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Central American Nations Require US\$700 Million Investment To Prevent Electricity Rationing

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 5 in Managua, Francisco Mojica, executive secretary of the Central American Electrification Council (CEAC), said the region requires US\$700 million for power grid upgrade and installation of non-hydroelectric power generation facilities in order to prevent blackouts and rationing. He added that total or partial privatization of power companies underway in some nations of the region could serve to partially remedy the situation. Nicaraguan deputy energy minister Jose Lei said that Managua needs US\$1.5 billion over the next 20 years for power plant conversion and repairs. At present, officials are studying a proposal by the Group of 3 (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) to install coal-fueled power plants in Nicaragua. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 03/05/92)

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