1660 Wynkoop St., Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202-1132
Ph (303) 573-1660
Fx (303) 595-9385
Email: royalgold@royalgold.com
Web Site: http://www.royalgold.com

# News Release

Royal Gold, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Stanley Dempsey, Chairman & CEO
or
Karen Gross, Vice President & Corporate Secretary
(303) 573-1660

## ROYAL GOLD ANNOUNCES STEP-UP IN PRODUCTION AT THE PIPELINE MINING COMPLEX

**DENVER, COLORADO. OCTOBER 10, 2000. ROYAL GOLD, INC. (NASDAQ: RGLD; TSE: RGL)** today announced that it has been advised by the Cortez Joint Venture ("Cortez") that it has increased its calendar year 2000 and 2001 production forecast. In calendar 2000, production will be one million ounces of gold, a 16% increase over the 860,000 ounce plan adopted last year. Cortez advises that this increase is due to improved throughput and plant availability, higher grade ore, and production attributable to third party ore sales. Cortez also expects production to exceed 1.1 million ounces of gold in calendar 2001. The year 2001 production will be the fourth consecutive year of greater than one million ounces of gold produced at the Pipeline Mining Complex.

Stanley Dempsey, Chairman & CEO, said that "the operator at Cortez continues to exceed expectations. They have been quite innovative in boosting production by putting together a program for off-site processing of high grade carbonaceous ores from stockpiles, and by

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effectively managing mine operations. The recently announced discovery at Crossroads, and this production increase gives us confidence in their ability to sustain a high level of production in future years."

Dempsey further said, "This will be another good year for Royal Gold. Based on a gold price of $275 per ounce, and because of the revised production forecasts at the Pipeline Mining Complex, we now estimate revenues of $8.4 million and operating cash flow of $5.6 million in fiscal 2001."

The Cortez Joint Venture is a joint venture between Placer Cortez, a subsidiary of Placer Dome Inc. (60%) and Kennecott Explorations (Australia) Ltd., a subsidiary of Rio Tinto (40%).

Royal Gold is the largest U.S.-based precious metals royalty company, and engages in the acquisition and management of precious metals royalty interests. Royal Gold is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol “RGLD,” and on The Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol “RGL.” The Company’s web page is at www.royalgold.com.

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Cautionary "Safe Harbor" Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: With the exception of historical matters, the matters discussed in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual events to differ materially from projections contained herein. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, among others, unanticipated grade, geological, metallurgical, processing, permitting or other problems; changes in project parameters as plans are refined; and changes in commodity prices; as well as other factors. Most of these factors are entirely beyond the Company’s ability to predict or control. Some of the described risks are also discussed in greater detail in the Company’s 10-K and 10-Q reports that have been filed with the SEC. The Company disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statement made herein. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

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