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Report: Malnutrition Widespread In Mexico

by Carlos Navarro
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According to a Jan. 12 report by the federal Chamber of Deputies, only 15% of Mexico's population receives adequate nutrition. The report said that per capita consumption over the past 10 years is down 27% for meat, 21% for milk, 42% for rice, 59% for corn and 19% for wheat. Of the 2 million children born in Mexico each year, 100,000 die in their first years of life because of malnutrition, while another 1 million children suffer brain damage. Deputy Francisco Saucedo, a member of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) and president of the Commission for Basic Consumer Goods (Comision de Bienes de Consumo), said three public hearings and numerous other meetings with nutritional experts will be held in different parts of the country to draft a law that guarantees nutritional rights for Mexico's population. Citing figures from nutritional specialists, Saucedo said 20 million Mexican children are malnourished, while 15% of births involve low-weight infants. Saucedo said he was seeking more than a commitment on paper to end malnutrition, but rather a law creating the mechanisms by which the problem could be addressed. (Source: La Jornada, 01/12/93)

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