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MEXICO

**Carlos HANK Gonzalez
HANK**

Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (since 1990)

Wealthy businessman and political power broker Carlos Hank is one of a few from the traditionalist, old-guard wing of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in President Carlos Salinas's generally young, technocratic Cabinet. [Redacted]

[Redacted] he was selected for his post because his considerable influence within the PRI and his wide-ranging business contacts provided leverage to implement controversial agricultural reforms, which have been a critical part of Salinas's economic modernization program. PRI officials continue to look to Hank as someone who can deliver support from PRI traditionalists: he is among those who have recently been courted by PRI presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo [Redacted] Included in recent party appointments by Zedillo are two officials who have strong ties to Hank, [Redacted] and are his proteges: PRI secretary general and Zedillo campaign coordinator Ignacio Pichardo and PRI secretary of electoral action Humberto Lira. The ambitious, aggressive Hank has himself long aspired to high political office, according to press reports, but he is constitutionally prohibited from running for the presidency until the year 2000 because his father was German born. [Redacted]

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leaving Hank to ensure that key PRI and government leaders support the administration's agricultural line. Hank has been most active on irrigation and water-rights issues, particularly in the arid northwestern states, and has met with key officials in US border states to discuss these questions. He has also actively promoted greater private-sector participation in agriculture. [Redacted]

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Career and Personal Data

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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 has served as mayor of Toluca (1955-57), federal deputy from Mexico State (1958-61), and assistant manager of sales (1961-64) and director (1964-65) of CONASUPO, a government agency controlling the price and distribution of basic commodities. He was Governor of Mexico State (1969-75), his political power base, 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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Hank does not speak English.

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Married to the former

Maria Guadeloupe Rohn, he has six children.

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