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Report Highlights:

Mexico continued to relax its import restrictions on U.S. bovine products during 2006 and beef imports are expected to reach 375,000 tons in 2007, which is approaching pre-BSE levels. Ongoing negotiations to resume imports of U.S. dairy cattle are expected to result in trade in 2006. Mexico's live cattle exports are forecast higher in 2007 reflecting improved exportable supplies of calves and good grazing conditions. Mexico's pork imports are expected to continue rising in 2007 reflecting strong demand. Pork production and imports of live hogs are also expected to increase.

Includes PSD Changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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SECTION I. SITUATION AND OUTLOOK**Executive Summary**

Mexico's CY 2007 exports of live cattle are forecast at 1.2 million head, up from the previous year's estimate of 1.17 million head as exportable supplies of cattle have improved and producers continue to rebuild herds. Exportable supplies of calves are good and grazing conditions have benefited from favorable weather conditions. On-going negotiations between the United States and Mexico are expected to soon allow imports of U.S. dairy cattle, and Mexico continues to loosen bovine import restrictions imposed following the detection of BSE in 2003. Beef imports are forecast to reach pre-BSE levels at 375,000 MT during CY 2007, up 10,000 MT from CY 2006. Imports of pork continue to climb and are forecast at 460,000 MT during CY 2007. Imports of live hogs are forecast to reach 225,000 head in 2006, still far below the authorized quota of 462,374 head.

SECTION II. STATISTICAL TABLES

PS&D, Animal Numbers, Cattle (1000 Head)

PSD Table						
Country:	Mexico					
Commodity:	CATTLE					
	2005		2006		2007	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Calendar Year Begin	01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	
Total Cattle Beg. Stocks	27572	27572	26997	26949	0	26819
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	2200	2200	2200	2200	0	2200
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	11500	11500	11700	11700	0	11800
Production (Calf Crop)	7500	7500	7800	7950	0	8200
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	75	85	85	95	0	125
TOTAL Imports	75	85	85	95	0	125
TOTAL SUPPLY	35147	35157	34882	34994	0	35144
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	1260	1260	1175	1175	0	1200
TOTAL Exports	1260	1260	1175	1175	0	1200
Cow Slaughter	1700	1700	1700	1700	0	1700
Calf Slaughter	1500	1500	1500	1500	0	1500
Other Slaughter	3100	3158	3300	3300	0	3400
Total Slaughter	6300	6358	6500	6500	0	6600
Loss	590	590	625	500	0	500
Ending Inventories	26997	26949	26582	26819	0	26844
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	35147	35157	34882	34994	0	35144

PS&D, Meat, Beef and Veal (1000 Head) (K Metric Tons)

PSD Table						
Country:	Mexico	Conversion factor for CWE 1.30				
Commodity:	Cattle, MEAT, BEEF and VEAL					
	2005		2006		2007	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Calendar Year Begin	01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	
Slaughter (Reference)	6300	6358	6500	6500	0	6600
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	2125	2125	2175	2175	0	2200
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	325	313	365	365	0	375
TOTAL Imports	325	313	365	365	0	375
TOTAL SUPPLY	2450	2438	2540	2540	0	2575
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	31	30	35	35	0	40
TOTAL Exports	31	30	35	35	0	40
Human Dom. Consumption	2399	2388	2485	2485	0	2515
Other Use, Losses	20	20	20	20	0	20
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	2419	2408	2505	2505	0	2535
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2450	2438	2540	2540	0	2575

PS&D Animal Numbers, Swine, (1000 Head)

PSD Table						
Country:	Mexico					
Commodity:	Swine					
	2005		2006		2007	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Calendar Year Begin	01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	
TOTAL Beginning Stocks	10303	10303	10038	10125	0	10250
Sow Beginning Stocks	940	940	950	950	0	955
Production (Pig Crop)	15500	15500	15700	15700	0	15800
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	189	181	200	200	0	225
TOTAL Imports	189	181	200	200	0	225
TOTAL SUPPLY	25992	25984	25938	26025	0	26275
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sow Slaughter	15	15	15	15	0	15
OTHER SLAUGHTER	14700	14744	14700	14785	0	14825
Total Slaughter	14715	14759	14715	14800	0	14840
Loss	1239	1100	975	975	0	975
Ending Inventories	10038	10125	10248	10250	0	10460
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	25992	25984	25938	26025	0	26275

PS&D, Meat, Swine (1000 Head) (K metric Tons)

PSD Table						
Country:	Mexico	Conversion factor for CWE 1.36				
Commodity:	Swine, MEAT					
	2005		2006		2007	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Calendar Year Begin	01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	
Slaughter (Reference)	14715	14759	14715	14800	0	14840
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	1195	1195	1200	1200	0	1250
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	420	440	450	450	0	460
TOTAL Imports	420	440	450	450	0	460
TOTAL SUPPLY	1615	1635	1650	1650	0	1710
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	59	61	65	65	0	70
TOTAL Exports	59	61	65	65	0	70
Human Dom. Consumption	1556	1574	1585	1585	0	1640
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	1556	1574	1585	1585	0	1640
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1615	1635	1650	1650	0	1710

Trade Matrix

Animal Numbers, CATTLE			Units: Head		
Exports to:	2005	2006*	Imports from:	2005	2006*
U.S.	1,258,583	512,663	U.S.	0	0
Other			Other		
El Salvador	96	0	Australia	17,464	8,145
Colombia	84	0	Nicaragua	30,536	18,178
Belize	22	0	New Zealand	29,734	21,262
			Costa Rica	4,094	2,075
Total of other	202	0	Total of other	81,828	49,660
Other not listed	0	117	Other not listed	2,873	13
Grand Total	1,258,785	512,780	Grand Total	84,701	49,673

Meat, Beef & Veal			Units: Metric Tons		
Exports to:	2005	2006*	Imports from:	2005	2006*
U.S.	11,491	4,833	U.S.	171,708	61,660
Other			Other		
So. Korea	3,060	1,415	New Zealand	6,427	2,564
Japan	5,970	1,695	Canada	42,803	9,916
Puerto Rico	1,972	563	Australia	3,312	927
Costa Rica	603	224	Chile	14,395	1,538
			Nicaragua	647	218
			Panama	423	189
			Costa Rica	1,306	427
Total of other	11,605	3,897	Total of other	69,313	15,779
Other not listed	2	0	Other not listed	49	0
Grand Total	23,098	8,731	Grand Total	241,070	77,439

Animal Numbers, SWINE			Units: Head		
Exports to:	2005	2006*	Imports from:	2005	2006*
U.S.	0	0	U.S.	151,353	104,012
Other	0	0	Other		
	0	0	Canada	29,960	9,720
Total of other	0	0	Total of other	29,960	9,720
Other not listed	0	0	Other not listed	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	Grand Total	181,313	113,732

Meat, Swine			Units: Metric Tons		
Exports to:	2005	2006*	Imports from:	2005	2006*
U.S.	8,513	2,340	U.S.	284,597	104,609
Other			Other		
Japan	34,238	13,086	Canada	32,130	6,732
So. Korea	1,647	461	Chile	6,058	1,379
Guatemala	52	87	Spain	491	59
Canada	66	0			
Total of other	36,003	13,634	Total of other	38,679	8,170
Other not listed	36	26	Other not listed	160	65
Grand Total	44,552	16,000	Grand Total	323,436	112,844

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc. "World Trade Atlas" Mexico Edition

Figures for meat are in product weight equivalent (PWE)

*As of April 30, 2006

Grass Fed Live Steer Average Wholesale Prices in Mexico City
(US\$/Lb.)

Month	2005	2006	% Change
January	0.867	0.868	1.001
February	0.865	0.867	1.002
March	0.856	0.857	1.001
April	0.852	0.864	1.014
May	0.848	N/A	N/A
June	0.846	N/A	N/A
July	0.826	N/A	N/A
August	0.858	N/A	N/A
September	0.868	N/A	N/A
October	0.867	N/A	N/A
November	0.850	N/A	N/A
December	0.857	N/A	N/A

Source: National Market Information Service (SNIM)

Note: 1/ N/A not available

Beef Carcass Average Wholesale Prices in Mexico City
(US\$/Lb.)

Month	2005	2006	% Change
January	1.26	1.34	1.063
February	1.28	1.34	1.047
March	1.27	1.34	1.055
April	1.27	1.33	1.047
May	1.28	N/A	N/A
June	1.28	N/A	N/A
July	1.27	N/A	N/A
August	1.32	N/A	N/A
September	1.34	N/A	N/A
October	1.35	N/A	N/A
November	1.35	N/A	N/A
December	1.35	N/A	N/A

Source: National Market Information S N/A service (SNIM)

Note: 1/ N/A not available

Finished Live Hog Wholesale Prices in Mexico City
(US\$/Lb.)

Month	2005	2006	% Change
January	0.712	0.679	(1.049)
February	0.710	0.670	(1.060)
March	0.691	0.650	(1.063)
April	0.636	0.642	1.009
May	0.603	N/A	N/A
June	0.580	N/A	N/A
July	0.633	N/A	N/A
August	0.707	N/A	N/A
September	0.699	N/A	N/A
October	0.658	N/A	N/A
November	0.679	N/A	N/A
December	0.637	N/A	N/A

Source: National Market Information Service (SNIM)

Note: 1/ N/A not available

Pork Carcass Average Wholesale Prices in Mexico City
(US\$/Lb.)

Month	2005	2006	% Change
January	0.948	1.028	1.084
February	0.954	0.987	1.035
March	0.938	0.987	1.052
April	0.928	0.946	1.019
May	0.928	N/A	N/A
June	0.897	N/A	N/A
July	0.909	N/A	N/A
August	0.946	N/A	N/A
September	0.946	N/A	N/A
October	0.940	N/A	N/A
November	0.972	N/A	N/A
December	0.972	N/A	N/A

Source: National Market Information Service (SNIM)

Note: 1/ N/A not available

Cattle Slaughtered in Federally Inspected Type (TIF) Slaughterhouses

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	1,535,565	1,675,789	9

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Cattle Slaughtered in Municipal Slaughterhouses

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	3,100,150	3,092,494	0

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Cattle Slaughtered In-Situ Slaughtering Facilities

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	1,545,238	1,589,427	3

NOTE: In-Situ slaughter is calculated at 25 to 30 % of total slaughter

Total Cattle Slaughtered in Mexico

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	6,180,953	6,357,710	3

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Hogs Slaughtered in Federal Inspected Type (TIF) Slaughterhouses

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	4,507,045	4,647,460	3

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Hogs Slaughtered Municipal Slaughterhouses

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	4,623,993	4,945,765	3

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Hogs Slaughtered In-Situ Slaughtering Facilities

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	4,916,712	5,165,582	5

NOTE: In-Situ slaughter is calculated at 30 to 35 % of total slaughter

Total Hogs Slaughtered in Mexico

Total	2004	2005	% Change
	14,047,750	14,758,807	5

SOURCE: Confederacion Nacional Ganadera (CNG) with data from SAGARPA

Related Fas/Mexico Reports

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
MX6001	TRQ DAIRY PREPARATIONS	1/9/06
MX6002	TRQ MILK POWDER WTO	1/9/06
MX6003	TRQ MILK POWDER USA	1/9/06
MX6005	PORK LEG ANTIDUMPING RESOLUTION	1/13/06
MX6010	LIVESTOCK SEMI-ANNUAL	2/1/06
MX6014	PORK LEG PANEL REVIEW	2/10/06
MX6024	DAIRY IMPORT CUPOS	3/22/06
MX6032	MEXICO ANNOUNCES THE CONTINUANCE OF COMPENSATORY DUTIES ON BEEF IMPORTS	4/25/06
MX6039	DAIRY SEMI-ANNUAL	5/15/06

SECTION III. NARRATIVE ON SUPPLY, DEMAND, POLICY AND MARKETING**Production**

Cattle/Beef

Overall cattle numbers are expected to rebound in 2007, following a marginal drop in 2006. Beef cow numbers, calf production and total slaughter are expected to increase in 2007, supported by good forage supplies and ideal grazing conditions in key production regions. Good rains in 2005 and 2006 appear to have alleviated the effects of several years of dry conditions in northern Mexico. Ending inventories for CY 2007 are forecast higher than the previous year's revised estimate as cattlemen steadily seek to rebuild herds.

Increased slaughter and good feeding conditions are expected to push beef production higher in CY 2007. Beef production has continued to grow steadily over the past five years despite competition from imports and beef's relatively higher cost compared to pork and chicken. Cattlemen and industry sources indicate that slaughter in federally inspected (TIF) plants is forecast to increase in CY 2007. Improving export prospects in Asian markets (Japan and Korea) and stronger demand for quality cuts from the food processing and supermarket sectors are leading producers to send more cattle to TIF (federally inspected) plants.

While there are no official estimates of total slaughter, the Mexican Government does publish estimates of cattle slaughtered in TIF and municipal slaughter plants. The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) estimates that in situ slaughter represents about 25 to 30 percent of total slaughter, which when combined with the official estimates of TIF and municipal slaughter, provides an estimate of total slaughter. The 2005 beef production estimate reflects official data.

Swine/Pork

Pork production continues to expand, fueled in large part by attractive prices during 2005 and 2006 and continued modernization, concentration, and investment within the pork industry. An increase in the number of specialized swine TIF plants, coupled with further integration of swine producer associations in slaughtering and marketing activities, is expected to contribute to a further expansion of pork production in the future.

Expectations of stronger prices next year will likely push slaughter numbers higher in 2007. Mexico's pork industry continues to be affected by U.S. prices and price changes in the U.S. market will likely affect profitability and production decisions in Mexico during the upcoming year.

Overall hog numbers and slaughter have remained relatively stable in recent years, a trend that is expected to continue in 2007. Underlying this trend has been a shift in the composition of slaughter from hogs supplied by the informal sector to those supplied by larger and more technically advanced producers as the trend towards more modern production practices continues. Lower costs of production relative to the informal sector, better profitability, and strong prices during 2005 and 2006 are helping to encourage investment and consolidation in the pork sector. Official estimates indicate that the share of in situ or informal slaughter remains somewhere between 30 to 35 percent of slaughter. Consequently, slaughter numbers and inventories are forecast to increase in 2007.

Official estimates indicate that hog slaughter in federally inspected plants (TIF) reached 4.6 million head in 2005, compared to 4.5 million in 2004. It appears that this ongoing trend is being driven by Mexico's growing supermarket and meat processing sectors, which require

better quality, more uniformity, and consistency in their meat products. TIF plants are in a better position to provide such products than Mexico's municipal and in situ slaughter operations, which combined still account for a significant portion of hog slaughter.

Current U.S. price forecasts are still relatively attractive compared to the cost of production in Mexico and strong and growing demand from the domestic market is expected to help support domestic production growth.

Consumption

Cattle/Beef

Beef consumption is expected to increase in 2007, continuing a steady growth pattern that has lasted for several years. Continued economic growth and expanding demand in Mexico's hotel and tourism industry has fueled the steady increase in demand. However, beef's higher cost tends to limit consumption to middle and higher income consumers along with the aforementioned hotel, tourism and hotel sectors. Thus, per capita meat consumption in Mexico is relatively low and there remains considerable potential for expanding consumption as incomes rise. Consumption for 2005 is revised slightly lower reflecting official data.

Swine/Pork

Pork consumption for 2007 is expected to continue increasing as demand for processed meats (such as sausages, and hams) rises faster than demand for fresh and frozen pork cuts, reflecting an important structural change in the composition of consumption. However, while the consumption of pork cuts is growing at a slower pace, this segment still represents the bulk of overall consumption in Mexico. Per capita meat consumption is relatively low in Mexico when compared to the United States and Canada, and the potential for growth as incomes rise is considerable. Nonetheless pork will continue to face stiff competition from lower priced poultry products.

Trade

Cattle/Beef

Mexico took steps to reopen its market to certain bovine products in March of 2004, and has since expanded the range of bovine products that can be imported from the United States. Early in 2006, Mexico re-opened its market to bone-in beef from the United States. Mexico's total beef imports are projected to reach 375,000 MT in 2007, the highest level since the detection of BSE in the United States in 2003. Strong demand from Mexico's hotel, tourism and restaurant industries coupled with an expanded range of allowable bovine products has underpinned import growth over the past several years.

Mexico's beef exports are expected to continue growing in 2007 as exporters take advantage of new market opportunities in Asia. Mexico's beef exports to Japan have jumped substantially, rising from just 90 tons in 2004 to over 5,969 tons in 2005, boosted by Mexico's recent free trade agreement with Japan.

Imports of live cattle for 2007 are expected to jump by 30 percent to 125,000 head, owing to strong demand from Mexico's dairy and beef industries. Ongoing restrictions on imports of live cattle from the United States and Canada due to BSE concerns opened the door for Australia, Nicaragua, New Zealand, which are now the primary suppliers. Cattle imports are comprised of limited numbers of slaughter cattle from Central American countries along with dairy cattle from Australia and New Zealand. Ongoing negotiations between Mexico and the

United States to establish certification requirements for the importation of U.S. dairy cattle are nearing completion, which could allow shipments to resume this year.

Mexico's 2007 cattle exports are forecast slightly higher based on an increased calf crop in 2006 and 2007. Ideal grazing conditions should lead to larger exportable supplies of cattle. Durango, a major cattle-exporting state, lost its USDA TB accreditation during 2005 and is currently not permitted to export cattle to the United States until further review. The loss of exports from Durango have had little effect on overall cattle exports, as other states have made-up the difference while Durango cattle find a home in the domestic market.

Swine/Pork

Imports of live hogs are forecast to reach 225,000 head in 2007 as processors seek to augment domestic hog slaughter to meet the growing demand for pork. Pork meat imports for 2007 are forecast to rise to 460,000 MT (CWE). Domestic sausage companies continue to use more imported U.S. pork variety meats and mechanically de-boned poultry meat due to attractive prices and high quality. Domestically produced sausages, processed foods, and lunch meats containing imported ingredients, as well as imported sausages and pork products, continue to gain market niches in Mexico, particularly among middle and upper-income consumers. 2005 pork imports have been revised upward reflecting official data.

Mexico's pork exports are forecast to reach 70,000 MT (CWE) in 2007, mostly to Japan. While animal health concerns and relatively high prices have limited Mexican pork exports, exporters have established a niche market in Japan. Sales to Japan are expected to continue growing in the future as exporters take advantage of Mexico's free trade agreement with Japan. Mexico's pork exporters enjoy tariff-rate quota access in Japan as follows:

Year	TRQ/Metric Tons (CWE)
2005-2006	52,060
2006-2007	52,998
2007-2008	89,050
2008-2009	101,380
2009-2010	109,600

Mexican producers and animal health officials are seeking to have additional areas declared free of Classical Swine Fever (CSF). Currently, the states of Sonora, Quintana Roo, Campeche, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Yucatan have been declared low risk or free of CSF by USDA. Regionalization requests are also under review by USDA officials for the states of Nayarit, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and Durango.

Policy

Cattle/Beef

Under the PROGAN support program, the Secretariat of Agriculture provides funding for herd and genetic improvements, provided that cattle producers meet certain criteria relating to animal health standards, management practices, and herd composition.

On April 24, 2006, Mexico's Ministry of Economy (Economia) announced the continuation of compensatory duties on beef imports from the United States, the conclusion of Mexico's Sunset Review initiated in 2005. See MX6032 for more information.

Mexico has taken significant steps to re-open its market to bovine products following the discovery of a single case of BSE in Washington State on December 24, 2003. Below is a listing of approved and prohibited products.

Prohibited products:

- Live cattle (currently under negotiations to allow imports of dairy cattle)
- Boneless and bone-in meat from cattle 30 months of age or older
- Bovine offal and viscera other than those currently authorized
- Products derived from non-protein-free tallow
- Gelatin and collagen prepared from bone
- Ruminant meal
- Ground beef

Permitted products:

- Tallow (human consumption)
- Blood (human consumption)
- Breeding bulls
- Bone-in meat from cattle under 30 months of age
- Boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age
- Marinated boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age
- Beef based preparations, beef/pork based preparations, beef/sheep based preparations and beef/pork/poultry based preparations
- Veal boneless or bone-in
- Hearts, kidneys, tongue and lips from cattle under 30 months of age
- Diaphragm and trimmings from cattle under 30 months of age
- Tripe from cattle under 30 months of age
- Meat, carcasses, viscera, and heads from sheep under 12 months of age
- Meat, carcasses, and viscera from goats under 12 months of age
- Liver
- Milk
- Dairy products
- Semen
- Embryos
- Protein-free tallow not fit for animal consumption
- Dicalcium phosphate (DCP)
- Skins and hides
- Gelatin and collagen obtained from hides and skins
- Pet Food (see MX4040 for more details)
- Sausage made from beef and pork with or without cheese
- Live sheep for immediate slaughter

Swine/Pork

The Mexican Council of Pork Producers (CMP) continues to work with the Mexican Government to develop programs to enhance the competitiveness of domestic pork producers by improving efficiency, quality, product differentiation, and marketing methods. One overriding objective among the pork producers seems to be to help small and medium-sized producers reach viable scales of production, possibly by establishing production contracts with larger pork processors and slaughterhouses. To date, the Mexican Government has yet to establish specific funding or support programs to aid smaller hog producers.

Marketing

Cattle/Beef

Marketing efforts should focus on products authorized for import while continuing to maintain contact with users of prohibited products in the expectation that Mexico will continue to loosen import restrictions. Marketing efforts should focus on the quality and safety of U.S. beef. Opportunities exist in the dairy and beef industries for the sale of U.S. genetics and breeding stock. Dairy producers in particular have been hurt by the ban on cattle imports and are planning to source U.S. dairy cattle when trade resumes. Price is a major consideration when selling dairy cattle to Mexico. SAGARPA has authorized the import of breeding bulls under a strict confinement program, which has so far been used to supply semen to the dairy industry.

Swine/Pork

Good marketing opportunities for U.S. pork exist in Mexico's cold cut and supermarket industries catering to middle and upper income consumers. Educational seminars through supermarket chains, restaurants, and hotels appear to be an effective way to increase awareness of the wide variety of U.S. pork cuts available.

U.S. livestock, beef and pork exporters, new to the Mexican market, are also encouraged to contact the following trade organizations for further market information.

TRADE ORGANIZATIONS
THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICE (ATO) CHRISTINE SLOOP, DIRECTOR JAIME BALMES NO. 8 - 2 ND . FLOOR 11510 MEXICO, D.F. PH. (525) 280-5291/5276; FAX. (525) 281-6093
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