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Argentina: President Acts To Privatize Gas &amp; Electricity Distribution Companies

by Barbara Khol
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On April 13, government spokespersons said President Carlos Menem is ready to submit a bill to the legislature that would privatize Gas del Estado (gas distribution), Servicios Electricos del Gran Buenos Aires (electricity distribution), and a part of Obras Sanitarias (water treatment). Private companies recently obtained concessions for maintenance and repair of several of the nation's major roadways. On Wednesday and Thursday last week, a major highway in Buenos Aires province was effectively shut down because drivers of over 1,000 trucks refused to pay tolls. Officials reported that the concession contract for the Techint company to take over a 5,200 km. railway would be finalized on April 15. The railway is described as one of the nation's most important for carrying grain and other cargo. (Basic data from EFE, 04/13/91)

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