

News Release



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NDI SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 14, 1988 -- The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) will sponsor an international conference this month to examine civil-military relations in Argentina, a nation that recently experienced a crisis precipitated by dissident military forces.

The December 16-18 seminar will take place at the Dominican Concord Hotel in Santo Domingo and is being co-sponsored by the Pedro Francisco Bono Foundation of the Dominican Republic.

The seminar will examine mechanisms and institutions to improve civilian-military relations and promote effective political leadership on issues affecting the armed forces. Argentine political leaders representing the major parties of the country and defense ministry officials will be joined by representatives of other democracies that have successfully established civilian supremacy over its armed forces.

Participants from Spain, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela will discuss their respective experiences in the transition from military to civilian rule. Representatives from the U.S. and Israel will analyze institutions and practices that have helped prevent the emergence of an anti-democratic military elite.

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conducting nonpartisan international programs to help maintain and strengthen democratic institutions

"Internationally, there is a growing consensus about the importance of civil-military relations in the democratization process," said NDI president J. Brian Atwood. "We hope that the Argentines will benefit from the experiences of other countries as they continue to consolidate their own democratic system."

The Santo Domingo conference, which was planned before the recent military revolt by members of the Argentine armed forces, has generated a great deal of interest in Argentina's political community. During a June 1988 meeting with an NDI survey mission, President Raul Alfonsin, as well as senior defense ministry officials, members of Parliament and academicians, endorsed the idea of the conference. The Argentines said that the seminar would provide them an important base of information that will be of practical use in their own country.

Chaired by former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, NDI conducts nonpartisan political development programs overseas. By working with political parties and other institutions, NDI seeks to promote, maintain and strengthen democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies.