3-10-1993

Update On Privatizations

Carlos Navarro

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in SourceMex by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Update On Privatizations

by Carlos Navarro

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, March 10, 1993

Over the past 10 years, the Mexican government has earned US$22 billion from privatization of diverse state-run enterprises and agencies, including banks and the telephone company (TELMEX). In fact, according to New York-based Finmark Research company, Mexico was the most active country in Latin America in the area of privatizations in 1992, earning US$6.5 billion. By year-end 1993, the government hopes to obtain another US$5 billion from sales of the final 37 enterprises on its privatization list. According to the Journal of Commerce, Mexico has placed a high priority on privatization of the huge state-run network of warehouses, Almacenes Nacionales de Deposito (ANSDA), along with 10 seaports. Octavio Gomez, executive director of Grupo Financiero Cremi, said transfer of transportation-related properties to the private sector is a key step to prepare the country's infrastructure for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Cremi has served as an intermediary in transactions involving US$800 million worth of government properties, and is acting as the agent in the privatization of ANSDA. Gomez said a large number of the ANSDA warehouses are located at airports or railroad depots, where they have the capability of supporting intermodal transportation systems (where shipping containers can be easily transferred from one transportation mode to another). In addition, he said more than 100 of the ANSDA warehouses are located in Mexico City. According to Gomez, ANSDA properties will probably be split up and sold to many different buyers. In some cases, current large-scale users of the warehouses will be given priority to purchase the property where their goods are stored. Seaport facilities designated for privatization are: Acapulco, Guaymas, Lazaro Cardenas, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Progreso-Yukaltepen, Istmo de Tehuantepec, Quintana Roo and Ensenada. A tenth port has yet to be designated. In addition to the 10 seaports and ANSDA, the government has targeted 26 other state enterprises for privatization, many of which must yet be opened to bidding. Among the most prominent companies currently accepting private sector bids are the media outlets El Nacional (newspaper) and Channels 2 and 13 which are being sold as a package plus the mining company Minera Autlan. According to the Fisheries Secretariat (Secretaria de Pesca, SEPESCA) bids will be opened for the Ocean Garden seafood packaging and export company at the beginning of April. SEPESCA official Pedro Bosch Guha said a number of foreign investors had inquired about purchasing Ocean Garden (headquartered in San Diego, Calif.), but priority will be given to Mexican private investors. He also dismissed the possibility that Ocean Garden will be transferred to fishing cooperatives, which have long sought the property. (Sources: El Financiero International, 02/01/93; Journal of Commerce, 03/04/93; La Jornada, 03/04/93, 03/05/93; Notimex, 03/06/93)

-- End --