The Fuller Traylor company of the U.S.A. supplied a 28 x 14 foot, 4,850 KW power SAG mill, plus two 16 x 24 foot Taylor mills and a 42 inch revolving mill.

Total gold production during the 13 years of useful life will be 68,000 kilos of gold and more than 4,400 tons of silver.

The investment in the first stage was US$ 34 million, and an additional US$ 200 million was invested during the second stage.

A dry dam of US$ 15 million makes it possible to avoid the risk of contamining the environment. Humidity is reduced by 15% with belt filters, which is dry enough to avoid any risk when tailings are deposited.

Proven and probable reserves in Ladera and Farellón amount to 52.8 million tons of ore with an average grade of 1.54 g/t gold and 70.9 g/t silver. Estimated reserves in the Coipa Norte, 3 Km from the other two, are 21.6 million tons with an average grade of 0.29 g/t gold and 115.2 g/t silver.

Placer wanted to use the 1,100 tpd plant at the nearby mine Can Can, which belongs to Chevron, and negotiations have been started.

However, the operation has not been successful to date.

Information on the equipment used at La Coipa is contained inDirectory XI.2.-, Equipment Inventory.

II.3.7.- Marte - Angloamerican

The Marte Mine is located in the country's III Region, 130 kilometers northeast of Copiapó, 4,200 meters above sea level. The systematic exploration work done by Minera Anglo Cominco Ltda. in 1980 made its discovery possible.

It is owned by Compañía Minera Tres Cruces, a subsidiary of Angloamerican Chile Ltda. (20.45%), Mantos Blancos (17.7%) and Inversiones Sudamericana (16.1%). The rest belonged to Cominco (25%), wich abandoned the project, and the Chemical Bank of New York, whose representative in Chile, Inversiones Selecta Ltd., invested approximately US$ 20 million using the Chapter XIX mechanism. Chemical Bank has a 20% of the capital stock. Presently total property of this company is being reorganized.

Reserves in Marte are 34 million tons of ore with a grade of 1.2 - 1.5 g/t of gold. Total investment of US$ 47 million was envisaged for the project. The deposit was expected to produce around 2,500 kilos of gold per year. To date, more than US$ 30 million has been invested in explorations and the construction of 429 km. of roads plus an additional US$ 47 million to develop an open pit.

Marte started production in 1990. However, unforeseen problems have arisen because of the nature of the minerals, which have not lived up to expectations. The 1990 balance sheet showed a loss of US$ 24 million after depreciation, taxes and interest. This was probably due to lower gold prices than expected, bad weather, and the revaluation of the peso with respect to the dollar. However, the main reason is less metallurgical recovery from the heap leaching operation. Also, the crushing plant could not reach full capacity, and only 28% of the installed capacity was being used.

Difficult operating conditions also affected the results, as the Maricunga Salt Lake is located at high altitude, has low temperatures and is far from urban centers.

Marte is a finely disseminated high-tonnage, low grade gold deposit without any economically attractive by-product. Mineralization is quite homogeneous and is found mainly as free gold. Mining reserves involved in the current exploitation program are approximately 35 million tons with a grade of around 1.5 g/t gold.

Because the deposit virtually outcrops on the surface and the topography of the area is particularly favorable, an open pit extraction system was chosen with benches 10 meters high and a final slope angle of 45 degrees.

The exploitation rate was planned to feed the plant with 8,000 t/day. Operations were done by contractors who carried out the drilling, blasting, loading and transport operations separately.

Compañía Minera Tres Cruces was responsible for long, medium and short-term planning as well as field supervision of mining operations. It specially controled the quality of the mineral delivered to the plant.

In 1991 Marte closed down its operations because of sustained losses. The high cost was mainly due to the excessive consumption of cyanide required by the kind of mineral.

This deposit was found by Bernstein and Thomson Ltda., 120 km. from Copiapó and 4,000 meters above sea level.