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MEXICO

Carlos HANK Gonzalez
HANK

Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (since 1990)

Businessman and political leader Carlos Hank holds primary responsibility for carrying out President Carlos Salinas's directives for modernizing the agricultural sector, including the recently passed reform of the land tenure system. He also has been active in water-rights issues, particularly in the arid northwestern states.

Hank was born on 28 August 1927. After graduating from the Normal School of Toluca in Mexico State, he taught primary and secondary education for several years. He later went into business and acquired several enterprises, including trucking and heavy equipment manufacturing plants and real estate. He served as mayor of Toluca (1955-57) and as federal deputy from Mexico State (1958-61), as well as assistant manager of sales (1961-64) of CONASUPO, the government agency that controls the price and distribution of basic commodities. He was Governor of Mexico State (1969-75) before being named mayor of Mexico City in 1976. He returned to the private sector in 1982, where he worked until his appointment as Secretary of Tourism in December 1988. He held that post until assuming his current duties.

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