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In a Nov. 13 speech to participants at an annual auto industry symposium in Mexico City, deputy Finance and Public Credit minister, Francisco Suarez Davila, said the national economy is in "full recession." The official claimed that with a four-point drop in industrial output this year, an inflation rate of over 100%, scarce foreign financial resources, and on-going efforts to repair damages caused by last year's earthquake in Mexico City, the national economic picture could not be worse. Suarez Davila told the audience, which include President Miguel de la Madrid, that negotiations with foreign private banks to stabilize the country's financial situation would be concluded very soon. He added that foreign credit which will begin to arrive in January, constitutes only a palliative to the domestic economic crisis. Next, the ministry's credit director, Angel Gurria, said that despite rumors to the contrary, 75% of Mexico's 500 private bank creditors have "accepted" the government's economic policy.

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