



SQM TO SEARCH FOR METALLIC MINING RESOURCES

Santiago, Chile, April 30, 2008.- Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (**SQM**) (NYSE: **SQM**; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) reported that the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Patricio Contesse, while being interviewed by a Chilean newspaper, stated that SQM is interested in exploring the north of Chile for metallic mineral resources. The Company has effectively decided to explore its mining properties, and in order to do so, it has developed an exploration campaign that is included in its capex plans for the year 2008.

SQM

Los Militares 4290 Piso 6,
Las Condes, Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56 2) 425 2485
Fax: (56 2) 425 2493
www.sqm.com

