

In order to fight fires in Mexico City, there is an active corps of 750 firemen and a total of 1,700 firemen in case of emergency. There are seven fire stations located throughout the city and 135 fire engines are constantly on call. Fire department authorities and airport officials have expressed their interest in modern fire fighting and fire abatement equipment in order to modernize and increase their existing facilities.

8. SECURITY

In addition to industrial safety, security measures have become of great importance. In Mexico City alone, reported robberies were 63,210 in 1990, slightly below those reported in previous years. However, according to police representatives, reported thefts only represent some 30% of total cases (if not less), which would mean that robberies in Mexico City are closer to 200,000, without counting pickpockets. Of all reported cases (most of which are reported in order to collect on insurance policies), 30% correspond to car robberies, while the balance corresponds to break-ins into homes and industrial/commercial establishments. In general, people are protecting their properties more carefully by installing alarms in their cars and homes. Most cars now being sold in Mexico actually are supplied with a door alarm from the manufacturer.

General criminal activity has reportedly decreased in 1990, but had been increasing steadily before. The total number of accused delinquents in Mexico City was 134,205 in 1990, down from the maximum 174,128 reported in 1988. In addition to robberies, the most common crimes in 1990 were injuries (21,204), damages to third party property (19,057), homicides (4,563) and threats (6,039).

One of the main problems Mexico City officials face in resolving the crime problem, is the insufficient number of policemen. Even though the Department of the Federal District (Departamento del Distrito Federal - DDF) more than doubled the number of policemen in 1988, from 28,135 to 65,628, and further increased it to 66,311 in 1990, and has maintained 4,715 patrol cars for traffic and public order supervision, it is estimated that, in order to reduce criminal activity in Mexico City, new investments have to be made to train new police forces and to supply them with new, more updated arms and equipment in order to secure the safety of the city's inhabitants. Therefore, the local police will continue to represent a major buyer of equipment and supplies.

9. MARKET ACCESS

As a result of Mexico's accession to GATT, the Mexican government has gradually opened the economy to international markets. Tariffs have been lowered from a maximum 100% in 1983, to 20% since December, 1988. The official price system has been totally