



# News Release

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## NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE TO EXAMINE COSTA RICAN DEMOCRACY

WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 25, 1988 -- Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale will lead the U.S. delegation to a conference in Costa Rica that will examine the institutions and practices of that nation's model democracy as well as the democratization process in the region.

The conference, "Sustaining Democracies in Regions of Crisis," is sponsored by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs chaired by Mondale. It will take place from June 3-5 at the Sheraton Herradura Hotel in San Jose.

The conference is the second phase of a three-part NDI project designed to determine how some countries have been able to develop resilient democratic systems despite external threats and internal pressures.

"By studying these countries' institutions and practices NDI will provide an important base of information for leaders of new democracies who are building the machinery of democratic government," Mondale said.

"Costa Rica's central role in the Central American peace process, and its decades-old tradition of respect and practice of democratic principles, makes it a positive example in a troubled region, and in the world."

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NDI initiated the "Democracies in Regions of Crisis" project with a highly-successful conference in Israel in January 1987 that examined key Israeli institutions and practices relating to security, political, economic and social issues.

The three-day meeting near the Dead Sea brought together 50 prominent Americans and Israelis to analyze the institutions and practices that have helped sustain Israeli democracy.

The conference in San Jose will be attended by prominent Costa Rican journalists, academics and politicians, including the leading candidates for president.

Party leaders from the other Central American countries, as well as Israel, Botswana and the United States will also participate.

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.

NDI received bipartisan acclaim for organizing the international observer delegation to the "snap" presidential elections in the Philippines. NDI has also conducted a series of democratic development programs in nearly 30 countries.

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