

News Release



National Democratic Institute
For International Affairs

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 605
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 328-3136
Telex 5106015068 NDIIA
Fax (202) 328-3144

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
KEN WOLLACK/LARRY GARBER @ (202) 328-3136

NDI BRIEFING ON PANAMA ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 27, 1989 -- The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) will hold an 11 a.m. briefing on the upcoming Panamanian elections on Wednesday, March 29 at the Institute's offices, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 605, Washington, DC.

The briefing will include a report on the findings of an international delegation, acting under the auspices of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government, which recently returned from a four-day mission to Panama to evaluate the laws and procedures for the presidential, legislative and municipal elections scheduled for May 7.

NDI helped organize and underwrite the cost of the Panama mission. NDI Senior Consultant on Electoral Processes Larry Garber accompanied the delegation and drafted the report on the delegation's findings.

The delegation members were designated by former President Jimmy Carter, and by Council members President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela and former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber.

The mission included former U.S. ambassador to Panama, Ambler Moss, Costa Rican legislator Carlos Monge Sanabria and Venezuelan Congressman Miguel Ocque. While in Panama, the delegation met with senior government officials, members of the Panamanian Defense Forces, the three magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal, the presidential and

-more-

vice-presidential candidates, leaders of all political parties, owners of radio and television media, and representatives of the National Civic Crusade, the Church, human rights organizations and the business community.

The report will be publicly released at the Consultation on the Hemispheric Agenda to be held at the Carter Center in Atlanta, March 29-30. The conference will be co-chaired by presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. Participants will include members of Congress, Administration officials and democratically-elected leaders in the western hemisphere.

The Wednesday briefing will also include a report on NDI's plans for organizing the international observer delegation for the Panamanian elections. The mission will be cosponsored by the National Republican Institute for International Affairs. As part of its democratic development activities, NDI has sponsored international delegations to elections in the Philippines, Haiti, Chile and Pakistan.

-###-