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Evaluation Of Pronasol Poverty Alleviation Program

by Carlos Navarro

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On Sept. 11, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said the National Solidarity Program (PRONASOL) has made great progress in reducing poverty, although some government officials do not yet understand that they must "change their attitude." The president was apparently referring to complaints about program coverage and reports of arbitrary decision-making. According to Salinas, over the past 40 months of the program, 13 million more Mexicans obtained access to electricity, and another 11 million to potable water. Next, 75,000 schools were remodeled, and thousands of kilometers of roads have been paved. Members of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) disagree with government assessments of PRONASOL's effectiveness in reducing poverty. They point out that in the past 3-1/2 years, the number of Mexicans living in extreme poverty increased from 17 million to 21 million. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 09/11/92)

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