local Mayan communities being harmed by Canadian interests.

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