

Jan. 23/85

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WESTMIN RESOURCES LIMITED EXPANDS RESERVES
AT BRITISH SILBAK PREMIER MINES PROPERTY

VANCOUVER (January 16, 1985) - Exploration in the Glory Hole area of the former producing Silbak Premier mine has defined a steeply dipping mineralized zone up to 60 meters thick centered on the upper part of the mine. The zone occurs within the area mined from 1918 to 1933 where 2.3 million tons grading approximately 0.56 oz. gold/ton and 12.9 oz. silver/ton were recovered from narrow stopes. Based on 5,452 meters of diamond drilling and other surface and underground sample information, a 600-meter long zone contains estimated open pit geological reserves as listed.

	<u>Short Tons</u>	<u>oz. gold/ton</u>	<u>oz. silver/ton</u>	<u>oz. gold Equivalent/ton</u>
Probable	1,348,000	.073	3.48	.156
Possible	1,535,000	.066	3.31	.145
Inferred	1,412,000	.074	2.89	.143
TOTAL	4,295,000	.071	3.22	.148

The reserve is undiluted and was calculated using the sectional method and an 0.04 oz. gold equivalent/ton cutoff. Gold equivalent grade is based on 1 oz. gold/ton equal to 42 oz. silver/ton. Recoverable base metals also occur locally within the mineralized zone.

The Silbak property is located near Stewart in Northwestern B. C., just a few miles south of Westmin-Tournigan Mining Explorations Ltd. Big Missouri property which had reserves of about 2.2 million tons grading 0.098 oz. gold equivalent at the end of the 1983 drilling season.

Waste-to-ore ratio at the Silbak ranges from 2:1 in early stage pits to 5.6:1 in the final proposed pit. Waste-to-ore ratios may be reduced by additional fill-in drilling to expand reserves within the present proposed open pits. Approximately 365,000 tons of similar grade material are not included within the current proposed pits. The zone is open in several directions and down dip.

In addition to open pit reserves in the Glory Hole area, work by previous operators has defined approximately 350,000 tons of reserves at deeper levels of the mine with similar gold and silver grades and containing significant zinc, lead and copper.

Much of the underground potential of the mine as well as numerous relatively untested surface occurrences of mineralization remain to be evaluated.

Westmin and British Silbak Premier Mines entered into a joint venture option agreement in March 1983 wherein Westmin can earn a minimum 50 percent interest in the property.

An active exploration program is planned for 1985 with minimum expenditures of \$700,000. This will bring Westmin's total exploration expenditures at Silbak to \$2,300,000 as required by the agreement.

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