Infrastructure Spending Target In 1993

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On Jan. 18, Transportation Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo reported that infrastructure projects planned by the Communications and Transport Secretariat (Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transporte, SCT) for 1993 will cost about 42.2 billion nuevo pesos (US$13.23 billion). Caso told reporters that about 70% of these funds will have to come from the private sector. According to Caso, the major goals of the SCT include upgrading of airports and highways, launching of the Solidaridad satellite and implementation of a plan to prohibit transport of hazardous materials on major highways by year-end 1993. Next, he said construction of a new airport in the Federal District is not necessary because the expansion and renovation plans for the Mexico City and nearby airports would be sufficient to meet the expected demand through 1998. He added that the SCT had purchased a new modern radar system to serve the more than 650 flights that service Mexico City daily. Caso reported that the state-run railroad Ferrocarriles Nacionales (FERRONALES) would continue efforts to increase cargo shipments, and denied reports that the railroad's passenger service would be turned over to the private sector. Efforts by FERRONALES to line up new cargo business were already paying off early in 1993. On Jan. 20, the railroad announced an agreement with the US firm American President Lines transport services to expand shipments of auto parts to assembly plants in Monterrey and Guadalajara. FERRONALES said the two firms have previously worked together on shipment of automotive parts from the US to Chrysler de Mexico plants in Mexico City and Toluca. (Sources: Notimex, 01/18/93, 01/24/93)