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- 3** Money. Mexico's basic unit of currency is the peso, which is divided into 100 centavos. As of September 1993, 2.14 new pesos were worth C\$1.00. Because the peso is subject to daily revaluation, it is wise to contact a bank for current rates. Although Canadian dollars are accepted in Mexico, U.S. dollars are the most freely convertible foreign currency in business circles.
- 4** Health requirements. Although there are no special health requirements, visitors who plan to spend time in rural tropical areas are advised to take preventative measures against malaria. Those with heart or respiratory ailments should note the high altitude of Mexico City — 2679 metres.
- 5** Health tips. Bottled water is usually served in hotels. Visitors are advised to avoid drinking tap water or consuming salads and raw vegetables, except in the better restaurants.
- 6** Clothing. Spring and fall clothing is suitable year-round in Mexico City, although a light coat is advisable from December to February.
- 7** Hours of business. Business hours in Mexico vary considerably. The following few may be useful:
- ▶ Canadian Embassy: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., lunch 1-2 p.m.
  - ▶ Business offices: 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m., closed 2-3 p.m.
  - ▶ Government offices: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. officially, although many officials work until 8 p.m. and meetings are sometimes scheduled in the early evening.
  - ▶ Banks: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
  - ▶ Shops: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Wednesday and Saturday 1 - 8 p.m.
- 8** Local time. Most of Mexico is on Central Standard Time.
- 9** Electricity. The electricity supply is 60 cycles, 110/125 volts, which allows the use of North American appliances. Brief power failures and surges are frequent, however.
- 10** Weights and measures. The metric system is used throughout Mexico.

