

Honduras: Private Business Leaders Request Repeal Of Privatization Legislation

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Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, August 30, 1991

On Aug. 29, the Honduran Private Enterprise Council (COHEP) called on Rodolfo Arias, president of the National Congress, to introduce a bill to repeal privatization legislation. According to COHEP, repeal is the only way to prevent the imminent purchase of the state-run Honduran Cement Industry (INCEHSA) by the Instituto de Prevision Militar (IPM). The IPM is linked to the Honduran armed forces. The government recently solicited bids for the purchase of INCEHSA. IPM's \$20 million bid was about \$250,000 above the next highest offer submitted by Petrotela. IPM representatives assert that the investment group is private, based on contributions by members. Critics say the IPM resembles a government entity more than a private one, since all directors are senior military officers, and as such, are government employees. (Basic data from AFP, 08/29/91)

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