

NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA

Form 6-K

May 19, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 6 - K

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May 2004

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY
OF VENEZUELA (CANTV)

(Translation of Registrant's Name into English)

EDIFICIO CANTV

AVENIDA LIBERTADOR

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Act of 1934

Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicated below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82 - _____

This report consists of an English translation of the original Spanish language version of a Venezuelan filing of the unaudited financial statements of Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela (CANTV) as of and for the period ended on March 31, 2004, prepared according to Venezuelan GAAP, which differ in certain important respects from US GAAP, as filed with the Venezuela National Commission on Securities on May 4, 2004.

This report contains statements about expected future events and financial results that are forward-looking and subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those predicted in such forward-looking statements. Factors which may cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed herein include economic considerations that could affect demand for telecommunications services and the ability of the Company to make collections, inflation, regulatory factors, exchange controls and occurrences in currency markets, competition, labor relations, and the risk factors set forth in the Company's various filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its most recently filed Annual Report on Form 20-F. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof, and claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Caracas, May 4, 2004

Sirs

Comisión Nacional de Valores

Present

Attention: Dra. Aida Lamus

President

Dear Dra. Lamus,

In accordance with the requirements of the Periodic or Occasional Information Reporting Norms to Be Submitted by Individuals Regulated by the Venezuelan National Commission on Securities (Normas Relativas a la Información Periódica u Ocasional que Deben Suministrar las Personas Sometidas al Control de la Comisión Nacional de Valores), attached please find the unaudited Financial Statements as of and for the period ended March 31, 2004, which includes its respective notes, that are presented comparative to the previous year ago period (2003).

I will make myself available should you need any clarification or additional information.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Gregorio Tomassi

Gregorio Tomassi

Head of Strategic Planning and Investor Relations

Cantv

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA

(CANTV) AND SUBSIDIARIES

Unaudited consolidated financial statements

as of March 31, 2004 and 2003

and for the three

months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

(Translation of financial statements originally issued in Spanish)

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA (CANTV) AND SUBSIDIARIES

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(In millions of constant bolivars)

	March 31,	
	2004	2003 (Restated)
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and temporary investments	722,205	503,911
Accounts receivable, net	393,328	460,229
Accounts receivable from Venezuelan Government entities	173,214	131,901
Inventories and supplies, net	105,475	124,527
Other current assets	58,345	27,361
Total current assets	1,452,567	1,247,929
Property, plant and equipment, net	3,797,852	4,618,290
Cellular concession, net	170,195	176,238
Other assets	380,769	457,218
Total assets	5,801,383	6,499,675
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Short-term debt	48,146	245,181
Accounts payable	376,270	389,290
Accrued employee benefits	76,157	75,893
Short-term pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations	75,907	72,951
Dividends payable	426,804	68,075
Deferred revenue	123,858	135,635
Other current liabilities	256,847	284,149
Total current liabilities	1,383,989	1,271,174
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:		
Long-term debt	192,657	240,471
Pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations	678,229	776,888
Total liabilities	2,254,875	2,288,533
Minority interests	2,532	3,011
STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY:		

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Capital stock adjusted for inflation (equivalent to nominal capital stock of Bs. 29,047 and Bs. 34,173, respectively)	2,287,946	2,688,592
Additional paid-in capital	36,098	36,098
Retained earnings	933,430	1,593,109
Legal reserve	290,276	290,276
Treasury stock		(400,646)
Workers benefit shares	(86,431)	(88,188)
Other adjustments	82,657	88,890
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total stockholders equity	3,543,976	4,208,131
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	5,801,383	6,499,675
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated statements

(Translation of financial statements originally issued in Spanish)

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA (CANTV) AND SUBSIDIARIES

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(In millions of constant bolivars, except information per share and per ADS)

	For the three months ended March 31,	
	2004	2003 (Restated)
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Local service	220,131	229,432
Domestic long distance	64,654	64,701
Local and domestic long distance	284,785	294,133
International long distance	25,152	27,630
Net settlements	(778)	1,586
International long distance	24,374	29,216
Fixed to mobile outgoing calls	138,328	146,670
Interconnection incoming	17,209	21,366
Data Transmission	78,042	69,770
Other wireline-related services	25,861	27,289
Total wireline services	568,599	588,444
Wireless service	250,543	183,913
Other	21,737	28,484
Total operating revenues	840,879	800,841
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Labor and Benefits	106,572	150,661
Operations, maintenance, repairs and administrative	265,303	168,074
Provision for uncollectibles	19,256	27,215
Interconnection costs	76,777	83,882
Depreciation and amortization	260,057	280,789
Concession and other taxes	51,254	55,800
Total operating expenses	779,219	766,421
Operating income	61,660	34,420
OTHER (EXPENSES), NET:		

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Financing cost, net	(8,628)	(15,184)
Other expenses, net	2,204	2,243
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total other expenses, net	(6,424)	(12,941)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Income before income tax	55,236	21,479
INCOME TAX:	(12,982)	(8,632)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Income before minority interest	42,254	12,847
Minority interest	146	(160)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income	42,108	13,007
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Earnings per share	54	17
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Earnings per ADS (based on 7 shares per ADS)	380	117
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Average shares outstanding (in millions)	776	776
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated statements

(Translation of financial statements originally issued in Spanish)

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA (CANTV) AND SUBSIDIARIES

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2004 AND 2003 AND THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

(In millions of constant bolivars)

	Capital stock			Additional paid-in capital	Retained earnings	Legal reserve	Treasury stock	Workers benefits shares	Other adjustments	Total stockholders equity
	Nominal value	Inflation adjustment	Total							
Restated balance as of December 31, 2002	34,173	2,654,419	2,688,592	36,098	1,648,177	290,276	(400,646)	(88,188)	84,155	4,258,464
Net income					13,007					13,007
Dividends declared					(68,075)					(68,075)
Repurchased shares										
Workers benefit shares										
Cumulative translation adjustment									4,735	4,735
Restated balance as of March 31, 2003	34,173	2,654,419	2,688,592	36,098	1,593,109	290,276	(400,646)	(88,188)	88,890	4,208,131
Net income					18,658					18,658
Dividends declared					(288,903)					(288,903)
Workers benefit shares					(4,382)			1,071		(3,311)
Cumulative translation adjustment and other									(8,409)	(8,409)
Balance as of December 31, 2003	34,173	2,654,419	2,688,592	36,098	1,318,482	290,276	(400,646)	(87,117)	80,481	3,926,166
Net income					42,108					42,108
Dividends declared					(426,813)					(426,813)
Workers benefit shares					(347)			686		339
Cancelation of treasury stock	(5,126)	(395,520)	(400,646)				400,646			
Cumulative translation adjustment and other									2,176	2,176

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Balance as of March 31, 2004	29,047	2,258,899	2,287,946	36,098	933,430	290,276	(86,431)	82,657	3,543,976
---------------------------------	--------	-----------	-----------	--------	---------	---------	----------	--------	-----------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated statements

(Translation of financial statements originally issued in Spanish)

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA (CANTV) AND SUBSIDIARIES

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(In millions of constant bolivars)

	For the three months ended March 31,	
	2004	2003
	(Restated)	
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	42,108	13,007
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities-		
Gain from net monetary position	13,106	(20,209)
Exchange loss, net	4,414	30,915
Depreciation and amortization	260,057	280,789
Provision for doubtful accounts	19,256	27,215
Provision for inventories obsolescence		988
Changes in current assets and liabilities -		
Accounts receivable	25,058	80,774
Accounts receivable from Venezuelan Government entities	(33,261)	(5,010)
Inventories and supplies	(28,952)	(9,894)
Other current assets	(5,412)	2,123
Accounts payable	(33,423)	(125,666)
Accrued employee benefits	(5,107)	47,614
Deferred revenues	(1,150)	(209)
Other current liabilities	(21,861)	(7,654)
	234,833	314,783
Changes in non current assets and liabilities -		
Other assets	(181)	(23,423)
Pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations	(6,570)	(20,115)
Net cash provided by operating activities	228,082	271,245
CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisition of intangibles	(5,370)	(3,089)
Capital expenditures, net of disposals	(59,940)	(15,193)
Net cash used in investing activities	(65,310)	(18,282)
CASH FLOWS USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments of debt	(187,242)	(82,117)
Dividends paid		(315,339)
Purchased shares for workers benefit fund	345	
Net cash used in financing activities	(186,897)	(397,456)
Increase (decrease) in cash and temporary investments before loss in purchasing power of cash and temporary investments and foreign exchange gain on cash and temporary investments	(24,125)	(144,493)
LOSS IN PURCHASING POWER OF CASH AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS:	(43,225)	(37,524)
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN OF CASH AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS:	32,194	74,867

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Increase in cash and temporary investments	(35,156)	(107,150)
CASH AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS:		
Beginning of period	757,361	611,061
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
End of period	722,205	503,911
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:		
Unpaid dividends	426,804	68,075
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cash paid during the period for -		
Interest	12,414	20,934
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Taxes	123,384	179,588
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
RESULT FROM NET MONETARY POSITION:		
Operating activities	12,487	18,025
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Financing activities	17,632	39,708
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated statements

(Translation of financial statements originally issued in Spanish)

COMPAÑÍA ANÓNIMA NACIONAL TELÉFONOS DE VENEZUELA (CANTV)

AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2004

(Amounts are adjusted for inflation and expressed in millions of constant
bolivars as of March 31, 2004, unless otherwise indicated)

NOTE 1 - EXPLANATION ADDED FOR TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH:

The consolidated financial statements were originally issued in Spanish and translated into English.

NOTE 2 - COMPANY BACKGROUND AND CONCESSION AGREEMENT:

Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela (CANTV or the Company) is one of the primary providers of telecommunication services in Venezuela, and the owner of a nationwide basic telecommunications network through which it provides not only local, national and international wireline telephone service, but also private networks, data, public telephone, rural and telex services. In addition, CANTV provides other telecommunication services including wireless communications, Internet access and publication of telephone directories through its principal subsidiaries: Telecomunicaciones Movilnet, C.A. (Movilnet), Cantv.Net, C.A. (Cantv.Net), C.A. Venezolana de Guías (Caveguías), and Altair, C.A. (Altair). (See note 3 (d) Consolidation).

CANTV entered into a Concession Agreement (the Concession) with the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the Government) in 1991 to provide national and international telecommunications services, with the purpose of guaranteeing high quality service, modernizing and expanding the local network, introducing progressive rate rebalancing and establishing a framework for the introduction of competition. November 2000 marked the opening of the telecommunications market with the entrance of new competitors (see Note 18 (d) and (e) - Commitments and contingencies - Concession mandates and Competition). Starting June 12, 2000, the Company is regulated by the Concession and the Organic Telecommunication Law, enacted on that date (see Note 4 - Regulation).

Significant terms of the Concession are as follows:

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

- a) The Concession established a special privilege regime of limited concurrence, through which the Government guaranteed CANTV, except in some circumstances, to be the exclusive provider of wireline telephone service, including local, national and international access until November 27, 2000. Beginning on November 27, 2000, any party who obtains the corresponding administrative concession is able to provide basic telecommunication services in the country (see Note 4 - Regulation).

- b) The Concession term is for 35 years until 2026, and is renewable for an additional 20 years subject to the approval by the Ministry of Infrastructure (the Ministry) and satisfactory performance by CANTV of its obligations under the Concession.

Until December 31, 2000, CANTV paid an annual concession tax equal to 5.5% of services subject to the Concession tax. Beginning in January 2001, the Company is subject to pay up to 4.8% of gross revenues (see Note 4 - Regulation Tax regime). These expenses are reflected in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations as Concession and other taxes totaling Bs 24,209 and Bs 22,236 for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

- c) The Concession required the Company to expand, modernize and improve the quality of its telecommunication network, and to meet established service quality targets until 2000. (see Note 18 (d) and (e) - Commitments and contingencies - Concession mandates and Competition).
- d) The Concession specifies various penalties that may be imposed to CANTV for negligent or intentional violation of its provisions. Depending on the violation, a public reprimand, a fine up to 1% of billed services, and/or revocation and termination of the Concession may be assessed or rendered. Penalties assessed against CANTV through March 31, 2004, have not been material.

Cellular Concession

On May 19, 1992, the Company purchased one of two cellular concessions from the Government for Bs 245,423 (Bs 5,388 on an historical cost basis) and established Movilnet. The amount paid for the cellular concession is being amortized over 40 years. The Concession was granted for 20 years and is renewable for an additional 20 year period. As of March 31, 2004 the cellular concession net of amortization balance is Bs 170,195.

Beginning in 2001, the tax regime applicable to cellular services operators was 9.3% of gross revenues subsequently decreasing by 1% per annum through 2005 (see Note 4 - Regulation Tax regime).

For the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, the Concession tax expense included in the consolidated statements of operations is reflected as Concession and other taxes and totaled Bs 15,118 and Bs 14,819, respectively.

NOTE 3 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES:

a) Bases of presentation

Consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Venezuela (VenGAAP) issued by the Venezuelan Federation of Public Accountants (VFPA). According to the Venezuelan Statement of Accounting No. 0, the hierarchy of controlling accounting guidance is VenGAAP followed in succession by International Accounting Standards (IAS), Mexican GAAP, Financial Accounting Standard Board pronouncements (FASB) and accounting standards issued by other Latin-American countries with issues similar to those of Venezuela.

b) Use of estimates in the preparation of financial statements

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the

date of the consolidated financial statements and the amounts of revenues and expenses recognized during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

c) Adjustment for inflation

The Company's consolidated financial statements are expressed on a constant bolivar basis as of March 31, 2004, in accordance with the Venezuelan Statement of Accounting Principles Number 10 Standards for the Preparation of Financial Statements Adjusted for Inflation (DPC 10) (revised and comprehensive), issued by the VFPA and dated December 2000. For all legal and statutory purposes, CANTV uses financial statements adjusted for inflation.

Accordingly, the amounts disclosed in the consolidated financial statements have been adjusted to reflect the bolivar's purchasing power at March 31, 2004 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the metropolitan area of Caracas as published by the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV).

As of March 31, the most representative indexes used in the preparation of the inflation adjusted financial statements are as follows (1997 base):

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Period CPI	410.15781	331.96736
Average for period CPI	402.35978	324.56704

Each caption in the accompanying consolidated financial statements has been presented on the basis of the CPI at March 31, 2004, as follows:

- i. Monetary assets and liabilities (cash and temporary investments, accounts receivable, certain other assets and most liabilities) including foreign currency balances as of March 31, 2004, have not been adjusted for the effect of inflation since they already represent their inflation-adjusted value at that date. The balances as of March 31, 2003, have been updated based upon the relative change in the CPI between that date and the CPI at March 31, 2004.
- ii. Non-monetary assets (principally inventories and supplies, net, property, plant and equipment, net, the cellular concession, net and certain other assets) and stockholders' equity have been updated based upon the relative change in the CPI between the time the assets and equity were acquired or contributed and the CPI at March 31, 2004.
- iii. The non-monetary liability for pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations and their related expenses, are recorded based on actuarial calculations (see Note 12 - Retirement benefits).
- iv. Monetary revenues and expenses have been updated based on the change in the CPI from the month in which transactions were recorded and the CPI at March 31, 2004.
- v. Non-monetary expenses (primarily depreciation and amortization) are based on the value of the corresponding asset (primarily property, plant and equipment and software) in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets (See (ii) above).

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

- vi. The monetary result is attributable to the Company's net monetary asset or liability position during an inflationary period and is shown under Financing cost, net caption in

the accompanying consolidated statements of operations (see Note 14 - Financing cost, net).

d) Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include CANTV and all its majority-owned subsidiaries. CANTV's principal subsidiaries are: Movilnet, Cantv.Net, Caveguías, CANTV Finance and Altair. In addition, beginning in June 2003, the Company is consolidating the workers benefit fund as a result of the retroactive adoption of IAS (see (v) Restructuring of the consolidated financial statements). All subsidiaries are wholly owned, except for Caveguías which is 80% owned. All significant intercompany balances and transactions among the companies have been eliminated.

On October 24, 2003, an extraordinary Shareholders' Assembly of Altair approved its dissolution and the transfer of its assets and liabilities to CANTV effective December 31, 2003.

e) Cash and temporary investments

Cash and temporary investments include short-term, highly liquid investments, having original maturities of three months or less. The loss in purchasing power of bolivar denominated cash and temporary investments is due to inflation and foreign exchange devaluations. Foreign exchange gains and losses on cash and temporary investments are reflected as a separate caption in the consolidated statements of cash flows.

f) Inventories and supplies, net

Inventories and supplies are presented at acquisition cost, net of reserves, which does not exceed their fair value. Certain inventories and supplies whose original cost per unit does not exceed the equivalent in bolivars of US\$500 are expensed when purchased.

g) Property, plant and equipment and depreciation and amortization

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at acquisition cost, expressed in constant bolivars and include capitalized direct labor, allocated overhead costs, and materials used in connection with construction work in progress. Maintenance and repair costs are expensed when incurred while major improvements and renewals that extend the assets' useful lives or asset capability, are capitalized. Upon disposal of fixed assets, the cost and accumulated depreciation are reduced from fixed asset accounts, and any gain or loss is recognized in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

Depreciation and amortization are calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the fixed assets and the amortization over the period assigned to the intangible assets (see Note 2 - Company Background and Concession Agreement - Cellular Concession and Note 9 - Other assets).

h) Computer software

The cost of certain purchased computer software and systems for internal use are capitalized and classified as intangible assets. The estimated useful lives of these intangible assets range between 3 to 7 years. Internal-use software is defined as software which is acquired, internally developed, or modified solely to meet the internal needs of the Company, and for which, during the software's development or modification, no substantive plan exists or is being developed by the Company to market the software externally. Regular maintenance and modifications to existing software are expensed when incurred.

i) Impairment of long-lived assets

The Company assesses impairment of long-lived assets, including intangible assets, based on the projection of undiscounted cash flows whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts of such assets may not be recoverable. In the event such cash flows are not expected to be sufficient to recover the recorded value of the assets, these assets are written down to their estimated fair values. No adjustment for impairment in the carrying value of long-lived assets has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

j) Revenue recognition

Revenues for wireline, wireless services, access to Internet and data transmission are recognized in the period in which services are rendered. These services are recognized based on minutes of use, monthly charges for basic rent and special services, all net of credits and discounts adjustments. Revenues from settlement of traffic with international telecommunications carriers are recognized on a net basis and are based on estimates of traffic volume and rates. Advertising revenues and related telephone directory printing costs are recognized upon publication of directories. Revenues related to phone handsets sales are recognized when the equipment is delivered and accepted by the customer or distributor, which are recorded separately from revenues for services. The Company records billed services not rendered, such as submarine cable usage, basic rent for telecommunication services and telephone directories, as deferred revenue.

During 2002, the Company launched a promotion for cellular subscribers consisting of awarding customers with credits in services for their total usage transacted during November and December of 2002. The amount was credited to each subscriber's account of via equal installments, beginning in February 2003, over a twelve month period. The credits are granted only if certain conditions were met. Postpaid customers were required to maintain active and solvent accounts, while prepaid customers were required to maintain positive balances. In January 2004, the remaining balance of deferred revenues of Bs 2,888 related to the 2002 promotion was recognized. A similar promotion was not offered in the fourth quarter of 2003.

k) Provision for uncollectible accounts

The Company maintains a provision for doubtful accounts at a level deemed adequate to provide for potentially uncollectible receivables. The Company currently reserves 3% of monthly billed revenues for wireline services, 5% for wireless services and 10% for Internet and other voice services. The balance of this allowance is continuously assessed by management using several factors that affect the collectibility of accounts receivable.

A full allowance is provided for receivables from permanently disconnected subscribers. Permanent disconnections are made after performing several collection efforts following non-payment by wireline and wireless subscribers. Such permanent disconnections generally occur within 90 days from statement date. As an overriding policy, an analysis is performed for residential and business wireline subscribers with outstanding receivables that are 90 days past due. In addition each unit performs an assessment of recoverability on individual cases.

l) Amortization of discount on issued promissory notes

In September 2000, the Company issued discounted promissory notes denominated in bolivars with a maturity of 5 years. The discount is being amortized using the effective rate method (see Note 10 Long-term debt).

m) Income tax

Income tax is calculated based upon taxable income, which is different from income before tax in the consolidated statement of operations. Venezuelan tax legislation does not permit consolidation of results of subsidiaries for tax purposes. Investment tax credits for new investment in property, plant and equipment reduce the income tax during the year in which such assets are placed in service. Investment tax credits as well as tax losses, except those from tax inflation adjustment, are permitted to be carried forward for 3 years. Venezuelan tax regulations also provide for a corporate asset alternative minimum tax based on inflation adjusted net assets (see Note 16 Taxes).

The Company recognizes through the deferral method, the impact of income taxes originating from temporary differences existing between income tax expense calculated on the basis of net income, determined in accordance with Venezuelan Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and taxable income for the period, in accordance with current tax legislation. Such tax effect is assigned to future periods in which such temporary differences will be realized.

Recording of deferred income tax benefit is subject to a reasonable expectation of realization and a deferred tax asset is not credited against results for an amount exceeding tax based on taxable income. Based on tax results from prior years and current conditions of economic uncertainty, the Company has not recorded the asset resulting from deferring the tax effect of temporary reconciliation differences.

n) Employee severance benefits and other benefits

Employee severance benefits are calculated and recorded in accordance with the Venezuelan labor law and the Company's current collective bargaining agreement.

Under the current Labor Law, employees earn a severance indemnity equal to 5 days salary per month, up to a total of 60 days per year of service. Labor indemnities are earned once an employee has completed 3 months of continuous service. Beginning with the second year of service, the employees earn an additional 2 days salary for each year of service (or fraction of a year greater than six months), cumulative up to a maximum of 30 days salary. Severance benefits must be funded and deposited monthly in either an individual trust or a severance fund, or accrued in the employer's accounting records, as specified in writing by each employee.

In the event of unjustified or involuntary termination, employees have the right to an additional indemnification payment of one month of salary per year of service up to a maximum of 150 days of current salary. Furthermore, in the event of involuntary termination, the Law requires payment of an additional severance benefit up to a maximum of 90 days of current salary based on length of employment.

The Company has a workers benefit fund designed to award employee excellence via the granting of Company shares (see Note 13 Stockholders' equity - Workers benefit fund). This contribution is recognized as an expense when the shares are awarded to the worker and it is determined based on market value of granted shares.

Additionally, Venezuelan labor law requires mandatory annual profit sharing distribution to all employees in amounts of up to 120 days of salary. CANTV makes distributions equal to 120 days salary yearly.

o) Pension plan and other post-retirement benefits

The noncontributory pension plan benefit is accrued based on actuarial estimates. The real discount rate and real rate of compensation increase used to develop the projected benefit obligation were 7% and 2%, respectively. Postretirement benefits relating to health care expenses are also recorded based on actuarial estimates (see Note 12 - Retirement benefits). Cumulative gains and losses in excess of 10% of the greater of Projected Benefit Obligation or market-related value of plan assets are amortized over the expected average remaining future service of the current active employees. Actuarial gains and losses may result from differences between assumptions applied in the estimates such as inflation rates and assets returns and actual results (see Note 12 - Retirement benefits).

p) Foreign currency denominated transactions

Foreign currency denominated transactions are recorded at the bolivar exchange rate as of the date of the transaction. Outstanding balances of foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities are translated into bolivars using the exchange rate at the balance sheet date, which was Bs 1,920/US\$1 and Bs 1,600/US\$1 as of March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively (controlled rate, see Note 20 Exchange control and Note 5 - Balances in foreign currency). Any exchange gain or loss from the translation of these balances and transactions is reflected as exchange gain (loss), net in the Financing cost, net caption in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations (see Note 14 - Financing cost, net). The Company does not engage in hedging activities on either foreign currency balances or transactions.

q) Fair value of the financial instruments

The carrying value of cash and equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their fair values since these instruments have short-term maturities. In addition, most of the loans and other financial obligations of CANTV and its subsidiaries have interest rates subject to variable market conditions. Management considers their carrying amounts to approximate fair values.

r) Earnings (loss) per share

Earnings (loss) per share are based on 776,210,357 and 776,024,518 of average common shares outstanding at March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. This number of shares excludes treasury shares and shares for workers benefits. Basic and diluted earnings per share are the same for all the periods presented, since the Company did not have potential dilutive instruments.

s) Concentration of credit risk

Although cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and financial instruments of CANTV and subsidiaries are exposed to a potential credit loss risk, management believes it is not significant. Cash and cash equivalents include short-term financial investments, primarily certificates of deposit and commercial paper, which have maturities of three months or less, in high quality institutions. Most of the Company's accounts receivable are from a wide and diverse group of customers, and collectively do not represent a significant credit risk. There is a concentration of Government accounts receivables (see Note 7 - Accounts receivable from Venezuelan government entities).

t) Market risk:

The carrying amounts of cash and short-term investments, trade receivables and payables, and short-term and long-term debt approximate their fair values.

The Company is exposed to market risk, including changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates.

The Company does not use derivative financial instruments in its investment portfolio. The Company places its investments with the highest quality issuers and, by policy, limits the amount of credit exposure to any one issuer. The Company is averse to principal loss and ensures the safety and preservation of its invested funds by limiting default risk and market risk by investing with U.S. and European issuers that are guaranteed by wholly-owned foreign companies with the safest and highest credit quality securities.

The Company mitigates default risk by investing in highly liquid U.S. dollar denominated short-term financial investments, primarily certificates of deposit and commercial paper, which have maturities of three months or less. The Company does not estimate any material loss with respect to its investment portfolio.

The majority of the Company's indebtedness is denominated in foreign currencies, primarily in U.S. dollars and Japanese yen, which exposes the Company to market risk associated with changes in exchange and interest rates. The Company's policy is to manage interest rate risk through the use of a combination of fixed and variable rate debt. Currently the Company does not hedge against foreign currency exposures, but keeps cash reserves in U.S. dollars to meet financing obligations. Currently, US dollars are not readily available due to the exchange control regime effective since February 5, 2003.

u) Consolidated financial statement reclassifications

Certain amounts from the March 31, 2003 consolidated financial statements have been reclassified for comparison purposes.

v) Restructuring of the consolidated financial statements

In June 2003 the Company adopted International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 Employee Benefits (Revised 1998) for provisions applicable to the amortization period of the transition obligation resulting from the adoption of its pension plan, with immediate recognition retroactive to 1999. Previously, the Company amortized the transition obligation based on the 20 year average remaining service life of employees. Adoption of IAS 19 resulted in an increase in liability of Bs. 204,891 and the related accumulated charge to retained earnings as of December 31, 2002. Financial statements as of March 31, 2003, have been restated to reflect this adoption for comparison purposes.

In June 2003 the Company adopted the interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, related to the consolidated presentation of the financial statements of the Workers Benefit Fund and the presentation of the Class C shares, acquired by the fund, as a deduction to stockholders equity. As of March 31, 2004 these Class C shares have a book value of Bs 73,812. The fund balance was previously included with other assets on the consolidated balance sheet.

Additionally, the Company's share in the International Satellite Telecommunication Organization (INTELSAT) and in New Skies Satellites, N.V., have been classified as available for sale and, as a result, the fluctuation on fair value of those investments amounting to Bs 6,222 is included in other adjustments in the statement of changes in stockholders equity. Beginning July 2001, the method to record INTELSAT investment has been changed as a result of its privatization. Previously this investment was recorded under the equity method and the adjustments resulting from the translation to bolivars of these foreign affiliates, was included in CANTV's Stockholders Equity. CANTV's ownership interest in INTELSAT was 1.12% at March 31, 2004.

The consolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2003 restated from the amounts previously reported are as follows:

	As restated	As Previously reported
Total assets	6,500,291	6,566,780
Total liabilities	2,289,149	2,083,980
Stockholders equity	4,208,131	4,479,790
Operating income	34,420	34,420
Net income	13,007	13,007

NOTE 4 - REGULATION:

CANTV's services and tariffs are regulated by the rules established in the Concession, the Organic Telecommunications Law enacted in 2000 and its Regulations (see Note 2 - Company background and concession agreement).

The Organic Telecommunications Law along with the Regulations, provide the general legal framework for the regulation of telecommunications services in Venezuela. Under the Organic Telecommunications Law, suppliers of public telecommunications services, such as the

Company, must operate under concessions granted by the Government, which acts through the Ministry of Infrastructure.

CONATEL is an independent regulatory body under the direction of the Infrastructure Ministry, created by presidential decree in September 1991 (CONATEL Decree), which has the authority to manage, regulate and control the use of Venezuela's limited telecommunications services resources and recommend granting of concessions, licenses and administrative authorizations as well as the approval of tariffs and collection of taxes. CONATEL, together with the Superintendent of Promotion and Protection of Free Competition (Pro-Competencia), is also responsible for the promotion and protection of free competition.

Tax regime

The 2001 Law adopted a new tax regime applicable to all telecommunications service operators based on gross revenues. The new taxes replace the former annual tax and concession fee, which was assessed at 5.5% for wireline and 10% for wireless services. The new composite tax rate totals 4.8% and is comprised of the following: 2.3% activity tax, 0.5% CONATEL funding tax up to 0.5% spectrum allocation tax, 1% Universal Service Fund tax and 0.5% Telecommunications Training and Development Fund tax. In addition, cellular operators became subject to a supplementary tax of up to 4.5% of their gross revenues (excluding interconnection revenue), which decreases by 1% per annum through 2005 when it will be eliminated.

Tariffs

On February 22, 2001, pursuant to the New Organic Telecommunications Law, CONATEL established maximum tariffs effective March 10, 2001 and a new price-cap system under which, the maximum tariffs may be adjusted based on a formula tied to the wholesale price index (WPI) and the devaluation rate of the bolivar against the US dollar. The price-cap system allows an increase or decrease of established tariffs based on deviations in excess of up to 7.5% above or below the projected monthly estimates of those indexes. If the accrued excess of the projected index deviates more than 7.5% above the projections, CONATEL must review the price-cap formula. This price-cap system remains effective as of March 31, 2004.

Beginning April 1, 2003, an average increase of approximately 25% to non-regulated residential and non-residential customers and miscellaneous services tariffs by CONATEL as well as 12% increase for flat residential plan basic rent tariffs became effective pursuant to the Official Gazette No. 37,454 published on May 30, 2002.

On April 27, 2003 a regular tariff increase ranging between 4% and 7% for non-residential, fixed to mobile and public telephones became effective pursuant to the tariff agreement published in the Official Gazette No. 37,669 dated April 10, 2003. Additionally, this agreement reproduces the provisions for extraordinary adjustments from the agreement of May 30, 2002 with the modification of allowing up to three additional adjustments. These adjustments were effected in July and October 2003 and January 2004 at the rates of 2%, 4% and 5%, respectively.

NOTE 5 - BALANCES IN FOREIGN CURRENCY:

The Company has assets and liabilities denominated in U.S. dollars and liabilities in Japanese yen (see Note 3(t) - Market risk), as of March 31, as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
	(Expressed in millions of U.S. dollars)	
Cash and temporary investments	115	164
Accounts receivable, net	23	27
Other assets	41	40
Accounts payable	(51)	(57)
Short and long-term debt	(107)	(250)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net asset (liability) position in foreign currency	21	(76)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Effective February 5, 2003, the Venezuelan Government and the BCV signed exchange control agreements that immediately established limits to the exchange of foreign currency (see Note 20-Exchange control).

NOTE 6 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, NET:

The Company's accounts receivable, net balances as of March 31, are as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Subscribers	423,265	489,522
Net settlements	15,391	21,592
Telephone and prepaid card distributors	21,655	27,713
Other	22,452	13,113
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	482,763	551,940
Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts	(89,435)	(91,711)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	393,328	460,229
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Unbilled revenues of Bs 88,897 and Bs 90,975 are included in accounts receivable as of March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. (See Note 3 (j) Revenue recognition and 3(k) Provision for uncollectible accounts).

NOTE 7 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE FROM VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES:

The Company's main customer is the Venezuelan public sector, including the Central and decentralized Government, its agencies and enterprises, the Venezuelan states and municipalities (collectively, Government entities). Government entities generated approximately 7% and 6% of the Company's consolidated revenues during for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The following table shows accounts receivable aging from Government entities as of March 31:

<u>Years</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
2004	53,932	
2003	78,583	51,733
2002 and prior	40,699	80,168
	<u>173,214</u>	<u>131,901</u>

During the years ended March 31, changes in accounts receivable from Government entities are as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Balance at beginning of period	149,515	133,776
Billings	59,408	50,687
Collections	(26,779)	(41,078)
Monetary loss	(8,930)	(11,484)
Balance at end of period	<u>173,214</u>	<u>131,901</u>

The amounts that Central Government entities can pay for telecommunication services are established in annual budgets, which are not based upon actual annual usage. As a result of these budgeting processes and due to other macroeconomic reasons, a number of Government entities have not paid the Company in full for telecommunications services received. In addition, as a result of inflation and devaluation, the value of these balances has decreased.

To reduce the government debt owed to CANTV, management has taken actions to reduce uncompensated usage and early recovery of prior years' balances. However, there is no guarantee that the Company will not continue to experience significant delays in the collection of government receivables and that inflation and devaluation will continue to reduce the value of these assets.

During 2003, the Company received payments in the form of a note denominated in US dollars and Venezuelan National Debt Bonds denominated in bolivars, in the amount of Bs 68,470 (nominal value of Bs 70,191). Bs. 41,592 was applicable to centralized government entities and the remaining Bs. 26,878 was attributable to decentralized entities. As of March 31, 2004, Bs 36,540 of these bonds have become due and has been utilized by the Company for the payment of certain taxes and the remaining portion was recorded as other assets (see note 9 - Other assets).

CANTV's management believes all amounts from Government entities will be collected either in cash and/or through Government bonds and promissory notes.

NOTE 8 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET:

Property, plant and equipment, net of depreciation and amortization, as of March 31, is comprised as follows:

	Useful lives (in years)	2004	2003
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Plant			
Wireline telecommunications	3 to 32	14,027,589	15,069,209
Wireless telecommunications	2 to 20	1,019,295	1,619,325
Other telecommunications services	5 to 13	46,354	71,096
Buildings and facilities	5 to 25	2,810,281	2,159,226
Furniture and equipment	3 to 7	550,234	952,973
Vehicles	3 to 5	49,139	56,530
		<u>18,502,892</u>	<u>19,928,359</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(14,869,509)	(15,470,205)
		<u>3,633,383</u>	<u>4,458,154</u>
Land		86,565	74,670
Construction work in progress		77,904	85,466
		<u>3,797,852</u>	<u>4,618,290</u>

Depreciation expense recorded for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 totaled Bs 237,883 and Bs 261,969, respectively.

Capitalized direct labor and allocated overhead costs totaled Bs 2,797 and Bs 3,641 for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

NOTE 9 - OTHER ASSETS:

Other assets as of March 31, are comprised as follows:

	2004	2003
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Information Systems (Software), net	287,197	359,842
Investments in equity	45,768	58,094
Investment in Government obligations	36,286	23,475
Prepaid taxes	8,029	12,530
Other	3,489	3,277
	<u>380,769</u>	<u>457,218</u>

Information Systems (Software), net, includes the cost of computer software and systems for internal use, net of accumulated amortization and the cost of usage rights to satellites that are amortized over periods ranging from 3 to 7 years based upon the terms of contracts that grant usage rights. Amortization expense was Bs 22,174 and Bs 18,820 for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Accumulated amortization was Bs 745,060 and Bs 648,982 as of March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Investments in equity represent the Company's share in the International Satellite Telecommunications Organization (INTELSAT) and in New Skies Satellites N.V. representing 1.12% and 1.44% ownership, respectively. The Company classifies these investments as available for sale and their fluctuation in fair value is reflected as other adjustments in the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. As of March 31, 2004, these investments are recorded at a cost of Bs 39,392 and an unrealized gain of Bs 6,222.

As of March 31, 2004 the Investment in Government obligations includes bonds received from the Government, the most significant having a value of Bs 14,481 (Bs 16,287 nominal value) with a quarterly payable variable interest rate, due on November 18, 2005. The Investment in

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Government obligations also includes a promissory note received from the Government in January 2003 for Bs 20,555 in payment of overdue debts to the Company. This promissory note will be outstanding through June 30, 2004 (see Note 7 Accounts receivable from Venezuelan Government entities). The amortized cost and fair value of these investments, according to their maturity, as of March 31, 2004, are as follows:

	<u>Amortized cost</u>	<u>Fair value</u>
Due in 1 year or less	20,555	20,555
Due in 1 to 5 years	15,731	17,101
	<u>36,286</u>	<u>37,656</u>

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT:

Long-term debt as of March 31, is comprised of the following:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Notes in U.S. dollars at fixed interest rates of 9.25% at March 31, 2003, maturing in 2004.		197,641
Bank loans in Japanese yen a fixed interest rate of 5.8% at March 31, 2004 and 2003, maturing through 2009.	100,002	108,064
IFC loans in U.S. dollars at variable interest rates:		
a. Six-month LIBOR plus a margin of 3.00% at March 31, 2004 and between 1.75% and 3.00%, at March 31, 2003 (averaging 4.18% and 4.83% at March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively), maturing through 2005.	48,000	49,421
b. Six-month LIBOR plus a margin of 2.00%, (averaging 3.11% and 3.39% at March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively), maturing through 2007.	29,400	38,919
c. Six-month LIBOR plus a margin of 1.75% (averaging 2.86% and 3.14% at March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively), maturing through 2005.	28,800	49,421
Notes payable suppliers in U.S. dollars at a fixed interest rate of 5.48% maturing in 2004.	151	124
Banks loan in bolivars, bearing interest at the average lending rate of the four major banks in Venezuela (44.70% at March 31, 2003), maturing through 2003.		2,249
Promissory notes in bolivars, bearing interest at a fixed rate of 23.5%, maturing through 2005	21,295	23,135
Bank loans in bolivars at fixed and variable interest rates of 22.52% and 24.87% at March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively, maturing through 2010.	13,155	16,678
Total debt	<u>240,803</u>	<u>485,652</u>

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Less: Current maturities	(48,146)	(245,181)
Total long-term debt	<u>192,657</u>	<u>240,471</u>

In February 1990, the Company acquired a loan with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (formerly The Export Import Bank of Japan) by ¥16,228, invested in technological changes in the transmission network and urban connection. This loan is amortized semi-annually and as of March 31, 2004, the outstanding balance of this loan is ¥5,409 million.

In February 1997, the Company prepaid the outstanding debt balance under the Bank Refinancing Agreement and Bs 48,240 of debt to suppliers with the proceeds from the sale of two Guaranteed Notes for US\$ 100 million each, which were payable in 2002 and 2004, respectively. The notes were issued by CANTV Finance Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. The Guaranteed Notes are unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by CANTV for payment of principal and interest. In January 2004 and February 2002, the Company made the each payments of US\$100 million related to such Guaranteed Notes.

On June 7, 1996, the Company entered into an agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC Facility). Pursuant to the IFC Facility, the Company obtained loan commitments aggregating up to US\$261 million, of which US\$175 million was disbursed. Of the amount disbursed, US\$75 million was used in the Company's modernization and expansion program as mandated by the Concession and for certain other capital expenditures. The remaining US\$100 million represents the conversion of certain debt outstanding under a Bank Refinancing Agreement into longer-term debt.

In March 1998, the Company paid US\$150 million of the outstanding debt under the IFC Facility with the proceeds from the sale of variable-interest-rate notes issued by CANTV Finance Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, which are unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by CANTV. The principal on the remaining loan is payable as a single payment of US\$25 million in 2005. The interest rate on this loan is based on LIBOR plus a margin and an additional amount of up to 3% based on the Company's annual net income equivalent in U.S. dollars, paid semi-annually.

Pursuant to the IFC Facility, the Company may pay dividends only if it is current with respect to its semi-annual payments. In addition, the Company is required to meet certain financial ratios, including a long-term debt-to-equity ratio, a current ratio and a fixed charge coverage ratio, each as defined by the agreement. The Company has complied with these covenants as of March 31, 2004.

In 1997, Movilnet signed an agreement with the IFC Facility for two loans totaling US\$95 million, which were disbursed during 1998. The proceeds of these loans were used for expansion and modernization of the cellular network. As of March 31, 2004 the balance of this debt is US\$ 30.3 million.

In September 2000, the Company issued discounted promissory notes of Bs 28,000 denominated in bolivars with a maturity of 5 years. The promissory notes were placed at a 44% discount and an annual fixed interest rate of 23.5%. As of March 31, 2004, the balance of these notes, presented net of the unamortized discount, was Bs 21,295. Additionally, in September and December 2000, two loan agreements were signed with local banks for Bs 7,000 each, with maturities between 5 and 10 years.

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

As of March 31, 2004 estimated payments of long-term debt are: Bs 24,346 in 2004, Bs 124,422 in 2005, Bs 29,080 in 2006, Bs 29,203 in 2007, Bs 20,995 in 2008 and Bs 12,757 thereafter, translated into bolivars at the exchange rate at this date.

NOTE 11 - OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Other current liabilities as of March 31, were comprised of the following:

	2004	2003
Concession tax	39,326	36,405
Subscriber rights	69,120	78,653
Accrued liabilities	68,776	59,224
Income, value added and other taxes	28,300	49,987
Interest payable	3,297	5,666
Provision for legal and tax contingencies	34,569	36,358
Technical and administrative services due to stockholders	5,847	12,405
Other	7,612	5,451
	256,847	284,149

Subscriber rights represent up-front payment from customers when services are activated.

NOTE 12 - RETIREMENT BENEFITS:

Pension plan

The Company sponsors a non-contributory pension plan for its employees. The benefits to be paid under the plan are based on years of service and the employee's final salary. As of March 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company has funded Bs 548,630 (includes US\$ 243.7 million) and Bs 430,389 (includes US\$ 170.4 million), respectively, in a trust for this benefit plan on behalf of the retirees. As of March 31, 2004, this pension plan fund includes Bs 35,448 million (in nominal Bs) related to the Venezuelan National Public debt received during 2002 in order to pay basic services.

Assumptions used to develop the projected benefit obligation are as follows:

Discount rate	7%
Expected return on plan assets	6%
Rate of compensation increase	2%

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

These assumptions represent estimates of real interest rates and compensation increases rather than nominal rates.

Post-retirement benefits other than pensions

The Company records medical claims related to accrued postretirement benefit obligations other than pensions, based on actuarial calculations.

Assumptions used to develop the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation are as follows:

Discount rate	7%
Medical cost trend rate	2%

These assumptions represent estimates of real interest rates and medical cost trend rate increases rather than nominal rates.

A review of the actuarial assumptions in light of the changing economic and business environment in Venezuela is currently underway, as well as a review of pension and postretirement benefits plans, and it is possible that some of the assumptions may be changed during 2004. The impact of these potential changes will be included as actuarial gains or losses to be amortized in the future.

Defined contribution plan

The Company has a defined contribution plan (Special Economic Protection Plan for Eligible Retirees) which includes a supplementary monthly payment to normal payments on pension benefits to retirees and survivors as of August 15, 1995, who receive a monthly pension bonus equivalent to below Bs 30,000 (in nominal Bs), as well as those retirees who are older than 60 with bonus payments between Bs 30,001 (in nominal Bs) and Bs 70,000 (in nominal Bs). Contributions are distributed to retirees based on the number of years they have been retired. Additionally, each retired employee can receive a one-time annual bonus of Bs 145,000 (in nominal bolivars) at the Company's discretion. As of March 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company has funded Bs 18,758 (includes US\$ 3.9 million) and Bs 21,791 (includes US\$ 3.9 million), respectively, in a trust for this plan on behalf of these employees. The Company has no obligation to increase this plan.

NOTE 13 - STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:

Dividends

The Venezuelan Commercial Code, Capital Markets Law and the Standards issued by the Comisión Nacional de Valores (CNV), regulate the Company's ability to pay dividends. In addition, some of the Company's debt agreements provide for certain restrictions that limit the ability of the Company to pay cash dividends (see Note 10 Long-term debt). The Commercial Code establishes that dividends shall be paid solely out of liquid and collected earnings. The Capital Markets Law mandates that the Company annually distribute no less than 50% of its net annual income to its shareholders, after income tax provision and having deducted the required legal reserves. Likewise, the Capital Markets Law provides that at least 25% of such 50% shall be paid to the shareholders in cash dividends. However, should the Company have accumulated losses, any net income shall be initially applied to offset such deficit.

According to CNV Standards, unconsolidated net income, excluding the equity participation of subsidiaries adjusted for inflation, is the basis for dividend distribution.

The Capital Markets Law establishes that dividends must be declared in a Shareholders' Assembly at which shareholders determine the amount, form and frequency of the dividend payment. Additionally, under CNV regulations, companies' by-laws must state their dividend policies. The CNV cannot exempt a company with publicly traded securities from paying minimum dividends the year income is obtained.

Beginning in 2002 the Company established the guidelines for dividend distribution. These guidelines include the distribution to shareholders of 50% of prior year free cash flow, defined as free cash flow taken from annual audited consolidated financial statements, net of debt and interest payments scheduled for the following year. Annual payment of dividends will be made

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

in bolivars in quarterly installments according to the Board of Directors' recommendation and approval of the Annual Shareholders' Assembly, according to current Venezuelan legislation.

On March 31, 2004, an Ordinary Shareholders' Assembly declared a cash dividend of Bs 550 per share to shareholders of record as of April 12, 2004, payable on April 16, 2004.

On December 2, 2003, an extraordinary Shareholders' Assembly declared a dividend charged to retained earnings as of December 31, 2002 of Bs 350 per share. These dividends were paid on December 19, 2003 to shareholders of record as of December 12, 2003.

On March 28, 2003, an Ordinary Shareholders' Assembly Approved the remaining payment of the ordinary dividend for 2003 of Bs 71 per share, payable on April 23, 2003, to shareholders of record as of April 9, 2003.

Capital stock

Capital stock is represented by 787,140,849 shares at March 31, 2004, as follows:

<u>Stockholders</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Number of shares (in thousands)</u>
Verizon Communications, Inc (Verizon)	A	196,401
Telefónica Venezuela Holding B.V.	A	54,407
Banco Mercantil	A	367
Inversiones TIDE, S.A.	A	3
Banco de Desarrollo Económico y Social de Venezuela	B	51,900
Workers Trusts and Employees	C	54,006
Verizon Communications, Inc. (Verizon)	D	28,009
Public Shareholders	D	391,117
		776,210
Workers benefit shares	C	10,931
		787,141

Class B shares may only be owned by the Government. The transfer of Class B shares to any non-public sector individual or entity will cause the shares to be automatically converted to Class D shares, except if the shares are transferred to a CANTV employee or retiree, in which case the shares will be converted to Class C shares. Class B stockholders had the right to elect two members of the Board of Directors of the Company until January 1, 2001. Thereafter, they may elect only one member together with all other stockholders. A majority of holders of Class B shares is required to approve a number of corporate actions, including certain amendments to By-laws.

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Class C shares may be owned only by employees, retirees, former employees and heirs and spouses of employees or retirees of CANTV and its subsidiaries as well as employees companies and benefit plans. Any Class C shares transferred to any other individual or entity will be automatically converted to Class D shares. Holders of Class C shares have the right, voting as a separate class, to elect two members of the Board of Directors provided such Class C shares represent at least 8% of the capital stock of CANTV and the right to elect one member provided that such shares represent at least 3% of the capital stock of CANTV.

Class D shares are comprised of the conversion of Class A, B and C shares as described above or capital increases. There are no restrictions on the ownership or transfer of Class D shares. Holders of Class D shares will have the right to elect, in conjunction with the other stockholders, any members of the Board of Directors, at the time the Class B and C stockholders lose the right to designate them according to CANTV's By-laws.

In November 1996, the Government sold 348.1 million shares representing 34.8% of CANTV's capital stock in a global public offering. The Company's Class D shares are traded on the Caracas Stock Exchange. They are also traded on the New York Stock Exchange in the form of American Depository Shares (ADS), each representing 7 Class D shares.

Repurchase programs

On October 24, 2001, an Extraordinary Shareholders Assembly approved a share repurchase program to acquire up to 138,905,608 shares or 15% of the capital stock at a price of US\$30 per ADS or US\$4.29 per share. The program began on October 25, 2001 and ended on November 23, 2001. Upon completion of the repurchase program, a total of 138,896,536 shares had been repurchased and then converted into treasury shares. On December 2, 2003 an Extraordinary Shareholders Assembly approved the reduction from capital stock of these shares.

Workers Benefit Fund

In 1993, the Company created the Workers Benefit Fund through a Bank Trust on behalf of workers to acquire 1% of CANTV's capital stock as of December 2, 1991, to be distributed to workers from CANTV and subsidiaries. This contribution is recognized as expense as long as the workers earn stock awards. On October 24, 2001, an Extraordinary Shareholders Assembly approved the increase of this fund via the internal purchase of Class C shares of up to 2% of the capital stock as of December 2, 1991. As of March 31, 2004, the trust maintains 10,930,492 shares presented as a separate account in the consolidated stockholders' equity.

Beginning June 2003, these shares are presented as a deduction of stockholders' equity and other assets from the trust were recorded in the Company's consolidated balance sheet. Prior years financial statements have been restated for comparison purposes. This change was made based on recent pronouncements issued by the International Accounting Standard Board, with the purpose of approving a standard consistent with US GAAP. This trust was previously reflected as Other assets (see Note 3 (v) Restructuring of the consolidated financial statements).

Legal reserve

The Company and each of its subsidiaries are required under the Venezuelan Commercial Code and their Corporate By-laws to transfer at least 5% of each year's net income to a legal reserve until such reserve equals at least 10% of capital stock.

NOTE 14 - FINANCING COST, NET:

Financing cost, net for the three months ended March 31, is as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Interest income	14,457	6,699
Interest expense	(5,565)	(11,177)
Exchange loss, net	(4,414)	(30,915)
Monetary result (Note 15)	(13,106)	20,209
	<u>(8,628)</u>	<u>(15,184)</u>

The net exchange (loss) reflects the loss resulting from adjusting the debt denominated in foreign currencies, principally U.S. dollars and Japanese yen into bolivars at the exchange rates as of March 31, 2004 and 2003 (see Note 5 - Balances in foreign currency). Prior to February 12, 2002, the BCV had the explicit policy to intervene to maintain the exchange rate within 7.5% (above or below) of the then current reference rate, which was set by the BCV and adjusted to account for projected inflation on a monthly basis.

Effective February 12, 2002, the Government decreed free currency fluctuation, which effectively stopped the band system. From that date, the exchange rate used for purchases and sales of currencies was fixed based on free market fluctuation resulting from supply and demand. The BCV purchased and sold currencies in the market through an auction system with the foreign exchange market operators. During the initial business days of free foreign currency fluctuation there was strong bolivar devaluation. Effective January 21, 2003, the Venezuelan Government and the BCV suspended the trading of foreign currencies in the country for 5 business days and established the current exchange control regime (see Note 20 - Exchange control).

The devaluation of the bolivar against the U.S. dollar was 20% and 14% for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Monetary result reflects the gain or loss from holding net monetary assets or liabilities during an inflationary period, which was 6.4% and 9.4% for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

NOTE 15 - MONETARY POSITION:

For the three months ended on March 31, the gain from net monetary position, is as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Net monetary liability position at the beginning of the period	137,419	(448,826)
Revenue and expenses, other than depreciation and amortization and other expenses generated by non-monetary assets and liabilities	147,811	240,791
Additions to non-monetary assets and liabilities	92,143	53,421
Pension plan and post-retirement benefits payments	(19,787)	(4,936)
Dividends declared	(426,813)	(69,050)
Repurchased shares		
Exchange (loss) gain, net	(4,414)	239,306
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Estimated net monetary asset (liability) position at the end of the period	(73,641)	(259,515)
Net monetary asset position at the end of the period	(86,747)	(239,306)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Monetary result	(13,106)	20,209
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTE 16 - TAXES:

Income tax

In accordance with Venezuelan tax regulations, the Company is taxed on its net income on an historical cost basis plus a tax inflation adjustment on the Company's non-monetary assets and liabilities, net of stockholders' equity. This tax inflation adjustment differs from book inflation adjustment, which is non-taxable.

The Income Tax Law also authorizes a tax credit for new investments in property, plant and equipment. Any portion of the credit not used may be carried forward for three years. As of March 31, 2004, CANTV does not have any carryforward tax credits. Movilnet and CANTV.Net, however, have the following investment tax credit carryforwards available:

	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Bs.</u>	<u>Carried forward until</u>
Movilnet	2002	10,585	2005
	2003	2,615	2006
		<u> </u>	
		13,200	
		<u> </u>	
CANTV.Net			

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

	2002	724	2005
	2003	398	2006
		<u> </u>	
		1,122	
		<u> </u>	

The Income Tax Law allows fiscal losses and corporate asset alternative minimum tax to be carried forward and recovered over a period of three years. Beginning for fiscal years subsequent to December 31, 2000, tax credits for fiscal losses from tax inflation adjustment are

permitted to be carried forward one year. As of March 31, 2004, CANTV and subsidiaries did not have any carry forward tax losses.

On December 28, 2001, Law No. 71 including the Amendment to the Income Tax Law was published in Extraordinary Official Gazette No. 5,566. The most significant changes are as follows:

- a. Imputation of foreign losses to domestic income or losses will not be admitted;
- b. The dividend tax regulations established book income to be approved by the Shareholders Assembly on the basis of the consolidated financial statements prepared in conformity with Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in Venezuela as the legal source of dividends;
- c. The implementation of a 1% tax advance that shall be paid on dividends declared per share. The tax advance will be calculated on the total value of the dividend declared;
- d. Elimination of the standard providing rejection of expense for payments where the income tax withholding agents do not comply with formal duties provided by the special income tax withholding Regime; and,
- e. New standards were applied to the tax inflation regime adjustment, and certain existing standards were modified.

On September 24, 2003, Decree No. 2507 of the Income Tax Law Regulations was published in the Extraordinary Official Gazette No. 5662, superseding Decree No. 2940 dated May 13, 1993. This regulation is based on the current Income Tax Law.

Corporate assets minimum tax

Corporate assets minimum tax was enacted as a complementary tax to Venezuelan income tax and is calculated on the simple average of the taxpayer's tangible and intangible assets located in Venezuela and used in the production of income derived from commercial or industrial activities. The tax rate applicable to the tax base is 1% a year, which is reduced in proportion to the percentage of export sales to total sales. The corporate asset minimum tax law permits the carry forward of any corporate asset minimum taxes paid as an income tax credit for the following three years.

As of March 31, 2004 CANTV and its subsidiaries do not have any carryforward tax credits. However, CANTV.Net, a wholly-owned subsidiary, had Bs 358 of corporate asset alternative minimum tax, originally incurred in 2002 and which may be carried forward until 2005.

Value added tax (VAT)

In May 1999, the Venezuelan government enacted by decree the Value Added Tax Law. This tax is based on a tax credit system and applies to the different stages of production and sales. It is payable based on the value added at each stage. The VAT rate is set annually in the Venezuelan Budget Law and as of March 31, 2004 the applicable rate is 16%. This Law also introduced, effective December 2002, an additional 10% tax rate on defined luxury goods and services.

Bank debit tax

In March 2002 the Venezuelan government enacted by decree the Bank Debit Tax Law. This tax is levied upon debits or withdrawals made from current and savings accounts, custody deposits, or any other type of demand deposit, liquid asset funds, trust funds and other financial market funds or financial instruments transacted by individuals or corporations with Venezuelan banks and financial institutions for transactions in excess of 32 tax units (equivalent to Bs 473,600 in nominal Bs). The applicable tax rate was 0.75% until December 31, 2003 (1% until June 2003) and changed to 0.5% from January 1, 2004 until December 2004. During the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, CANTV and its subsidiaries incurred a bank debit tax expense of approximately Bs 4,271 million and Bs 6,581 million, respectively.

NOTE 17 - TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES:

In the normal course of business and as limited by applicable debt agreements, the Company enters into transactions with certain of its stockholders and their respective affiliates. In addition, the Government has significant influence over the Company's tariffs, regulations, labor contracts and other matters related to the Company. The Government is also the largest customer of the Company (see Note 7 - Accounts receivable from Venezuelan Government entities).

Transactions with stockholders' affiliates include purchase of inventories, supplies, plant and equipment, technical and administrative services and net revenues related to settlement of international telephone traffic with affiliates. Amounts for these transactions for the three months ended March 31, are as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Purchase of inventories, supplies, plant and equipment of stockholders' affiliates	373	4,705
Technical and administrative service expenses	19,717	1,069
Net revenues related to the settlement of international telephone traffic with affiliates	(890)	289

Transactions for technical and administrative services are related to consulting in technology developments, strategic plan and analysis, training and personal services, among others.

As of March 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company has recorded payables to Verizon for Bs 36,456 and Bs 16,329, respectively. These payables do not bear interest.

NOTE 18 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES:

The Company has the following commitments and contingencies:

a. Capital expenditures

Payment commitments acquired by the Company as of March 31, 2004, related to capital expenditures, are approximately US\$ 40.0 million.

b. Operating leases

The Company leases equipment and real estate properties under operating leases for periods of one year or less. Lease agreements generally include automatic extension clauses for equal terms, unless written termination notification is provided. For the three months ended March 31, 2004, lease commitments for real estate properties were Bs 1,322.

c. Litigation

The Company is involved in a significant number of legal and administrative proceedings, among which are the following:

In May 2000 and December 1999, the Venezuelan tax authority notified CANTV and Movilnet of tax assessments amounting to Bs. 271,179 and Bs. 26,954, respectively, expressed in nominal bolivars. These assessments were primarily related to the rejection of Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) utilized in fiscal years ended December 31, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. The tax authority objected to the ITCs claiming that telecommunication activity is not a qualified industrial activity. Such tax reviews were presented in the Sixth Contentious Upper Tax Court and in the opinion of management and its legal counsel there is a high probability of a favorable decision since this Court has previously ruled in 1999 a similar case with another telecommunications company and ruled in their favor. That decision was appealed by the tax authority and is pending resolution.

In June 2002, Caveguías was subject to a tax review performed by the tax authority where they were assessed approximately Bs 44,312, expressed in nominal bolivars. This review was performed on tax returns presented for fiscal years ended December 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, and the tax authority objected to the deferral of revenues related to the sale of advertising space. This review was appealed by the Company at the Eighth Contentious Upper Tax Court and, in the opinion of management and its legal counsel, there is a high probability of a favorable decision.

In June 2003, a commercial associate introduced a request for arbitration in the Caracas Arbitrage Center of the Chamber of Commerce, claiming default in the compliance with an agreement and damages of Bs 20,399 against Movilnet. On October 8, 2003, Movilnet responded to this claim, and in January 2004 proceeding began in the Arbitrage Court. This proceeding is in the preparatory stage for the Mission Act, after which the probing stage will be developed. In the opinion of our legal counselors, it is not likely that the claim will proceed.

In addition, an important number of labor lawsuits and claims have been presented against CANTV for approximately Bs 136,094, most of which are related to special retirement initiatives, employee severance benefits and other benefits related to early retirement. These lawsuits are currently pending and, as of the date of these financial statements, their final outcome is not quantifiable. CANTV has settled a number of these cases through mediation and negotiation between the parties involved and currently is in the process of resolving former employee claims and lawsuits. Management and its legal counsel believe that most of these cases will be resolved in the Company's favor and the Company has recorded adequate provisions to cover this contingent liability.

d. Concession mandates

Currently, there is no mandatory plant modernization required under the concessions.

Current regulations require that Basic Service Telecommunications Operators are required to install and maintain public telephone equipment equivalent to 3% of their subscriber base.

The guidelines for the November 2000 market opening in Venezuela (see Note 4 Regulation) include certain quality and service standards that incorporate minimum and maximum targets. These targets are the basis for CONATEL's quality service regulations applicable to all basic services operators. Such regulations have not yet been approved.

e. Competition

Pursuant to the Concession, prior to November 27, 2000, the Company was the sole provider of basic telephone services. During that period, the Ministry could grant concessions to operate in population centers with 5,000 or fewer inhabitants if CANTV was not providing basic telephone services in such areas and did not contemplate doing so within two years, according to the network expansion and modernization plans established in the Concession.

In December 1996, the Ministry of Infrastructure exercised its authority under this provision to grant a rural, multi-service concession to Infonet Redes de Información C.A. (Infonet) to provide basic telephone services, except national and international long distance services, on population centers with 5,000 or fewer inhabitants in eight western states of Venezuela. Additionally, multi-service concessions were granted in January 1998 to Corporación Digitel, C.A. (Digitel) and Consorcio ELCA, C.A. (now Digicel) for the central and eastern regions of Venezuela, respectively. Currently Infonet, Digitel and Digicel are operating as providers of telephony services.

On November 24, 2000 CONATEL issued a new Telecommunications Law, which established the basic regulatory framework. The new regulations, (see Note 4 - Regulation) had the objective of creating an appropriate environment for new entrants and allow for effective competition. These regulations rule the sector's opening, interconnection, administrative and spectrum concessions.

In November 2000, CONATEL formally started the auction of frequencies for Wireless Local Loop (WLL) services. Thirteen qualified bidders were announced by CONATEL. Five regions were defined and in each region frequency was auctioned in different bands. Telcel BellSouth, C.A. (Telcel BellSouth) and Génesis Telecom, C.A. (Génesis) were two of the companies granted with a concession. Additionally, CONATEL has granted administrative habilitations to offer long distance services to the following companies: Convergence Communications de Venezuela, Veninfotel, Multiphone, Telecomunicaciones NGTV, S.A., Totalcom, Etelix, Telcel, Entel Venezuela (formerly Orbitel), LD Telecom, Convergía Venezuela, C.A. and Corporación Intercall, C.A., most of which offer the service by means of prepaid cards (Calling Card).

During the second quarter of 2001, the Company completed the update of four interconnection agreements with Digicel, Digitel, Infonet and Telcel BellSouth, telecommunication's operators which existed before the opening. Current operators maintaining interconnection agreements with the Company are: Telcel BellSouth, Digicel, Infonet, Digitel, Convergence Communications de Venezuela, Veninfotel, Entel Venezuela (formerly Orbitel), Multiphone, Totalcom, Etelix, Telecomunicaciones NGTV, S.A., LD Telecom, Convergía Venezuela, C.A. and Corporación

Intercall, C.A. These agreements permit interconnection of telecommunication services between CANTV and other carrier's networks.

Effective April 5, 2002, CONATEL initiated a pre-subscription long distance service where wireline service customers can access a previously selected operator's national and international long distance network without the use of the identification code.

NOTE 19 - SEGMENT REPORTING:

The Company's reportable segments are individual strategic business units each offering different telecommunications products and services. Each business requires different technology and marketing strategies and is managed separately. The Company manages its operations in two business segments: wireline and wireless services. The wireline services segment provides domestic telephone services, international long distance services and other telecommunications-related services. The wireless services segment provides nationwide cellular mobile telephone services.

Segment results for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, and assets as of March 31, 2004 and 2003, are as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Wireline services:		
Operating revenues -		
Local and domestic long distance usage	152,893	150,691
Basic rent	132,911	144,505
	<u>285,804</u>	<u>295,196</u>
Local and domestic long distance	285,804	295,196
International long distance	25,175	27,992
Net settlements	(778)	1,586
	<u>24,397</u>	<u>29,578</u>
International long distance	24,397	29,578
Fixed to mobile outgoing calls	138,982	146,670
Interconnection incoming	22,374	22,425
Other wireline-related services	231,638	155,908
	<u>703,195</u>	<u>649,777</u>
Total operating revenues	703,195	649,777
	<u>134,596</u>	<u>61,333</u>
Intersegment revenues	134,596	61,333
	<u>59,516</u>	<u>(9,523)</u>
Operating (loss) income	59,516	(9,523)
	<u>223,067</u>	<u>239,892</u>
Depreciation and amortization	223,067	239,892
	<u>25,303</u>	<u>13,036</u>
Capital expenditures, net	25,303	13,036
	<u>5,998,366</u>	<u>6,670,235</u>
Assets at the end of the period	5,998,366	6,670,235

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Wireless services:		
Operating revenues -		
Access	19,182	18,140
Interconnection	78,159	92,201
Usage	113,052	79,076
Equipment sales	71,822	54,255
Other	24,740	2,869
	<u>306,955</u>	<u>246,541</u>
Total operating revenues	306,955	246,541
Intersegment revenues	56,412	62,628
	<u>56,412</u>	<u>62,628</u>
Operating income	(852)	46,750
	<u>(852)</u>	<u>46,750</u>
Depreciation and amortization	33,344	36,132
	<u>33,344</u>	<u>36,132</u>
Capital expenditures, net	33,149	503
	<u>33,149</u>	<u>503</u>
Assets at the end of the period	1,915,688	2,067,660
	<u>1,915,688</u>	<u>2,067,660</u>

The reconciliation of segment operating revenues, operating income and assets, to the consolidated financial statements as of March 31, are as follows:

Reconciliation of operating revenues:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Reportable segments	1,010,150	896,318
Other telecommunications-related services	21,737	28,484
Elimination of intersegment operating revenues	(191,008)	(123,961)
	<u>840,879</u>	<u>800,841</u>
Total operating revenues	840,879	800,841

Reconciliation of operating income:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Reportable segments	58,664	37,227
Other telecommunications-related services	2,522	(3,229)
Elimination of intersegment operating income	474	422
	<u>61,660</u>	<u>34,420</u>
Total operating income	61,660	34,420

Reconciliation of assets:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

Reportable segments	7,914,054	8,737,895
Elimination of assets	(2,423,364)	(2,617,923)
Other telecommunications-related services	310,693	380,319
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Assets at the end of the period	5,801,383	6,500,291
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTE 20 - EXCHANGE CONTROL:

By means of an agreement entered into between the Venezuelan Government and the Central Bank of Venezuela, published in the Official Gazette No. 37,614 of January 21, 2003, the trading of foreign currencies in the country was suspended for five business days. This agreement was then extended for five additional business days as reported in the Official Gazette No 37,618 of January 27, 2003.

On February 5, 2003, exchange agreements 1 and 2 were published in the Official Gazette No. 37,625, and on February 7, 2003, exchange agreement 3 was published in the Official Gazette No. 37,627 (collectively the Agreements). The Agreements set out the rules for the Foreign Currency Administration Regime and established the exchange rate applicable for transactions set forth in the Agreements. The Agreements, among other things, establish the following conditions:

- a) The Central Bank of Venezuela will centralize the purchase and sale of currencies in the country under the terms agreed upon;
- b) The incorporation of the Comisión de Administración de Divisas (CADIVI) (Foreign Currency Administration Commission) charged with coordinating, managing, controlling and establishing the requirements, procedures and restrictions for the execution of the Agreements;
- c) The applicable exchange rates subsequent to the Agreements effective dates are Bs 1,596/US\$1 for purchase and Bs 1,600/US\$1 for sale; and,
- d) The purchase and sale in local currency of Venezuelan government securities issued in foreign currency until the Central Bank of Venezuela and the Venezuelan Government set up the norms in order to make these transactions are suspended.

Additionally, the Venezuelan Presidency issued Decree No. 2,302 on February 5, 2003, as amended by Decree No. 2,330 of March 6, 2003, that established for the functions of CADIVI and the Standards for Administration and Control of Foreign Currencies. As provided by this decree, the President of the Republic, in Council of Ministers, will approve the general guidelines for the distribution of the foreign currencies in the exchange market, based on CADIVI's opinion and the budget of foreign currencies that are prepared under the application of the exchange agreement. This decree also establishes that the acquisition of foreign currencies are subject to prior registration of the interested party in the registry of users and the authorization to participate in the exchange regime with the supporting documentation and other requisites to be established by CADIVI.

On April 22, 2003 and on June 18, 2003, Norms No. 25 and No. 34 were published in the Official Gazettes No. 37,674 and No. 37,714, respectively, by means of which, CADIVI manages the administration and formalities for foreign currency acquisition in order to pay public foreign debt acquired before January 22, 2003. External debt registered with CADIVI was US\$212 million and US\$52 million from CANTV and Movilnet, respectively.

On February 6, 2004, the Finance Ministry, together with the Central Bank of Venezuela, modified the exchange rate set out under Agreement No. 2 dated February 5, 2003 and established the new exchange rate effective that date at Bs 1,915.20/US\$1 for purchase and Bs 1,920/US\$1 for sale.

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO OF VENEZUELA - Form 6-K

As of the issuance date of these financial statements, the Venezuelan Government has issued decrees and norms which set out requisites, controls and formalities for the authorization of

foreign currency acquisition, as well as the general rules for distribution and administration of such foreign currency, which will be distributed to the foreign exchange market.

In order to guarantee access to foreign currency for essential goods and services and debt payments, should CADIVI fail to approve the timely acquisition of foreign currency, the Company acquired \$74.2 million (nominal value) of Venezuelan debt Bonds in August 2003. These bonds were denominated in US dollars and paid in bolivars at the official exchange rate of Bs. 1,600 per US dollar. In September 2003 these bonds were sold at market value, and a loss of Bs. 36,799 was recognized in the results of the Company and included in the consolidated statements of operations as Other expenses, net.

As of March 31, 2004, the Company has requested from CADIVI a total of US\$394.1 million. As of March 31, 2004, CADIVI has approved US\$ 387.7 million of which US\$ 318.0 million has been received.

The Company continues to process the necessary formalities to comply with the requirements of CADIVI in order to apply for additional foreign currency.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

COMPañIA ANONIMA NACIONAL

TELEFONOS DE VENEZUELA, (CANTV)

By: /s/ Armando Yañes

Armando Yañes

Chief Financial Officer

Date: May 19, 2004