SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

> FORM S-8 REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware65-0723837(State or Other Jurisdiction of<br/>Incorporation or Organization)(I.R.S. Employer<br/>Identification No.)

116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 375-7500 (Address of Principal Executive Offices including zip code)

> American Tower Systems Corporation 1997 Stock Option Plan (Full titles of the plan)

Steven B. Dodge Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer American Tower Corporation 116 Huntington Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 375-7500 (Name, address and telephone number of Agent For Service)

> Copy to: Norman A. Bikales, Esq. Sullivan & Worcester LLP One Post Office Square Boston, Massachusetts 02109 (617) 338-2800

If, as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions, the number of securities purported to be registered on this Registration Statement changes, the provisions of Rule 416 shall apply to this Registration Statement.

The prospectus included in this Registration Statement is a combined prospectus which also relates to 15,000,000 shares of common stock previously registered under the Company's registration statement on Form S-8 dated April 28, 1998 and filed on May 6, 1998 (file no. 333-51959).

## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee

Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 9,000,000 \$43.53125 \$391,781,250

(1) The proposed maximum offering price per share and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price have been estimated solely for purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee in accordance with Rules 457(c) and 457(h) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on the basis of the average of the high and low prices of the Class A Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on July 7, 2000.

\$103,430.25

A registration fee of \$81,460 was paid upon the filing of the prior registration statement.

Item 1. Plan Information; Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.

The documents containing the information required by these items will be given to employees participating in the American Tower Systems Corporation 1997 Stock Option Plan and are not required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") as part of the registration statement or as an exhibit thereto.

Employees participating in the Plan may obtain, without charge, a copy of the Plan or the documents set forth in Item 3, below, by request to Ms. Anne Alter, Director of Investor Relations, American Tower Corporation, 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 ((617) 375-7500).

#### PART II - INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Insofar as additional securities are being registered of the same class as other securities for which a registration statement filed on this form relating to an employee benefit plan is effective, in accordance with General Instruction E to the Registration Statement on Form S-8, American Tower Corporation (the "Company") hereby incorporates by reference the contents of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated April 28, 1998 and filed on May 6, 1998 (file no. 333-51959) and omits the information required by Part II from this registration statement, other than Item 3, Item 5 and Item 8 below, which have been updated.

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The Company previously registered under the Securities Act of 1933 an aggregate of 15,000,000 shares of common stock offered pursuant to the American Tower Systems Corporation 1997 Stock Option Plan pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-8 (file no. 333-51959) dated April 28, 1998 and filed with the Commission on May 6, 1998, which is incorporated in this registration statement by reference.

The following additional documents, which have been filed by the Company with the Commission, are incorporated by reference in and made a part of this registration statement, as of their respective dates:

- (a) The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999;
- (b) The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2000;
- (c) The Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 28, 2000, January 31, 2000, February 9, 2000, February 24, 2000, March 14, 2000, March 30, 2000, April 13, 2000, May 15, 2000, May 23, 2000, June 12, 2000, June 23, 2000 and June 29, 2000; and
- (d) The description of the Common Stock contained in the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A filed on June 4, 1998.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement herein, or in any subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement. Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The validity of the shares offered hereby will be passed upon for the Company by Sullivan & Worcester LLP, Boston, Massachusetts. As of June 1, 2000, Norman A. Bikales, a member of the firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP, owned 11,000 shares of our Class A common stock and 41,490 shares of Class B common stock and had options to purchase 20,000 shares of Class A common stock at \$10.00 per share and 25,000 shares of Class A common stock at \$23.813 per share. Mr. Bikales and other partners and associates of that firm serve as secretary or assistant secretaries for us and certain of our subsidiaries.

Item 8. Exhibits.

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
5.1	Opinion of Sullivan & Worcester LLP.*
23.1	Consent of Sullivan & Worcester LLP (contained in the opinion of Sullivan & Worcester LLP filed herewith as Exhibit 5.1).
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.*
23.3	Consent of KPMG LLP.*
23.4	Consent of KPMG LLP.*

24 Power of Attorney (included in signature page of this Registration Statement).

\*Filed herewith.

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Company certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this 12th day of July, 2000.

## AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION

## By: /s/ Steven B. Dodge Steven B. Dodge Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

The undersigned Officers and Directors of the Company hereby severally constitute Steven B. Dodge, Joseph L. Winn and Jonathan R. Black, and each of them acting singly, our true and lawful attorneys to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below any amendments to this registration statement on Form S-8 (including any post-effective amendments hereto) and to file the same, with Exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto each of said attorneys, acting singly, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures to said amendments to this registration statement signed by our said attorneys and all else that said attorneys may lawfully do and cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Company in the capacities indicated on the 11th day of July, 2000.

Title

Signatures

/s/ Steven B. Dodge Steven B. Dodge	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
/s/ Alan L. Box Alan L. Box	Executive Vice President and Director
/s/ Joseph L. Winn Joseph L. Winn	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
/s/ Justin D. Benincasa Justin D. Benincasa	Vice President and Corporate Controller
/s/ Arnold L. Chavkin Arnold L. Chavkin	Director
∕s∕ Dean H. Eisner Dean H. Eisner	Director

/s/ Jack D. Furst Jack D. Furst	Director
/s/ J. Michael Gearon, Jr. J. Michael Gearon, Jr.	Executive Vice President and Director
Fred R. Lummis	Director
Randall T. Mays	Director
Thomas H. Stoner	Director
/s/ Maggie Wilderotter Maggie Wilderotter	Director

SULLIVAN & WORCESTER LLP ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109 (617) 338-2800 FAX NO. 617-338-2880 ON, D.C.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C. 1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 775-8190 FAX NO. 202-293-2275 IN NEW YORK CITY 767 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) 486-8200 FAX NO. 212-758-2151

July 12, 2000

American Tower Corporation 116 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02116

Re: Registration of Stock Option Plan Amendment on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), by American Tower Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), of 9,000,000 shares of its Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("Common Stock"), that are to be offered under and are issuable upon the exercise of options granted and to be granted pursuant to the provisions of the American Tower Systems Corporation 1997 Stock Option Plan (the "Stock Option Plan") (all such shares shall be referred to herein as the "Registered Shares"), the following opinion is furnished to you to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") as Exhibit 5.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") under the Act.

We have acted as counsel to the Company in connection with the Registration Statement, and we have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the Registration Statement, the Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as presently in effect, corporate records of the Company, and such other documents as we have considered necessary in order to furnish the opinion hereinafter set forth.

We express no opinion herein as to any laws other than the Delaware General Corporation Law and the federal law of the United States, and we express no opinion as to state securities or blue sky laws.

Based on and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion that, when issued in accordance with the terms of the Stock Option Plan and the options granted thereunder, the Registered Shares will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable by the Company.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to our firm in the Prospectus forming a part of the Registration Statement.

American Tower Corporation July 12, 2000 Page 2

In giving such consent, we do not thereby admit that we come within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

Very truly yours,

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' CONSENT

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of American Tower Corporation on Form S-8 of our report dated March 1, 2000, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of American Tower Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1999.

/S/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Boston, Massachusetts July 10, 2000 The Board of Directors UNIsite, Inc. and Subsidiaries:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statement on Form S-8 of American Tower Corporation of our report dated January 14, 2000, with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of UNIsite, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the related consolidated statements of operations, redeemable convertible preferred stock and stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1999 which report appears in the Form 8-K of American Tower Corporation dated March 30, 2000.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Tampa, Florida July 10, 2000 The Board of Directors ICG Satellite Services, Inc.

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statement on Form S-8 for the 1997 Stock Option Plan of American Tower Corporation of our report dated February 28, 2000, with respect to the consolidated balance sheet of ICG Satellite Services, Inc. and subsidiary as of November 30, 1999, and the related consolidated statements of operations and accumulated deficit and cash flows for the eleven-month period ended November 30, 1999, which report appears in the Form 8-K of American Tower Corporation dated March 30, 2000.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado July 10, 2000