



Center for Strategic and International Studies ■ Washington, D.C.

MEXICO'S 60TH CONGRESS: COMPOSITION, AGENDA AND PROSPECTS FOR CONSENSUS

FEBRUARY 9, 2007

Maria Ámparo Casar is the former Chief of Staff of the Interior Ministry (2000-2005) and the author of several articles on Congress, presidentialism and executive-legislative relations in Mexico. She has recently completed a work comparing the behavior of parliamentary fractions and executive-legislative relations under three congressional terms of divided government in Mexico (1997-2006). She received her M.A. and Ph.D in Social and Political Science from the University of Cambridge and has conducted research at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) since 1979.

Javier Medina Medina is the Chief Lobbyist of Grupo Salinas, one of the largest and most diversified corporate groups in Mexico. He was the Undersecretary of Planning for the Mexican Ministry of Commerce. Prior to joining Grupo Salinas, he held numerous government posts, among including, Minister of Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. and Chief of Staff under the Minister of Tourism. Medina was the founding president of the National Association of Lobbying Professionals in Mexico (PROCAB). His academic distinctions include a B.A. and an M.A. in economics from the University of London.

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Jeffrey A. Weldon is a professor of political science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), where he is director of the undergraduate program in political science and interim department chair for the 2007 calendar year. He has been an adjunct fellow at CSIS since 2001. During the 2003-2004 academic year, he was a visiting fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). He is a founding member of the Mexican Parliamentary Studies Association and is currently its academic secretary. His current research deals with party discipline and coalitions in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. He received a B.A. in political science from the University of Washington and an M.A. in the same discipline from UCSD.