

News Release



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PRESS ADVISORY

PANAMA POLITICAL LEADERS TO SPEAK AT NDI LUNCHEON

WASHINGTON, DC, AUGUST 17, 1989 -- Panamanian opposition leaders Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo "Billy" Ford will speak at a special World Affairs Briefing Luncheon hosted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) on Monday, August 21.

The luncheon will be at 12 noon in the Ballroom West of the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

Arias and Ford, the first and second vice presidential candidates of the Civic Opposition Democratic Alliance (ADOC) for the May 7 elections, will discuss the prospects for a resolution of the political crisis in Panama. They will be in Washington to attend the August 23 meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS). This critical OAS session will take place one week before the September 1 deadline for the transition of power in Panama.

Arias and Ford won nearly 75 percent of the vote in last May's elections, which were nullified by the Noriega regime. NDI, along with its Republican counterpart, jointly organized the international observer delegation led by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

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