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Steven Ranieri

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Telmex To Invest \$8 Billion In Three-year Development Plan

by Steven Ranieri

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On Feb. 20, Juan Antonio Perez Simon, general manager of the recently privatized Telefonos de Mexico (TELMEX), told reporters that the company plans to invest \$8 billion in the 1991- 1993 period. He said management plans to make TELMEX internationally competitive within six years. About 2.3 million new telephone lines are to be installed by the end of 1993, for a total 7.5 million lines nationwide. The number of phone lines per 100 inhabitants will increase from 6.5 to 8.8. Service is to be extended to 8,000 rural communities. By year-end 1993, one-third of all Mexican households will have telephone service. Next, the number of public telephones is to be doubled to two phones per 1,000 inhabitants , requiring installation of an estimated 100,000 units. Nearly 470,000 new digital lines will be installed to replace obsolete lines, raising the proportion from 29% to 60% of the total by year-end 1993. The investment program also includes the construction of a 13,500 km. fiber optic network, which will be the "central nervous system" for the system. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, El Nacional, Excelsior, 02/21/91; AP, 02/25/91)

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