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by Barbara Khol

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On May 16, the Finance Ministry (SHCP) reported that as of March 31, the gross public sector foreign debt totaled \$76.6692 billion, down \$1.1011 billion from year-end 1990. Over the first quarter of the year, the government made \$2.3851 billion in debt service payments (\$1.426 billion, principal; \$959.1 million, interest). In first quarter 1990, the government made \$1.304 billion in payments on principal, and \$2.657 billion in interest. The net foreign debt as of March 31 this year was \$61.4825 billion, down \$2.16 billion compared to the end of 4th quarter 1990. The federal government's domestic debt at the end of 1st quarter 1991 came to 158.6 billion pesos (\$52.87 billion), compared to 158.7 billion pesos at year-end 1990. Over the first quarter of 1991, the federal government received \$2.003 billion in new financing. Next, the Finance Ministry reported that in the first two months of the year, industrial output was up 5.6% compared to the same period in 1990. (Basic data from AFP, 05/16/91)

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