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Serious Housing Shortage

by Steven Ranieri

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According to Roberto Gonzalez Alcala, secretary of the Federal District Assembly's housing commission, in the next four years, 1.3 million new dwellings will be needed to meet Mexico City's housing shortage. He added that studies by the National Informatics, Geography and Statistics Institute (INEGI) indicate the current housing shortfall nationwide is 6.1 million units. Carlos Arnulfo Lopez, president of the National Federation of Civil Engineers, claims the deficit is closer to 15 million units. Gonzalez Alcala estimated that over the next ten years 16 million housing starts would be needed. In other developments, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) state housing committee in Mexico City has obtained loans for the construction of 3,400 homes. The homes are earmarked for 12,000 PRI members in the region who pertain to households lacking a regular income. The Federal Employee Housing Fund (Fovissste) also announced plans for construction of 8,000 housing units throughout the country, and completion of 6,833 unfinished homes. The National Workers' Housing Fund Institute (Infonavit) is constructing 70,000 housing units, and providing 15,000 home loans this year. (Sources: Notimex, 10/16/90, 10/28/90, 11/01/90; El Financiero, 10/23/90; El Nacional, 10/26/90)

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