



THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

An Environment in Danger

Kathy is now in the United States, enjoying the company of her family and celebrating her 50th jubilee with them.

Since Sisters Yuli and Sue will be traveling the end of June to participate in the Convocation and community days in July, Charo Barreda, Rocio's sister is preparing to fill in for Yuli in her class of pre-schoolers. Charo also is a Montessori teacher and when the two of them are together there is an explosion of creativity mixed with a loving passion for educating small children.

Charo will also be good company for Rocio during the month of July.

On another note, we return to the problem of Doe Run, the mining company in La Oroya that refuses to comply with the previous agreements to eliminate the contamination of the air and water.

It seems to us strange that after several years of a booming economic record for the company (more than \$508 million) the company suddenly declares itself in an economic and financial crisis. Such is the case that since June of 2009, all operations in La Oroya have been paralyzed, and the company has failed to fulfill its obligations in its contracts with their workers and creditors. Faced with this situation, the state has tried to help the company with continual opportunities to find a solution to the crisis. However, the company has taken advantage of the situation to avoid its responsibilities.

At present the company has asked for a modification of the agreement made in 1997 with the Peruvian government, resulting in exoneration from any accusations to itself and to its shareholders. It should be noted that the company, Doe Run (owners of the mine in La Oroya) is facing accusations in the United States for the harm caused by the contamination that

the mine produces in the health of the children in La Oroya.

Doe Run is also asking for an exoneration from the taxes owed to the Peruvian government. The amount is near \$270 million, money that belongs to the Peruvian people.

In an attempt to reach an agreement with the mining company, the Peruvian government in September of 2009 extended the time of the original contract to develop a project that would reverse the contamination effect. The extension offered the company 30 months for the completion of the project. Now the company is demanding that the conditions for fulfilling these obligations be lessened.

In the department or state of Peru in which we are working, 80% of the region is dedicated to mining. The mining industry represents one of the largest sources of income for the Peruvian people. However, the contamination that results from mining presents serious dangers for the people in the mining region.

La Oroya is known as one of the ten most contaminated cities of the world. If the liberty to continue to contaminate is granted to Doe Run, and the freedom from responsibility is offered, the precedent that is set will affect all of the other mining areas of Peru.

We invite you to go to the web site, "Laoroyasomostodos" (translated, "we are all la Oroya") for more information.

Keep us in your prayers as we do you. Hope to see you at the Convocation!

Love,

Sisters Yuli, Rocio, Sue, and Kathy (from a distance)