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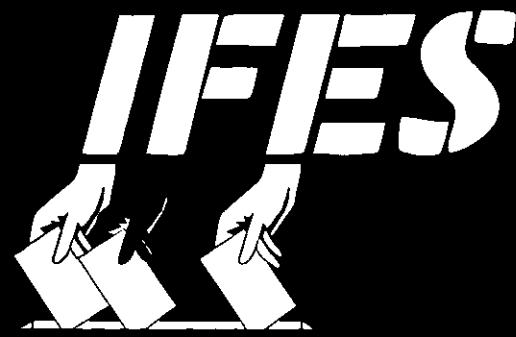
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**ELECTIONS • RULE OF LAW • GOVERNANCE • CIVIL SOCIETY**



**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**



# **IFES MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of IFES is to provide technical assistance in the promotion of democracy worldwide and to serve as a clearinghouse for information about democratic development and elections. IFES is dedicated to the success of democracy throughout the world, believing that it is the preferred form of government. At the same time, IFES firmly believes that each nation requesting assistance must take into consideration its unique social, cultural, and environmental influences. The Foundation recognizes that democracy is a dynamic process with no single blueprint. IFES is nonpartisan, multinational, and interdisciplinary in its approach.

**INTERNATIONAL  
OBSERVATION MISSION  
PARAGUAY  
GENERAL ELECTIONS  
APRIL 27, 2003  
FINAL REPORT**

**Developed by the**

**International Foundation for  
Election Systems (IFES)**



EXTENDING THE REACH OF DEMOCRACY

**Presented to the**

**United States Agency for  
International Development (USAID)**



**June 19, 2003**



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## **INTRODUCTION**

On April 27, 2003, the Republic of Paraguay held nationwide elections in an atmosphere of calm efficiency and normality. The country's voters and electoral system repeated a performance that has gained praise throughout the hemisphere since 1993. The 2003 elections strengthened the process of democratization in Paraguay, following a 35-year period of dictatorship rule and an abrupt transition by means of a coup d'état. Though much needs to be done for Paraguay to fully achieve democracy, Paraguay's electoral institutions, political parties and volunteers gave a professional and mature performance on April 27, 2003.

Multiple offices were contested on April 27, 2003, including the offices of the president and vice-president, 45 senators (with 45 substitutes), 80 deputies (with 80 substitutes), 17 governors, and 191 members of state assemblies (with 191 substitutes). Turnout was relatively high with a 64% participation rate, but it was 15% lower than 1998. A few minor incidents were reported.

As a result of consultations between the governments of Paraguay and the United States, IFES was invited to deploy an election observation mission to Paraguay. With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IFES organized an 11-member international delegation comprised of experts in the areas of election administration, voter education, civic and voter registration, and political parties, from seven countries in the Americas. The observation mission was led by Mr. Miguel Angel Rodriguez, former President of Costa Rica, and Mr. Richard Soudriette, IFES President. The objective of the mission was to monitor activities prior to Election Day, observe the voting process, and assess the post-election activities.

This report is issued as a record of the observations made by the IFES mission. It also presents a series of technical suggestions for the consideration of the Paraguayan government in the organization and administration of future elections.

IFES Program Officer Pablo Galarce and IFES consultant Jorge Tirado traveled to Paraguay on April 5, 2003, to conduct a pre-election assessment and advanced coordination of logistics. Members of the delegation arrived on April 23 and attended briefings by election officials, political party and alliance leaders, and civil society

organizations in Asunción. The team was primarily interested in gathering information on the activities and climate of the electoral campaign, preparations for the election itself, the electronic voting machines, and the resources and logistics required by the observation teams, especially in more remote areas of the country. During the week leading up to Election Day, the IFES delegation studied the organization of the electoral process, electoral rules and procedures, the powers and functions of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the computers to be used at electronic polling stations, and the roles of volunteers. Beginning on April 26, two-person teams traveled to designated observation sites throughout the country to gather information on electoral preparations at the local level and to prepare to observe the elections on April 27, 2003.

After a series of meetings with election officials, representatives of political parties and other observation groups, the IFES delegation was divided into 11 teams of two persons each and assigned to different observation sites. Six teams were assigned to the Departamento Central and Asunción, the areas with the largest number of voters. Others teams traveled to Concepción, Alto Parana, Caaguazu and Guaira, Itapúa and Misiones. On Election Day, these teams visited more than 100 polling centers out of a nationwide total of 948. Sites observed ranged from the largest polling centers to remote small schools.

Beginning on April 24, the IFES mission visited local party headquarters, met with Electoral Tribunal officials and Electoral Delegates, and located voting centers and counting centers. Teams in most areas were able to coordinate their observation with teams fielded by the Organization of American States (OAS), Decidamos, CAPEL and TRANSPARENCIA/PARAGUAY. Each observation team had cellular telephones, so most were able to keep in touch with other IFES teams and local contacts. All of the observation teams followed the voting and counting processes in as many locations as possible throughout the day, looking in particular at issues of polling station organization, expertise of electoral officials and Electoral Delegates, conduct and expertise of political party representatives as authorized observers, processing of candidates' and electors' complaints, the conduct of the police at voting sites, and security procedures for ballots and tally sheets.

The observation teams reassembled in Asunción for a debriefing on April 28. Most of the election observers departed from Asunción on April 29.

## THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Paraguay holds general elections for all offices every five years. On April 27, 2003 elections were held for:

- One president and one vice-president
- 45 senators and 45 substitutes
- 80 deputies and 80 substitutes
- 17 governors
- 191 members of *juntas departamentales* (state assemblies) and 191 substitutes

### Voting.

Depending on where they lived, voters used one of two systems of voting: traditional or electronic voting.



### Traditional voting

The traditional voting was used by 54.17% of the voting population, or about 1,302,858 voters. The traditional voting process was as follows:

1. The voter presented his/her *cedula* (personal ID card) at the polling station. Once the information was verified,

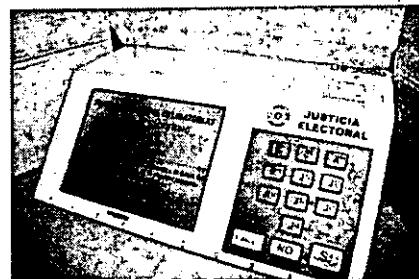


the president of the table gave the voter a pen and 3 paper ballots (in Asunción) or 5 ballots (in the rest of the country). Before the paper ballots were handed to the voter, they had to be signed by the two other polling station officials. Then the voter was authorized to vote.

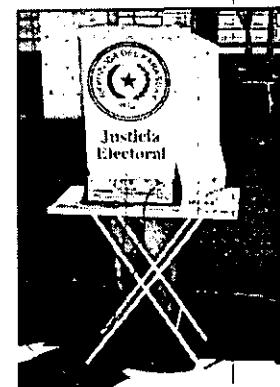
2. In the polling booth, the voter used to the pen provided to mark a cross in the blank square under the name of the candidate or list.
3. After marking each paper ballot with one cross, or leaving them blank to vote blank, the voter folded the paper ballots.
4. The voter gave the folded ballots to the president for his/her signature and then placed them in the different ballot boxes placed directly in front of the polling table..
5. Then the voter dipped his/her finger in the indelible ink.
6. Finally, the president returned to the *cedula* to the voter, along with a certificate demonstrating that the voter had actually voted.

### **Electronic Voting**

Electronic voting machines were used by 45.83% of the voting population, or about 1,102,252 voters. The process to vote with the electronic machines was as follows:



1. The voter presented his/her *cedula* at the polling station. Once the information was verified, the voter was authorized to vote with the electronic machine.
2. Facing the machine, the voter pressed the number corresponding to his/her selection.
3. The screen then displayed the number of the list selected, the name of the party or movement, the initials corresponding to the party or movement, and in the upper right hand side, the



symbol of the party or movement. For the presidential and vice-presidential race, the screen displayed the pictures of both candidates. For the governors' races, the picture and name of the candidate was shown. The voters could then press YES to confirm the selection or NO to cancel the selection and restart the process. Voters who wanted to vote blank could press BLANK, and as before, had to press YES to confirm the selection. Local elections were conducted in the same manner.

4. After the voter completed his/her selections, the word END appeared in the screen, informing the voter that the voting process had ended.

5. The voter returned to the polling table, where his/her right-hand index finger was marked with indelible ink.

6. The pollworkers returned the *cedula* to the voter along with a voting certificate.

The use of electronic voting machines had a precedent in the pilot program implemented during municipal elections on November 18, 2001. Due to the positive results obtained during this pilot project, the TSJE passed resolution (#77/02) on the September 27, 2002, authorizing the use of electronic voting machines for up to 50% of the votes in the General Elections of April 2003. To accomplish this, the support of the TSE of Brazil and the OAS was again requested.

The TSJE later announced that electronic voting machines would be used for 53% of the vote. This decision was accepted by almost all of the political parties, except the Colorado Party, which asked that the electronic vote either be dropped to 10% or raised 100%. Finally the TSJE resolved the matter with resolution #44/03, setting the use of electronic voting machines at 45.83% of the vote, which represented 1,102,254 voters in 33 districts voting on 3,811 machines.

A massive civic education campaign was launched to familiarize the general public and the political parties with the new system. The campaign received widespread coverage in the press.

## **THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN**

Three main political parties competed for the hearts and minds Paraguayans in the April 2003 General Elections: the Colorado Party, which has dominated Paraguay's politics over the last 50 years; the Liberal Party, the traditional opponent of the Colorado Party; and Movement Patria Querida, a newcomer bankrolled by Pedro Fadul, a wealthy businessman, that entered into politics as an alternative to the two main parties

With no clear winner emerging, two main issues dominated the final weeks of the campaign. The first was the use of the electronic machines, which the Colorado Party bitterly opposed, arguing that people were not prepared to used them and that a fraud would be committed against them. The party demanded that the TSJE either lower the percentage from 53% to 10% or raise it to 100% of the vote. Both options were not viable for the TSJE and the opposition. The opposition, on the other hand, supported the use of the electronic machines since they saw them as a deterrent against the Colorado Party electoral machine.

The second issue that dominated the last weeks of the campaign was the possible alliance between the Liberals and Patria Querida. The two leaders met to forge an alliance that would win the presidency. Lack of political will, as well as political vision, prevented the two parties from joining forces and confronting the Colorado party as one. The main argument was over which candidate, Franco or Fadul, would abandon the race and leave the way for the other to compete directly against Nicanor Duarte. Election results show that if the Liberals and Patria Querida had joined forces, they would have won most of the elections and would be the main political force in Paraguayan politics at this time.

This dispute effectively forced the opposition to spend time arguing about something outside the real problems that voters wanted to hear about. The Colorado Party, meanwhile, forged ahead with its campaign in the rural areas, where it has its base.

Paraguayan candidates and parties have demonstrated new levels of political maturity in their campaigning, despite the relatively high tensions that mounted during the last weeks of the campaign. The three parties were able to purchase advertisements in radio, television and print media, and had access to public places

in which to stage campaign events. All sides were also able to acquire transport vehicles for campaign events, particularly for their closing rallies in Asunción. No candidates published complaints about lack of access to space, transport, media or news coverage. In addition, the TSJE continued to run numerous educational and motivational messages during the final weeks of the campaign, informing voters how to mark ballots and how to avoid nullifying their vote, and assuring the populace that the TSJE would, once again, respect the will of the people on Election Day.

The election results clearly show that Paraguay has a clear political plurality centered in three main parties: the Colorado Party, the Liberal Party and the newcomer Patria Querida. But at the same time it is clear that the Colorado Party, as the party controlling the presidency and many Paraguayan institutions, dominates most issues in the country, tipping the playing field to its advantage. To level the paying field, many issues must be corrected, such as the funding of political parties and the transparency of private funds used by the parties. The coercion of public employees by the ruling party, the equity in access to the press and campaign regulations must be dealt with in order to fully democratize Paraguay.

The election results also show that Paraguayan voters are searching for new alternatives to the Colorado Party and that the coercion or vote induction is not as severe as many argue. It is true that prior to the elections there were many complaints about political parties pressuring voters. However, it is difficult to establish with real certainty the difference between political propaganda one hand and coercion on the other hand, and between government pressure and effective campaigning on the other. The results tend to show that any possible monopoly that the Colorado Party may have had is diminishing, since many voters did not vote along party lines. It is up to the Liberal Party and Patria Querida to capitalize on this trend if they want to have a better chance in 2008.

The behavior of voters clearly shows that they had the freedom to either participate in the elections or to opt to stay out and not to vote. For those who participated, the elections were free and fair since the principle of freedom to choose was present with the multiplicity of options to choose from. The election was fair since the elections were administered by a very professional election authority that defended the law in

a way that protected the voters. Finally, the vote tabulation, as implemented, was accurate.

## **COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

About 700 observers, both local and international, observed the April 27 elections in Paraguay. During the days leading up to the elections, IFES met with representatives of CAPEL, OAS, DECIDAMOS, Contralorías Ciudadanas and TRANSPARENCIA/Paraguay to coordinate the deployment of observers and to avoid sending observers to the same polling sites.

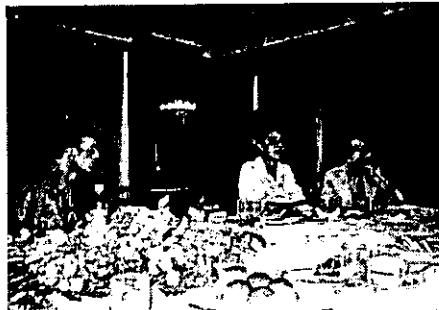
These meetings served not only to share information, but to fully rely on other institutions for support and expertise in specific areas. For example, TRANSPARENCIA requested IFES' support when observing the voting process to account for voter's complaints and irregularities. At the end of Election Day, IFES provided TRANSPARENCIA with a summary of its findings to compare with TRANSPARENCIA findings. DECIDAMOS provided IFES with a list of sites where potential problems could occur, and IFES made sure that these areas were covered by its observers.

## **DEPLOYMENT OF THE IFES DELEGATION**

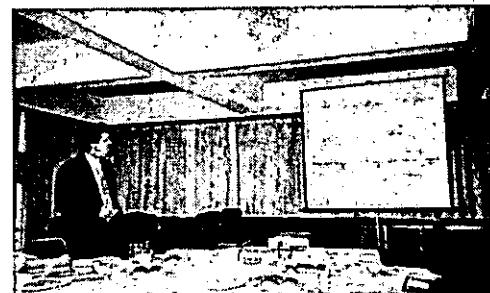
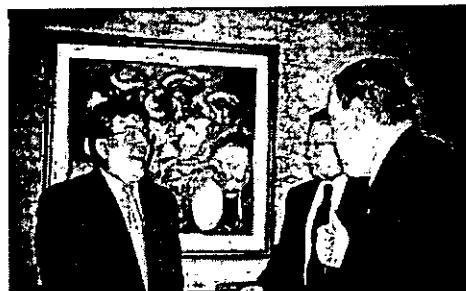
The mission of the IFES delegation was:

- To monitor pre-election activities and the political climate;
- To evaluate the administrative preparations for the voting process;
- To be present at sites on Election Day to observe the opening of the polls, inventory checks, processing of ballots and activities of poll workers;
- Following the closing of the polls, to observe the counting and collection procedures, comparing as many sites as possible, and to note the use of ballot boxes and security measures; to accompany election officials during the ballot transportation process if there was a central or regional counting location;
- During the vote counting, to remain in the role of observer to review the policies and observe the methods of counting and certification;
- To note the activities of other observers at the polling sites on election day; and

- During the post-election period, to evaluate the vote tabulation process, reactions to the final election results, and the initial activities involved in the transfer of power from the outgoing to the incoming government.



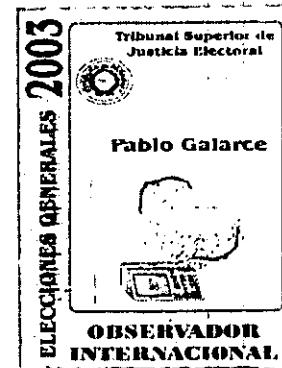
To accomplish these objectives, the IFES delegation participated in a series of briefings on the election process; held meetings with representatives of the political parties, civil society and the media; and attended campaign functions.



The five teams that observed the elections outside Asunción, traveled to their respective departments the day before the elections. Upon arrival, they were able to visit their assigned region prior to the election. Each team was in permanent contact, through cellular telephones, with the IFES office in Asunción and with other teams in the field. Each team consulted with local experts on the best route to follow on Election Day in order to cover as many vote centers as possible. Each team was equipped with briefing materials and maps, survey forms to complete on Election Day, first aid supplies, a cellular telephone, and whatever supplies were required for their specific area. Some teams also took photographs to document their findings. The survey forms, pre-election reports, election reports, and a post-election debriefing were used to compile this final report.

Once in their assigned regions, the teams located and met with TSJE officials, Electoral, other organizations and information sources. Teams conducted pre-election visits to various voting centers and the local and/or regional counting centers in their areas.

Every observer was supplied with an official credential from the TSJE. This document informed administrators, police, military, and election workers around the country of the IFES observation mission.



### ELECTION DAY

IFES deployed a total of 11 teams, consisting of one international observer and one staff from USAID or the U.S. Embassy in Paraguay. The following is the mission's deployment Plan:

G	TEAMS	DEPARTAMENTO	AREA DE OBSERVACION
1	MAGDALENA TRUJILLO PAT HALL	CONCEPCION	CONCEPCION
2	MERCEDES DE FREITAS KAREN WILLIAMS	ALTO PARANA	CIUDAD DEL ESTE
3	DORA NUNEZ TIM SEARS	CAAGUAZU AND GUAIRA	CORONEL OVIEDO COLONIA INDEPENDENCIA VILLARICA AND CNEL. MARTINEZ
4	TED PICCONE MARCELO CORONEL	ITAPUA	ENCARNACION ZONA RURAL
5	ZAIDA ARGUEDAS LINDA LEE	MISIONES	SAN IGNACIO, SAN JUAN, SAN MIGUEL AND VILLA FLORIDA
6	FERNANDO ZERTUCHE DORIS GONZALEZ	ASUNCION	ASUNCION
7	JAMES HAYES STEVE ROYSTER	CENTRAL	LIMPIO, MARIANO ROQUE ALONSO VILLA HAYES
8	RICHARD SOUDRIETTE MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ WAYNE NILSESTUEN	CENTRAL	AREGUA, ITA, ITAGUA YPACARAI SAN BERNARDINO
9	PATRICIO GAJARDO BILL HYBIL DEANNA KIM	CENTRAL	LUQUE CAPIATA
10	PABLO GALARCE DAVID ROVINSKY	CENTRAL	SAN ANTONIO, GUARAMBARE & VILLETA
11	JAMES HAYES STEVE MARMA	CENTRAL	LAMBARE, VILLA ELISA AND NEMBY

## **GENERAL FINDINGS**

### **1. Election Day:**

The majority of the voting stations opened after 7:00 AM, as required by the law. In many places voters arrived at polling stations on time, but had to wait for the polling station to be established. By about 8:00 AM most of the polling stations were functioning. The opening was characterized by calm, and the voters displayed a responsible and educated attitude. The electronic voting machines, in most cases, functioned properly and did not present any problems for the voters. In the polling stations with manual voting, voting took longer, which generated long lines of voters waiting their turn to vote.

By midday the vote continued calmly and without incidents. The difference in voting time between the electronic and manual methods was consistent. Good participation was reported from almost all sites observed, but it was apparently that many eligible voters had decided to stay home. At almost all polling sites they visited, IFES observers witnessed some proselytizing by political party operators, which in some cases caused bitter disputes among voters and party representatives.

By mid-afternoon and up until the closing of the polls at 4:00 PM, the IFES observers reported that the election continued calmly and without incidents. The closing of the polls was calm and on time, without major delays. In the electronic polling places, the closing procedures were quick, and poll workers finished their work by about 6:00 PM. Much time was spent in filling out the forms and making sure the closing procedures were done properly. In traditional polling places, the counting of the votes and closing procedures were indeed slower. In many cases, poll workers finished their work well into the night. The counting of the ballots and filling out the forms was tedious and tiresome for many, especially for those who had arrived at 6:00 AM.

### **2. Polling sites:**

Most sites observed were at ground level with enough space and wide entrances. However, for most voters, locating the polling site was difficult. Most of polling places observed were not user-friendly, and in many cases, voters had to wonder where to vote. In many cases, polling stations were too small and/or awkward to accommodate pollworkers, voters and the voting equipment.

Many polling places visited by the IFES teams were poorly designed. They did not have adequate signs pointing out the best entrance to the site and the place where a voter had to vote. Signs that provided important information to the voter did not exist many times. In Appendix II we offer a sample map to the TSJE on how best to show voters the voting flow.

Most of the polling stations we visited had demonstration units, but not all voters were aware of this feature.

As indicated by the results, Paraguayan voters are comfortable with electronic voting. With continued use, the voters will be more at ease, and the machines will be a success. The TSJE should intensify its civic education campaigns for future elections.

### **3. Public information and Outreach:**

The TSJE mock elections and ongoing outreach campaign were the keys to the success of the electronic voting in Paraguay. The plan to bring demonstration machines to most areas where the electronic voting was to be implemented was effective. For the most part, voters liked the machines. Many commented that the machines were easy to use and fast, unlike the traditional method. The lines in the electronic voting places were indeed shorter than in the traditional places.

Voters came to the polling stations well educated about their choices. It is evident that the campaigns developed by the TSJE and later adapted by the political parties were effective. In fact, we can say that the designation of numbers for each political party made it easy for voters, since they had to press the numbers of their preferences and push YES twice to confirm their selections. In short, it made a big difference to ease the process.



We did, however, find some deficiencies in the poll-worker manual. As far as we could tell, the manual was written by a computer expert and not by a civic education expert. Also, in some places we saw poll workers that were not fully familiar with their duties.

As the TSJE expects to implement electronic voting machines in 100% of the polling stations for the 2004 Municipal Elections, efforts must be made to find poll workers with necessary technical skills. High school and university students could be recruited for this role and could be the perfect match for the new requirements.

**4. Secrecy of the vote:**

Because of close quarters and less than perfect layout at many polling places, the voting machines were placed in such a way that anyone could actually see a voter's selections, making the lack of privacy an issue to be considered in the future.

**5. Election Day complaints:**

As was expected, the IFES mission saw and received a number of complaints from voters during Election Day. These complaints, however serious in some cases, did not affect a significant percentage of the voting population and therefore did not affect the results.

The main complaints received by the IFES observers can be summarized as follows:

- Colorado Party members wearing red shirts gave voters instructions to vote for the Lista 1;
- Representatives from the parties were placed to less than 200 meters from the voting station;
- Political banners inside polling places;
- Political operators guided disabled and senior citizens through the process;
- Poll workers clearly showed their party affiliations by wearing the colors of the party while serving as polling officials;
- Political operators purchased *cedulas* from voters; and
- Party literature was often too close to the polling place.

**IFES ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTION**

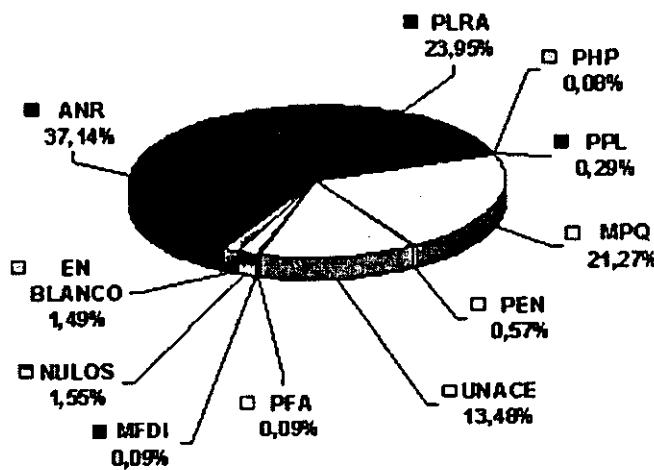
The IFES mission's principal assessments of the 2003 Paraguayan general election were as follows:

- The electoral process on April 27, 2003, was carried out according to established standards.
- The mission congratulated the Paraguayan voters for exercising their right to vote. Participation in the elections reached significant percentages in areas with the greatest number of voters. At the same time, it is important to mention a decrease in participation in comparison to the previous general elections in 1998.
- From early in the morning people lined up at the polling places waiting patiently for their turn to vote once the polling officials started the election process.
- The election was distinguished by the use of electronic voting machines, which led to greater order, more agility in voting methods, and faster vote tally.
- The polling station officials demonstrated dedication and familiarity with the electoral process in locations using both electronic and traditional voting methods.
- There were no complaints or reports on Election Day concerning violent acts or intimidation towards the voters that could have affected the process or the final results.
- The rapid transmission of results contributed to the peaceful environment that prevailed after the elections and gave more credibility and legitimacy to events occurring after the electoral process.

Without a doubt, in every department of the republic, a fully free and fair, transparent and tranquil general election took place on April 27, 2003. With only the most minor of exceptions, the election was conducted efficiently and professionally, even in relatively inaccessible areas. The TSJE was able to announce the election results four hours of the closing of the polls:

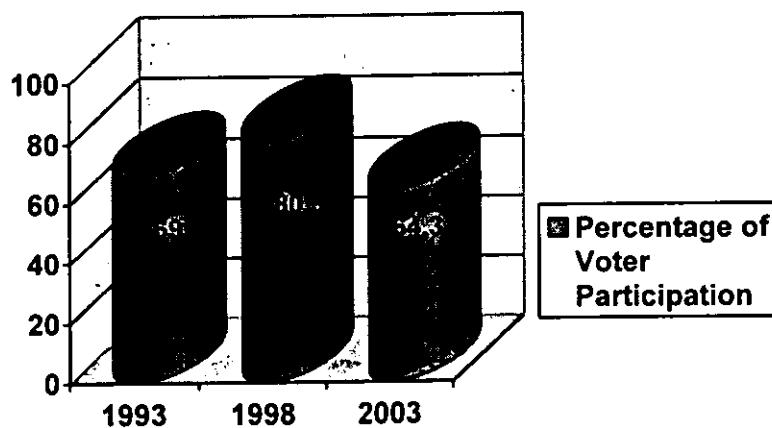
Lista	Partido	Dupla presidencial	Sigla	Total votos	Porcentaje
1	Asociación Nacional Republicana	Nicanor Duarte Frutos-Luis Castiglioni Soria	ANR	574.232	37,14%
2	Partido Liberal Radical Autentico	Julio César Franco-Eligio Campuzano	PLRA	370.348	23,95%
8	Partido Patria Libre	Tomás Zayas - Aurora Montiel	PPL	4.559	0,29%

\* Official results provided by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Paraguay



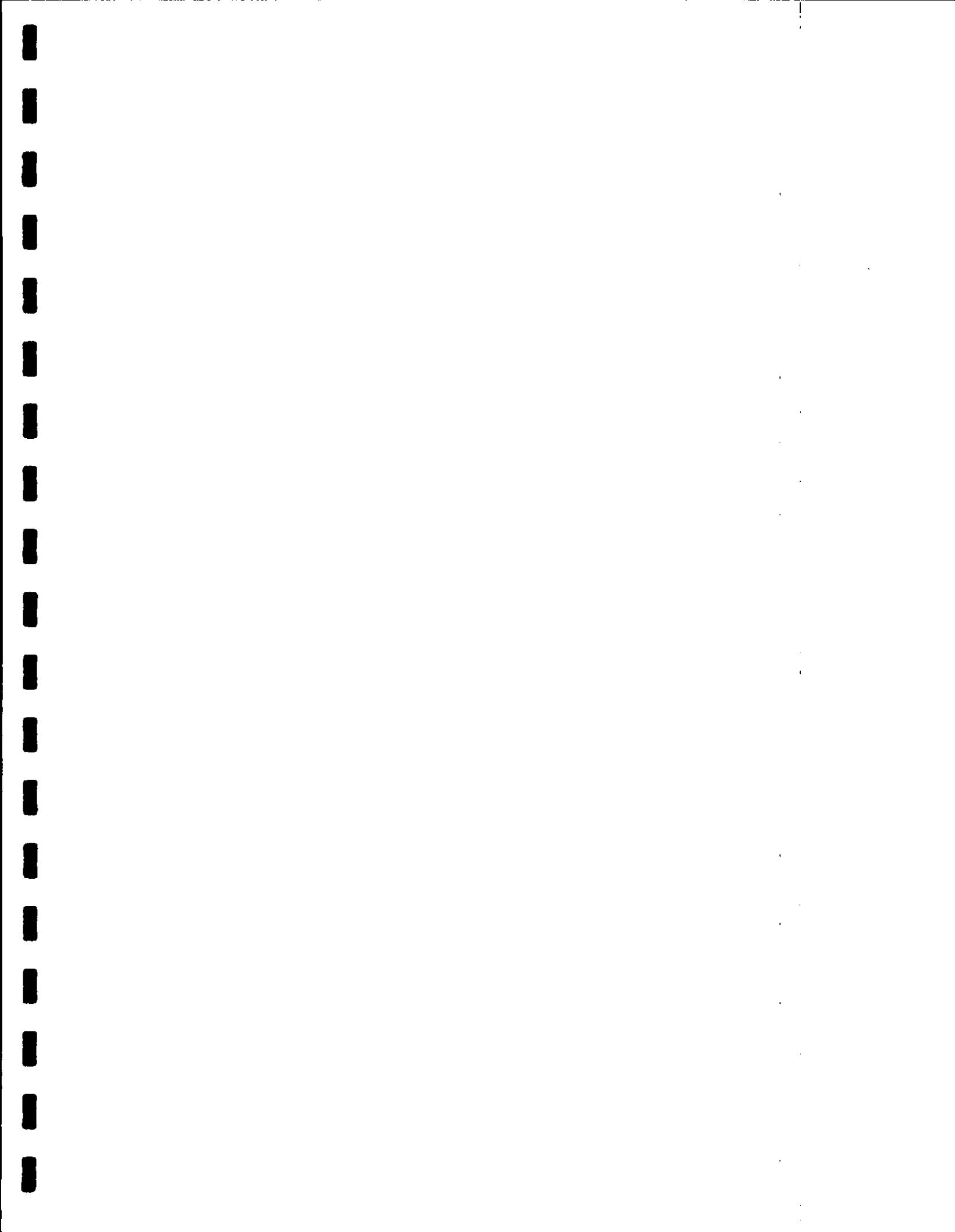
The second- and third-place candidates gracefully conceded to the winner, decreasing considerably the political pressure that had built up to that moment.

#### Percentage of participation



The percentage of eligible voters who participated in the elections was 15.7% lower than in 1998 and a 4.7% lower than in the 1993 general elections despite the efforts of the TSJE and political parties to increase voter turnout.

To fully analyze this decrease in voter turnout will require further study, but at this time we can only venture to guess that a lack of political options was the main cause for the electorate to decide to stay away from the polls in April.





After the polls closed, members of the IFES delegation met TSJE magistrates at the TSJE headquarters to debrief them on the observation and to wait for the official results to be announced.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Political party and campaign financing: The most important sign of electoral justice is the transparency of political finance. This is why there must be better control of political financing and disclosure of the origin and destination of funds used during political campaigns. This implies disclosing public and private donations and the way funds are used, and seeking the greatest possible equity.
- Candidate lists: Prior to any electoral process, political parties should provide the names of their candidates earlier in the process, to give the general public enough information to make informed choices.
- Electoral propaganda: Political parties and their followers should comply with legal norms that prohibit electoral campaigning in the environs of the polling places
- Electoral logistics: a) Voters lists at the polling places: provide more information to voters about the location of their polling places; b) Signs at the polling places: provide better signage for voters as soon they enter the polling stations (see annex II); c) Secrecy of the vote: the TSJE should instruct poll workers of the importance of the secrecy of the vote and of placing the "polling booth" where no other person can see the voting; d) Disabled people: ensure greater access to the polling places for citizens with disabilities; e) Manual of Procedures: A manual of procedures should be written by the TSJE to serve as a road map when preparing for an election.

- Election Administration: a) The TSJE should create a central office where all aspects of election administration are discussed during Election Day. Representatives of the TSJE, police, military and emergency personnel should be together at all times to coordinate all aspects of the election; b) Increase communication between all departments in the TSJE. A greater effort should be made at the director level to understand the intricacies of all departments within the TSJE, which would make the TSJE more effective at managing elections.

## **ANNEX I**

**TECHNICAL OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT  
ON THE PARAGUAY  
AUTOMATED ELECTIONS SYSTEM  
AND RESULTS TRANSMISSION**

**PARAGUAY GENERAL ELECTIONS 2003**

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**IFES Consultant**  
**May, 2003**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The project team is indebted to many Paraguay Election Tribunal (TSJE) individuals for the excellent cooperation that we received throughout the observation. Their constant encouragement and tangible support were crucial to the successful completion of this mission. Team members were continuously impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by so many public servants who put in extra effort to assist IFES in the observation process.

We would like to acknowledge formally the assistance of the TSJE staff in the: Electoral Register, MIS, Communications, Public Relations and Press, who cooperated with us so that we could gain insight into the type and extent of information that is collected and processed.

At the TSJE Magistrates level, we are particularly indebted to them and their staff in their efforts for receiving us and conducting meetings with very tight deadlines.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the individuals who assisted us in our work during the research and observation phase.

## **TECHNICAL OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT ON THE PARAGUAY AUTOMATED ELECTIONS SYSTEM**

### ***How the observation was performed***

We undertook this project on April 5, 2003 to conduct a pre-election assessment and advanced coordination of logistics. The members of the delegation arrived on April 23, to observe the effectiveness and operability of the manual voting process, and the electronic voting process working together as one Automated Elections System under the directives set forth by the Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE). As a first step, we reviewed all available reports and documents, talked with the election administrators, and generally made ourselves knowledgeable about the Paraguay Automated Elections System strengths, potential problems and issues. My participation as an outside consultant was by invitation of the TSJE to IFES. As a computer professional with extensive experience in Electoral Systems and MIS issues, including experience as analyst/legal advisor in electoral matters, my primary mandate was to observe the Automated Elections System during the presidential elections voting process and to identify any abnormal situations or possible enhancements to the Automated Elections System (voter registration and the results transmission process), in order to assess the TSJE in such issues.

### ***Scope of accuracy***

The Automated Elections System consists of three main modules: the manual Voting Process, the Electronic Voting Process, and Results Transmission. Our observation of TSJE Automated Elections System included its ability to accurately identify registered voters in a particular voting precinct, and to capture and transmit results with the necessary safeguards and characteristics, those that an election official would expect all Automated Elections Systems to be able to handle. In doing so, we observed several presentations and comprehensive tests of the set up, and the system operation at the TSJE MIS central office.

We observed the system on accuracy and reliability, and examined performance when deliberately attempted to introduce errors into the vote tabulation process. We specifically examined a number of common tabulation capabilities that most election administrators expect a system to accomplish.

Our approach recognized that software is regularly changed (and sometimes must be changed when election codes are revised), while hardware features of most systems are relatively static, especially if standard and off-the-shelf items are used. Our observation looked at all of a system's features working together at one point in time. Our findings about the performance was contingent to how the software was working together with other hardware components of both the manual voting system and the electronic voting system, as one unified Automated Elections System.

### ***Observation criteria***

#### **Introductory Note**

We have developed criteria that are general in nature, recognizing that there is no practical way to combine a wide range of qualitative and quantitative findings into a single observation. As stated below, we believe that this approach enabled us to focus on the primary criterion of the system's overall suitability for use in Paraguay's particular situation.

#### **Background**

Specifications, standards, and observation criteria for Automated Elections Systems can differ significantly, depending upon one's perspective on the purpose that is intended to serve. For example, in result transmission, Centralized Direct Recording Systems define many aspects of what might be called an ideal Automated Elections System. Yet, this comprehensive system could have features and goals that are not fully consistent with Paraguay's electoral needs. Because they are intended primarily to apply to new telecommunications systems that are developed to meet specific requirements, they can legitimately require advances in the state of the art infrastructure beyond the capabilities of actual facilities in Paraguay. Therefore, In Paraguay the transmission of results is geared up by a manual results gathering system that receives its input from the polling places, regardless of whether the results are paper "actas" or electronic media product of the electronic voting machines, that are routed to the transmission centers.

The outcome of the observation is intended to be useful to the TSJE and other election administrators who must choose on broadening to 100% the use of the electronic voting machines on future elections or to continue with a slow pace that will increment the use of such equipment by gradually incrementing its implementation in future elections. The observation therefore determines and describes, from the perspective of the election administrator, the strengths and weaknesses of the newly implemented electronic voting system, used in near 50% of the electoral jurisdictions. Also identifying the most important aspects in the result transmission processes. This will enable

the election administrators to determine if the system is best suited to Paraguay's particular situation and how it should be implemented in the future.

## **THE AUTOMATED ELECTIONS SYSTEM, RESULTS TRANSMISSION**

### ***Results Transmission Process Observation***

We believe that the most significant characteristic provided by the Paraguay Automated Elections System, is the transparency, and the ability to function accurately and reliably over a reasonable time span. It has the capability of being easily set up for the elections process and uncomplicated to operate by the personnel available in the typical transmission centers, with the level of training they were likely to receive. These considerations, along with basic requirements for security measures, have been considered predominant to develop the observation criteria.

The Results Transmission System (TREP, "Transmisión de Resultados Electorales Preliminares") is preliminary and is not considered final official results. The final official results are dependent on the outcome of the final tally process. Transparency in the results transmission process is always important, but becomes particularly so in Paraguay where there are a substantial number of inexperience or skeptic voters. If the TREP was not considered "fair" and allow the opposition to feel that they have been deceived, the TREP could have encourage losers to work outside the system, using non-democratic, confrontational and even violent tactics. The TREP was a determining factor in the ease of performing complex activities, as is the act of result dissemination to the media and general public.

In general terms the TREP is designed to gather information front the polling places as quickly as possible with all the necessary security needed to guarantee transparency of the process. The main idea is to implement a system by which vehicles will collect the results from the polling centers as they are completed by the polling places. In this way results will be transported continuously from the polling centers to the transmission centers, keeping a steady flow of information transmitted to the central office, and eliminating possible deadlocks in peak times.

### ***Process at the Polling places, Transmission Centers and Central Office***

#### **Polling places process summary**

The results of the voting activities in the polling places are registered in documents called "actas". There are official documents for information about voter turnout, for the amount of ballots received

and not used, for vote counting and for result transmission (known as "actas") used to send results to the transmission centers. These "actas" are collected from the polling places and sent from the polling centers to the transmission centers, and from the transmission centers to the central office. In the case of results from the electronic voting machines, they are sent from the polling centers to the transmission centers, and send from the transmission centers via telecommunications to the TSJE central office. The transmitted data includes information concerning the opening of voting premises, voter turnout, as well as the data of the result actas. A supervisory group who monitors the use of the system supervises this whole operation.

#### Process at the Transmission Centers

It is important to note that a given transmission results system did not necessarily work the same way in different parts of the country, different methods were used to gather the results at the central site, such as: by fax, phone or radio (in remote locations) or manually (in person, by election officials in near by locations), and telecommunications. The paper actas were gathered at the transmission centers and sent via fax, voice or radio to the central site, they were received by a fax pool and routed to MIS to be authenticated and imputed to the results tally system. The results from the electronic voting machines followed a different route, the diskettes (electronic media) were received at transmission centers and sent to the central site via dial-up communications to be authenticated and imputed to the results tally system.

#### Process at the Central Office

The data to be entered is taken from the copy of the "acta" received by fax. Entry of the "actas" data is always carried out in the presence of a representative of the election officials. During entry of the data from the "acta" the system automatically checks compliance with the control relationships between the numerical data of the "acta", all the actas are verified after data entry. If the data was received via a telecommunication channel, the acceptance of such data into the system is always carried out in the presence of an election official.

If an error is detected, a supervisory group member issues permission to the system administrator to correct the error in his presence and in the presence of the election official and political party representatives. The reason for making the change and the name of the person who sanctioned it is entered and a new computer printout of the data is obtained.

On voting day, current voting results are transmitted to the TSJE online with updates every 15 minutes, beginning from 16:00, local time, until all the data has been entered from the "actas". The presence of a member of the supervisory group is required. After a decisive number of votes are accepted by the TSJE Magistrates, and after the first public announcement, which will never be past 8:00 pm, the results are publicized at the Press Center and the Internet. The first results for this election were published at 7:30 pm.

#### The Press Information Center

The Press Information Center at the TSJE processes and disseminates the result information to the media and general public. Since the early night hours results were received continuously, granting the opportunity to identify the election outcome by 10:00 pm on the night of the elections, and disseminating the results throughout the nation by press and the Internet.

#### Constraints

There were some constraints in the use of the TREP, not all the polling centers could have a circular collection system in order to collect the results as they are finished at the polling places, and send to the transmission centers at intervals on several trips. Instead, some polling centers had to wait until the last polling place had ended with the tally of all its results in order to gather all the results "actas" and send them to the transmission center in one trip only. The TREP constraints depended on factors such as how a society is structured in terms of geographical divisions, including whether particular pockets of population are geographically concentrated, or dispersed over a wide area, and other important factors as is the available financing. The financial constraints were a major issue in eliminating circular routes that would have helped in a faster transmission of results.

#### Hardware description

The remote setup for electronic voting results transmission and the central tabulation software operated on PC based computers and servers. At the central site the system uses IBM RISK super-servers, and standard commercial printers were used to produce "acta" proof sheets for checking, and to output results. Faxes were used in the transmission of "actas" from the transmission center to the central office.

The hardware components in the system have been observed against Paraguay usual election-administration practices, frequently referenced standards and, common-sense considerations. Hence the systems hardware components could not be tested to measure their reliability and

accuracy under various conditions; their performance during the election process was taken into consideration.

**Software (source code) structure and content**

Although we did not have access to the software source, we were told that the software is written in Oracle development language, which is a structured and modular oriented language, easily maintained by an Oracle programmer. The Oracle Data Base Structure is used to gather all the information.

### ***Technical Observation***

We did not attempt to verify the system's ability to handle all possible variations in how special types of votes are interpreted and tabulated by the electronic voting machines. However, we are aware that preliminary results are not intended to handle all particular logic rules that we know are used in the voting process, it is the final tally that will deal with such situations.

We, thus, have not identified as deficiencies the system's inability to handle special requirements that are applicable to only a limited number of situations. However, in selected instances, we have observed the system's ability to handle some of these features, as is the case where they are included routinely in the election process, such as errors in the sum of totals in the "actas".

### **Security**

Access to computer programs is password protected; only an authorized person can access the administrative menus that assign passwords and configure election features. Once an election has been defined, the supervisor can prevent further access to that database by those with the user's password; a different user's password can be assigned for the election.

Because the entire database at the TSJE is contained on site, it is easy to make a backup copy for overnight security. One computer server is used solely for the elections process and is kept separated from the network that houses the other applications. It is relatively easy to physically prevent access to it.

Security of the recorded results is good. The computers are electronically identified so as to transmit results to the TSJE Magistrates before publication, and access is obtained only by the proper preprogrammed code.

The system includes various physical security measures in its design. All computers are security-code lockable to make tampering obvious. When locked, the device is protected from most tampering methods or accidents.

#### **Ease of operation**

The documentation seems scarce but complete, and someone generally familiar with elections can learn to operate the system with minimal assistance. The menu is illustrated and the options for the required entry are explained.

The documentation for operation of the "acta" results capture process accurately explains, step-by-step in a readable and usable manner, the various tasks needed to operate the computer from start to finish.

Because of the complete documentation just mentioned, the elaborate menu structure, and the user-friendly data entry screens, it is easy to set up an election process. The commission workers are able to easily operate the computer with its clear instructions and simple menus.

Consolidation of data requires minimal operator interaction. Results are automatically updated and displayed, with minimum operator direction required for printing out results.

#### **Accuracy and reliability**

The system encompasses a basic design and a non-sophisticated use of telecommunications to gear it. However, it seems acceptable for it's purpose. It works relatively fast and includes all the necessary controls that guarantee the required accuracy in the results transmission process.

A simple but effective process is used at the TSJE to control the "acta" receiving and verification process. Once the "acta" is received it is entered to the computer, the contents is verified for correctness and acceptance. Only then are the "acta" results updated in the system and updated to the TSJE central database. The transmitted information to cannot be changed or tampered with, and will only serve to update the results at each level.

Serious errors in results capturing and transmission were virtually impossible to make, and minor errors were easy to correct, although it might be possible to simplify the process of canceling an erroneously entered "acta" result.

#### **Transparency**

During our observation we had the opportunity to track the results from a transmission center to the TSJE central office and to the central database. The data capture and verification control process at

the TSJE was observed and it was deemed to be acceptable by international transparency standards. The results follow through from the transmission center to the TSJE central office was observed and it was also found to be acceptable and tamper free.

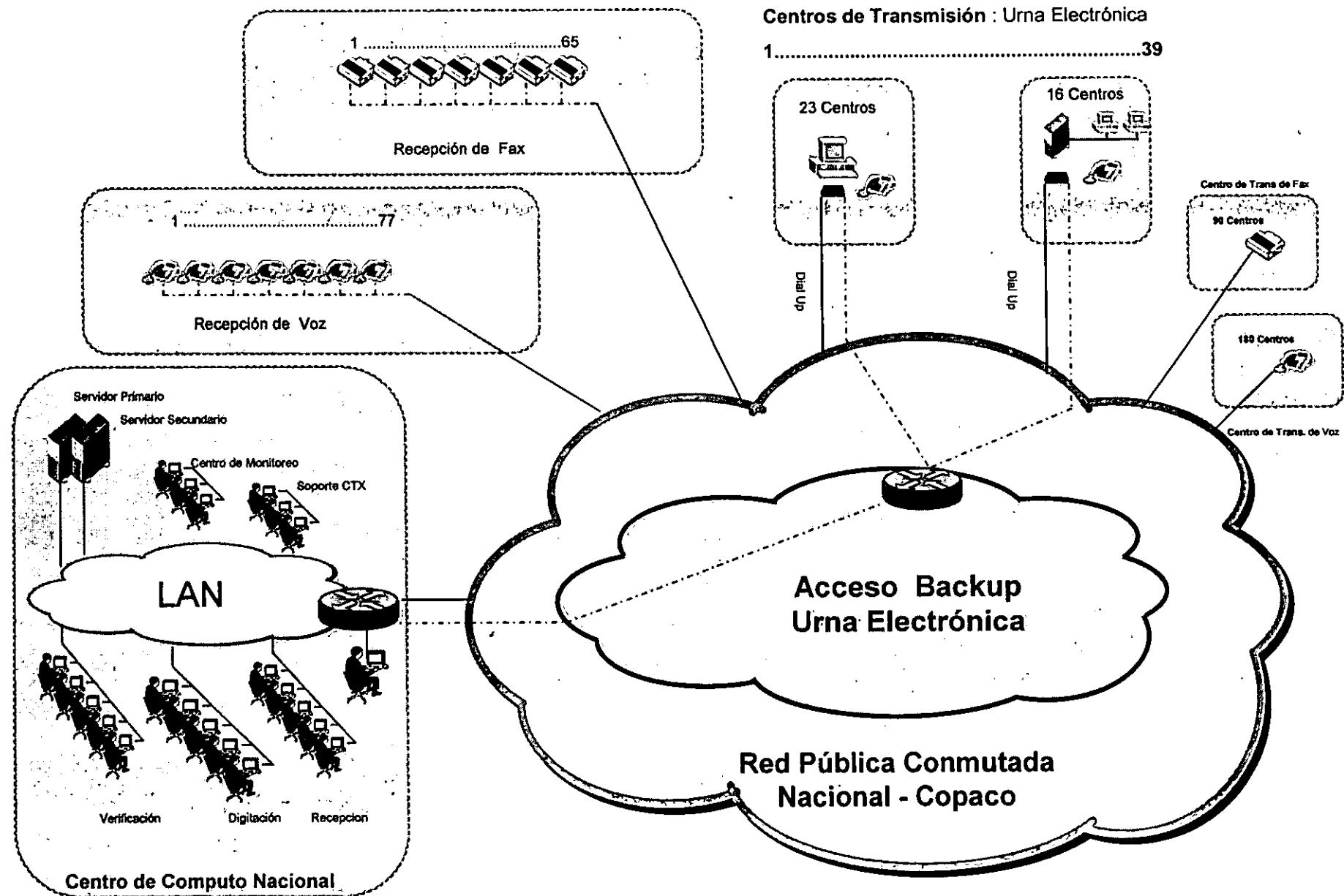
Nevertheless, the issue of transparency is very significant at the time of the release and transmission of interim results. Representatives of political parties should be present, sign and have a copy of the "acta" of the vote results and should be allowed to witness the transmission of the corresponding results to the electoral management body. Indeed, such transparency of actions is essential in the acceptance of the general outcome of the election. This apparently small step can directly impact the confidence all participants have in the results gathering process.

#### **Limitations of the System**

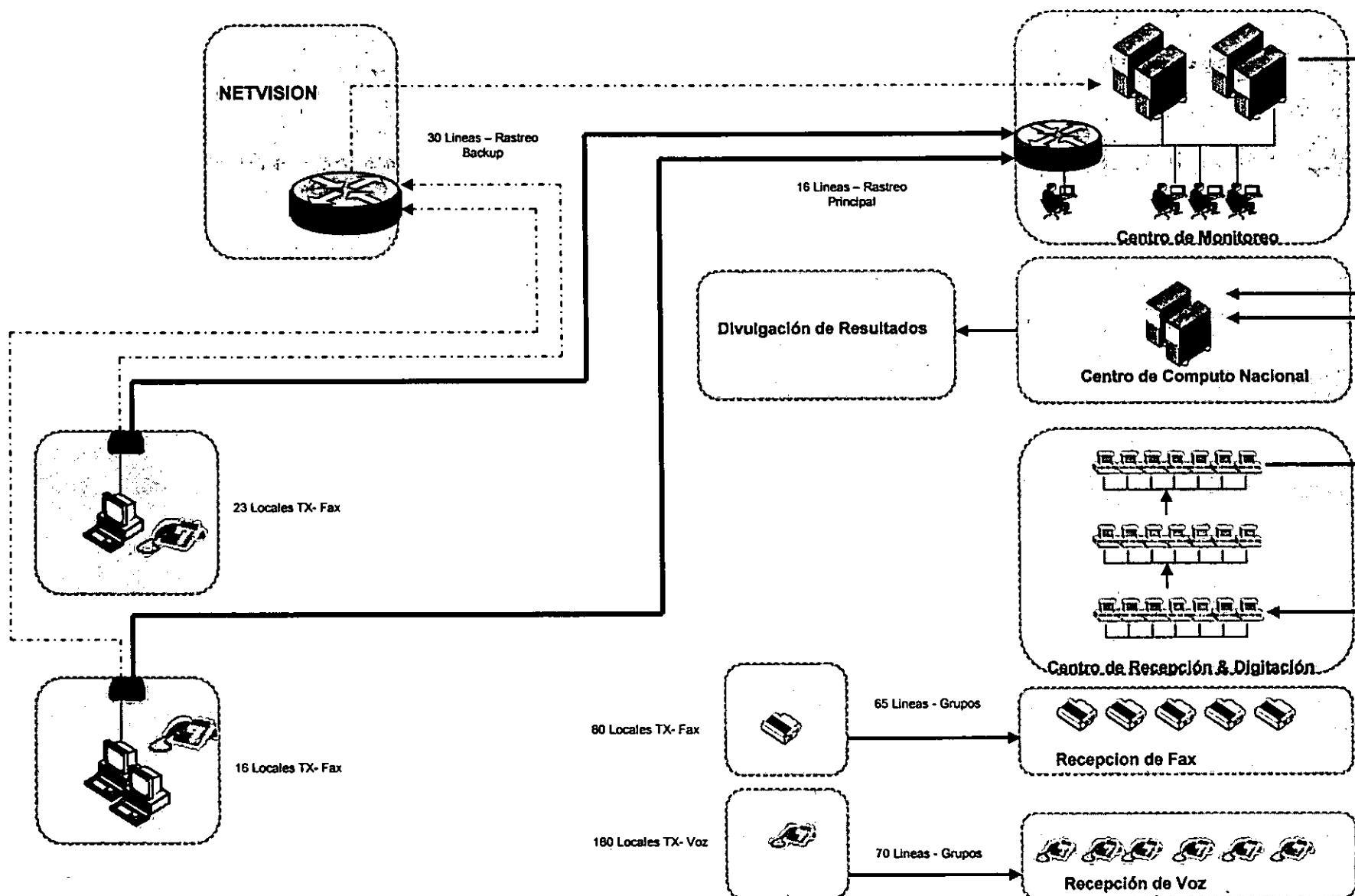
Although updated information is kept in the system at the TSJE central office, no detail storage of individual "acta" images is provided. Consequently, a recount of all "acta" is not possible, a feature which some election administrators may deem desirable in the event of a complete electronic failure or a contested election.

#### **Cooperation between Brazil and Paraguay**

The first successful experiment in the area of electronic voting in Latin America took place in Paraguay when a pilot program was conducted between Brazil and Paraguay during last year municipal elections in Paraguay. The electronic voting machines were loaned by Brazil. After the good experience of the pilot project, Brazil and Paraguay once more decided to join forces in the implementation of voting machines to cover near 50% of the voting population in Paraguay. Now a new record is set by successfully implementing a working environment for 50% of the voters in Paraguay and conducting a successful election with electronic voting machines, with less than 2% of malfunctions.

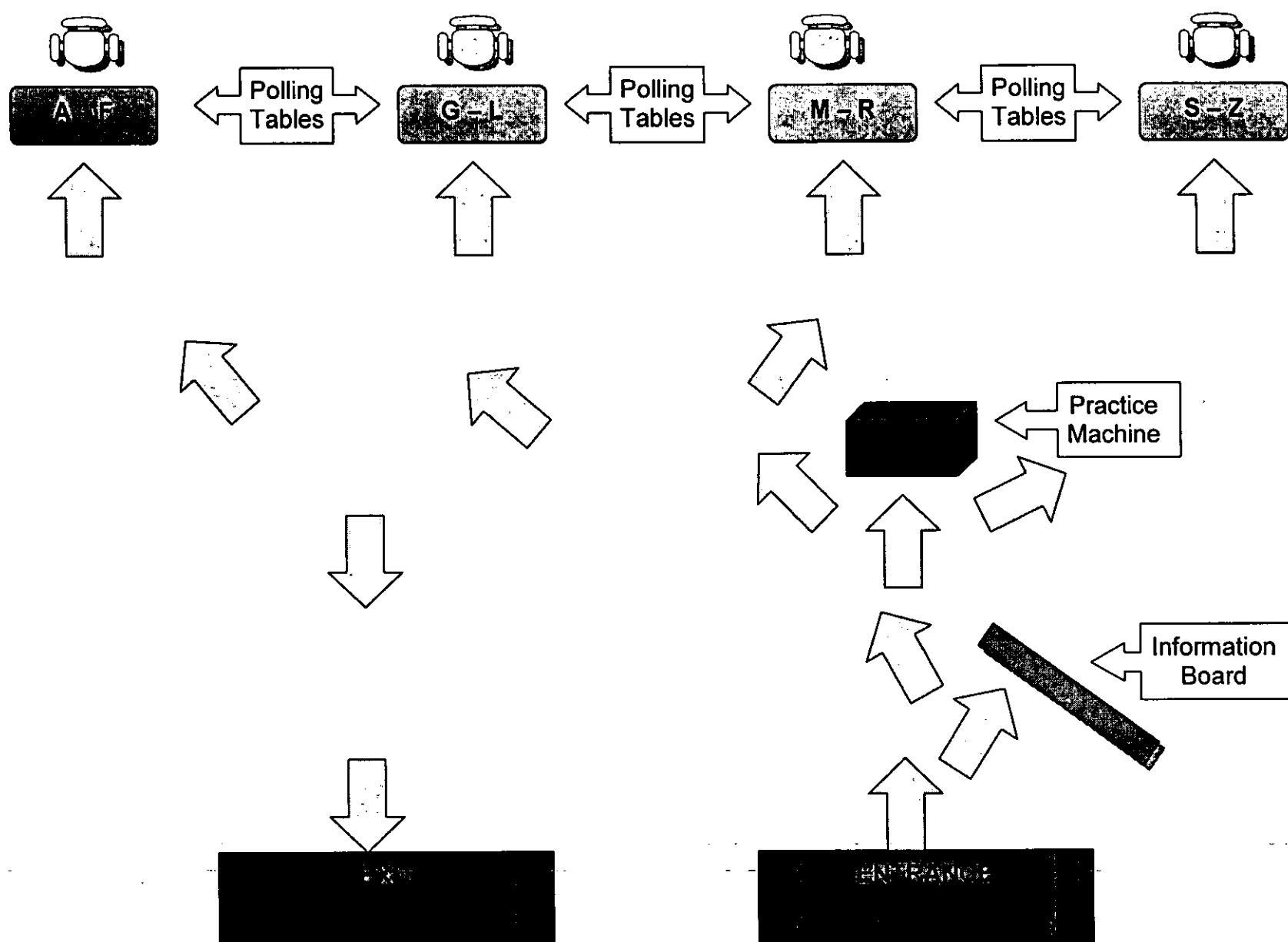


**RED DE COMUNICACIONES TREP- ELECCIONES PRESIDENCIALES 2003**



## TRAFICO DE DATOS EN LA PLATAFORMA ELECTORAL

## **ANNEX II**



## **ANNEX III**

**INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION  
PARAGUAY 2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS  
BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DELEGATION**

**MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ – COSTA RICA**

Dr. Rodriguez recently completed his term as President of Costa Rica (1998-2002). A long-time leader in the United Social Christian Party, he has also served in public office as President of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly and as President of the Christian Democrats of America. Before becoming a public official, President Rodriguez had a highly successful career as a businessman. He has been the Director of the Agro-Industrial and Export Bank, SA and President of Agrodynamic International, SA. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from UC-Berkeley, and has taught Economics at the University of Costa Rica and the Autonomous University of Central America. President Rodriguez has published several articles and books on economic and social issues in Costa Rica and Latin America.

**ZAIDA ARGUEDAS – COSTA RICA**

Zaida Arguedas graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Alabama with a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science. Ms. Arguedas received an M.A. in Public Policy and Latin American Studies from the University of Kansas. Ms. Arguedas received an M.A. in Public Policy and Latin American studies from the University of Kansas. Ms. Arguedas currently serves as the Deputy Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of the United States, an 81 year organization with a non-partisan mission to educate and empower citizens. In November 2000, Ms. Arguedas was given the additional responsibility of managing the League's Global Democracy Program. Currently, in Africa, the league is working in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Latin America, the league is currently working in Brazil and has had programs in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Argentina.

**MERCEDES DE FREITAS – VENEZUELA**

She studied History at the Central University of Venezuela and has obtained several courses in Administration from the Administration Superior Institute (IESA). She has worked in the private sector in the areas of management and planning, development and coordination of projects, she has also worked with several civic society organizations and has represented them in national and international events regarding development, democracy and electoral matters. She has been part of many election observation missions in Latin America. She served as Vice-President of the *Momento Gente* Foundation, Founder of the Venezuela 2020 Foundation, *Foro Constitucional*, of the Civic Association *Queremos Elegir*. Currently, Ms. De Freitas is the General Co-ordinator of the group *Mirador Democratico*.

**PATRICIO F. GAJARDO - CHILE**

Patricio F. Gajardo is the Director for the Americas Division at the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). Mr. Gajardo was Acting Director of the IFES/Peru project during March/August 1995 and has participated in various election and democracy related projects, international conferences, and election observation missions around Latin America. His observation missions include: Chile 1997 and 2000; Colombia 1998 and 2000; Costa Rica 2002 (April); Dominican Republic 1994, 2000, and 2002; Ecuador 1995, 1997, and 2002 (October and November); El Salvador 1994 (March and April) and 1999; Honduras 2001; Mexico 1994, 1997, and 2000; Nicaragua 1996; Panama 1998 and 1999; Paraguay 2000 and 2003; Peru 1992, 1995 (April and November), 1998, 2000 (April), and 2001 (April and June); Puerto Rico 1996; and Venezuela 1993, 1995 and 1998. Mr. Gajardo was invited by the Ministry of Interior of Spain to observe the European

Parliamentary elections in June 1994 and in June 1999. Before joining IFES, Mr. Gajardo worked at the Organization of American States (OAS), where he monitored the Multinational Basic Educational Programs for Caribbean countries. In addition, Mr. Gajardo worked at the Inter-American Dialogue during the Summer of 1992, where he performed research and investigated economic issues affecting Latin America. Mr. Gajardo received a B.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the California State University, Chico. He also earned a degree in Translation (Spanish-English) from the Instituto de Providencia in Santiago, Chile.

#### **PABLO O. GALARCE - CHILE**

Pablo Galarce is Program Officer for the Americas Division at the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). Currently, he is responsible for coordinating and administering programs in Paraguay, Guyana and Bolivia, among other responsibilities. He has coordinated election observations in Honduras and Guyana and served as observer for the Organization of American States (OAS) during the 1996 general elections in Nicaragua. He has lived in Argentina, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. He graduated with honors with a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts and obtained a Masters degree in International Relations from Boston University, specializing in Latin America and International Economics.

#### **JAMES B. HAYES - USA**

James B. Hayes recently retired as President and CEO of Junior Achievement Inc., a nationwide not-for-profit organization providing economic education to over four million students in the United States, and an additional one million young people in nearly 103 countries around the world. Hayes served as chairman of Junior Achievement's national board of directors from 1991-1993 and was a board member of the organization since 1987. During his chairmanship, Junior Achievement student numbers increased over 17%. While Chairman, Hayes led a delegation of Junior Achievement directors, students, teachers, volunteers and staff to Moscow in December 1991 to participate in the founding of Junior Achievement of Russia. Before joining Junior Achievement, Hayes enjoyed a lengthy career in magazine publishing. He joined Time Inc. in 1959 and held various posts in the New York, Philadelphia, and Detroit offices of *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED*. In 1982, he became advertising sales director of *MONEY* magazine, and was named publisher of *DISCOVER* in 1984. He was appointed publisher of *FORTUNE* in 1987. While publisher, Hayes launched the *FORTUNE* 500 Forum, an annual gathering of *FORTUNE* 500 CEO's to discuss the major issues facing business and the nation. A longtime advocate for improvement of the U.S. public education system, Hayes established the *FORTUNE* Education Summit. Held annually in Washington, DC from 1988-1993, the Summit brought together government, business and academic leaders to discuss the role of the business community in education reform. Hayes was a speaker at the 1989 American Bicentennial Presidential Forum—the inauguration of George Bush. In September of 1990, He was one of 15 U.S. executives to join a Presidential Mission to the Soviet Union to discuss new business development and economic cooperation. Hayes is a founding board member of the newly organized Village Foundation, a public charity whose vision is to build a brighter future for African-American boys and their families. He is a Member of the Board and the former Chairman of the Morehouse School of Medicine and has recently joined the Harvard Social Enterprise Advisory Board. In addition he serves on several community and civic boards in his hometown of Colorado Springs. Hayes received his education at the Canterbury School and Georgetown University and served for two years with the United States Army in Europe. He has three children, is a native of New York City and currently resides in Colorado Springs.

**WILLIAM J. HYBL -USA**

William J. Hybl, raised in Pueblo Colorado, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of El Pomar Foundation, one of the largest and oldest foundations in the Rocky Mountain region. El Pomar Foundation provides grants for programs in education, health care, the environment, amateur sports, human services, and the arts, with special emphasis on excellence in nonprofits. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Broadmoor Hotel Inc., and is President Emeritus of the United States Olympic Committee. In addition, Bill Hybl is Board President of the U.S. Olympic Foundation. He was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of the International Foundation for Election Systems, which he joined in 1996. In 1981, Bill Hybl served as Special Counsel to President Ronald Reagan. He also served the Colorado House Legislature from 1972 to 1973. Mr. Hybl is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Colorado. Having received three consecutive presidential appointments, from 1992-1997, Mr. Hybl served as Vice-Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed Mr. Hybl as U.S. Representative to the 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr. Hybl is a graduate of The Colorado College, and earned his J.D. at the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder. He and his wife Kathleen, have two sons, B.J. and Kyle, and six grandchildren.

**DORA NUÑEZ DAVILA - PERU**

Ms. Nuñez has a wide public experience. She was Director of Pensions in the Management Department of Arequipa, Director of Planning and Budget in the Southern Region of IPSS, Director of Financial Management - Southern Region, and Chief of Collection for the Southern region of IPSS. She has specialized in Public and Private Labor rights, Social Security Pensions, Penal and Administrative rights. She served as Program Director Consultant for Labor Legislation in Radio Melodía for three years. As a lawyer she specialized in labor legislation and pensions, she has interest in legislative development initiatives with regard to defending the rights of workers and those receiving pensions, women's rights, as well as defending for the establishment of decentralization and making strategic alliances with other political groups with similar objectives. Her congressional agenda will be developing in the "Work", "Social Security", and "Woman and Human Development" Commissions.

**THEODORE J. PICCONE - USA**

Ted Piccone is a policy and legal expert on issues of democracy, human rights and Latin American affairs. Currently, he is a Director of the Democracy Coalition Project, a global democracy promotion initiative of the Open Society Institute that conducts research and advocacy on matters of democracy and foreign policy. During the Clinton Administration, Mr. Piccone was the Associate Director of the Policy Planning Staff for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, providing policy advice on issues regarding the Western Hemisphere, global democracy and human rights. He played a leading diplomatic role in organizing the first-ever ministerial meeting of the Community of Democracies, and drafted and negotiated the concluding Warsaw Declaration. He also oversaw the declassification of thousands of U.S. government documents relating to the Pinochet era in Chile and the war in El Salvador. Prior to his tenure at the State Department, Mr. Piccone served as a senior White House advisor for inter-American affairs and as an expert on Latin American civil-military relations at the Pentagon. He directed the first-ever Defense Ministerial of the Americas and helped establish a training center on national security issues for Latin American civilians to strengthen civilian control of the military. Before entering government, Mr. Piccone was Counsel for the United Nations Truth Commission in El Salvador. His other professional experience includes stints as an associate at a leading Philadelphia law firm, press secretary on Capitol Hill, law clerk to a federal judge, and research assistant at the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Piccone received a law degree

from Columbia University, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review and The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual. He received a B.A. in History *magna cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania.

#### **RICHARD W. SOUDRIETTE - USA**

Richard W. Soudriette has served as President of the International Foundation for Election systems (IFES) since 1988. Under Mr. Soudriette's leadership, IFES has grown into one of the premier organizations offering technical assistance in the areas of elections, civil society, rule of law and governance. He has played a key role in launching networks of elections officials in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia and has overseen the tremendous growth of IFES, which has worked in over 120 countries around the world. Prior to joining IFES, Mr. Soudriette served as Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman James M. Inhofe (R-OK), Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, and Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Soudriette is currently a member of the American Political Science Association and the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Treasurers and Election Officials (IACREOT). He is a graduate of the University of Tulsa with a B.A. in Political Science and Masters of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

#### **JORGE TIRADO - PUERTO RICO**

Mr. Tirado is an expert in Management Information Systems (MIS), consulting, design, development, implementation and operations since 1966. Mr. Tirado started in MIS (then Data Processing) by holding a position as a programmer and data processing procedure designer while in the US Air Force, until 1970. From 1971 until 1973 he held the position of service bureau manager for Sperry Univac (Casa Lee Computers, Inc.). In 1973, Mr. Tirado was appointed corporate vice-president and service bureau EDP manager for Datacorp of P.R. Inc. In 1976, he founded Jorge I. Tirado & Asociados Inc., later JTA Inc.

He has been proficient in the analysis and design of information systems, such as: Process Control, Telecommunications (WAN's and LAN's), Database System, Research and Development, Business and Government Accounting Applications, Computer-Based Health-Care Applications and Electoral Systems. He is considered an expert in the area of MIS Management Consulting for Health-Care Institutions, International Elections and Civil Registers, Telecommunications (WANs and LANs), EDP Auditing, and Computer Law.

Mr. Tirado holds a degree in business Administration with a major in Management Information Systems and Statistics, and post-graduate studies in MIS. In 1981 he obtained a Juris Doctor degree from the Interamerican University School of Law, and post-graduate studies in Computer Law.

#### **FERNANDO ZERTUCHE MUÑOZ - MEXICO**

Obtained a law degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and obtained a M.A. in History from the Colegio de Mexico. Mr. Zertuche has worked in the Public Administration in education, laboral and social issues. He served as the Deputy Secretary of the Labor Ministry, President of the Federal Labor Court and General Secretary of the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS). Mr. Zertuche represented Mexico in the International Labor Organization. In June 1994 was elected by the Congress to serve as the Citizens Adviser of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). He is the author of many books on historical, political and social analysis and others specializing in the Mexican Revolution. He has taught at the UNAM and the Women's University of Mexico.

## **ANNEX IV**



EXTENDIENDO EL ALCANCE DE LA DEMOCRACIA

**DELEGACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE OBSERVACIÓN DE IFES  
PARAGUAY 2003, ELECCIONES GENERALES  
FORMULARIO DE OBSERVACIÓN ELECTORAL**

OBSERVADOR/A: \_\_\_\_\_ HORA: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTAMENTO: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRITO: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZONA: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL DE VOTACIÓN: \_\_\_\_\_  
MESA ELECTORAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MESA ELECTORAL**

¿Fue puntual la apertura de la mesa electoral? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Se encontraban presentes todos los miembros del colegio electoral a la hora de apertura? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Permite la ubicación y organización de los colegios electorales una votación ordenada? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Están disponibles todos los materiales electorales? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Hay organización y eficiencia por parte de los miembros del colegio electoral? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Está en orden el padrón electoral? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Si es negativo, describa \_\_\_\_\_

¿Se respeta el principio del voto secreto? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Reacción positiva del votante con respecto al Voto Electrónico? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

¿Hay otros observadores presentes? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Nacionales \_\_\_\_\_ Internacionales \_\_\_\_\_ Partidos políticos \_\_\_\_\_

**CENTRO DE VOTACION**

¿Hay presencia de fuerzas de seguridad? SI \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Policía \_\_\_\_\_ Ejercito \_\_\_\_\_ Otra \_\_\_\_\_

¿Se observan acciones de intimidación o coacción a los votantes en la cercanía del centro de votación?  
En caso afirmativo, describa \_\_\_\_\_

¿Hay actividades proselitistas o propaganda electoral en las inmediaciones del centro de votación?  
En caso afirmativo, describa \_\_\_\_\_

**OTRAS OBSERVACIONES / DENUNCIAS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



ESTENDIENDO EL ALCANCE DE LA DEMOCRACIA

**DELEGACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE OBSERVACIÓN DE IFES  
ELECCIONES GENERALES DE PARAGUAY  
27 DE ABRIL DEL 2003**

**FORMULARIO DE ESCRUTINIO**

OBSERVADOR: \_\_\_\_\_ HORA: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTAMENTO: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRITO: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZONA: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL DE VOTACION: \_\_\_\_\_  
MESA ELECTORAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMERO DE VOTANTES REGISTRADOS: \_\_\_\_\_ CUANTOS VOTARON: \_\_\_\_\_  
HORA DEL CIERRE: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>PARTIDO POLITICO</b>	<b>CANDIDATO</b>	<b>VOTOS</b>
1	Partido Colorado	Nicanor Duarte Frutos PRESIDENTE Luis Castiglione Soria VICEPRESIDENTE	
2	Partido Liberal Radical Autentico	Julio Cesar Franco PRESIDENTE Pantaleón Eligio Campuzano VICEPRESIDENTE	
3	Partido Encuentro Nacional	Diego Abrente Brun PRESIDENTE María Elena Araujo VICEPRESIDENTE	
4	Partido UNACE	Guillermo Sánchez Guffanti PRESIDENTE Victos Sánchez Villagra VICEPRESIDENTE	
5	Movimiento Patria Querida	Pedro Fadul PRESIDENTE Daniel Codas VICEPRESIDENTE	
6	Movimiento Independiente Fuerza Ciudadana	Horacio Galeano Perrone PRESIDENTE Cirila Cabral Vda. De Alcaráz VICEPRESIDENTE	
7	Movimiento Fuerza Democrática Independiente	Guillermo Hellmers PRESIDENTE María Angélica Cano Radil VICEPRESIDENTE	
8	Partido Patria Libre	Tomás Zayas PRESIDENTE Anunciación Aurora Montiel VICEPRESIDENTE	



## **EXTENDIENDO EL ALCANCE DE LA DEMOCRACIA**

9	Partido Humanista	Teresa Notario PRESIDENTE Armando Casado VICEPRESIDENTE	
10	Partido Frente Amplio	Pedro Almada Galeano PRESIDENTE Federico Milciades Santos VICEPRESIDENTE	
<b>VOTOS NULOS</b>			
<b>VOTOS EN BLANCO</b>			
<b>VOTOS VALIDOS</b>			
<b>TOTAL DE VOTOS EMITIDOS</b>			

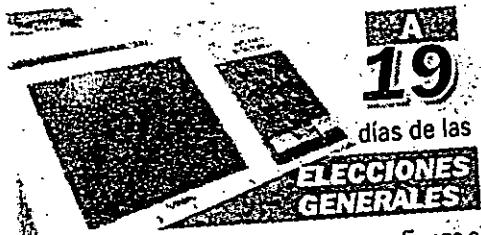
**OTRAS OBSERVACIONES:**

## **ANNEX V**

**Martes 8 de Abril de 2003 – Jueves 24 de Abril de 2003**

PROYECTO MISION INTERNACIONAL DE IFES

# Estados Unidos ve positivo uso de urnas electrónicas



El uso de las urnas electrónicas da mucha confianza al pueblo, aseguró el embajador de Estados Unidos acreditado ante Paraguay, John Francis Keane, tras su reunión con el titular del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE), Alberto Ramírez Zambonini.

El representante estadounidense se negó a opinar sobre aspectos de política doméstica, como posibles alianzas entre partidos o la eliminación del uso de las urnas electrónicas.

Son asuntos que los paraguayos y su Justicia resolverán conforme a sus sistemas, dijo el diplomático.

Respecto de la controversia iniciada por el Partido Colorado sobre las urnas electrónicas, alegó que es un tema técnico que desconoce. Sin embargo, el embajador Keane comentó la experiencia que ha tenido su país con el uso de estos aparatos en diversos procesos electorales.

"En Estados Unidos hemos utilizado urnas electrónicas casi en la mayoría de los estados de mi país. Hemos tenido muy buena experiencia y ha dado al pueblo mucha confianza en los comicios y resultados que reflejan la decisión del pueblo. Nosotros en Estados Unidos hemos tenido buena experiencia en los estados donde se han utilizado", reiteró el diplomático acreditado en nuestro país.

## Misión de IFES

Pablo Galarza, jefe de la misión de la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES, por sus siglas en inglés), se entrevistó con el titular del TSJE. El organismo no gubernamental realizará una pequeña misión de observación electoral en nuestro país, el próximo 27 de abril.

"Nos especializamos en elecciones pero no tenemos todavía un criterio sobre el proceso del país. Será la primera vez que realizamos una observación con voto electrónico de por medio, pero hemos trabajado en el tema, y lo conocemos. Vamos a conversar con los partidos políticos y los candidatos, y el tema de la urna electrónica será uno de ellos", dijo Galarza.

Además, observarán las actividades logísticas preparadas por el TSJE, las urnas electrónicas. También viajarán por el país y conversarán con la gente para medir el ánimo para la votación, dijo el jefe de la pre-misión electoral de IFES.



**ESPECIAL**

Miércoles 23 de abril de 2003

## ► Ex Pdte. de Costa Rica es observador

El ex presidente de Costa Rica Miguel Ángel Rodríguez encabeza la misión de trece observadores internacionales que llegan esta mañana para las elecciones generales del domingo. A las 19:00 ofrecerán una conferencia de prensa en un hotel céntrico de Asunción. La misión pertenece a la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES), según informó ayer el embajador de EE.UU., John F. Keane.

La misión de observadores está presidida por Richard W. Soudriette, quien explicará hoy el objetivo de la visita al país y las audiencias que mantendrán con los principales candidatos de los nueve partidos o movimientos políticos en pugna.

La misión estará encabezada por Rodríguez e integrarán también la delegación Zaida Arguedas (directora ejecutiva ad-

junta de la Liga de Mujeres Votantes de EE.UU.), Mercedes de Freitas (coordinadora general de Mirador Democrático de Venezuela), Patricio F. Gajardo (director para América Latina y el Caribe de IFES), Pablo Galarce (coordinador de la misión electoral de IFES en el Paraguay), James Hayes (ex presidente de la Cámara Junior de EE.UU.), William J. Hybl (presidente del directorio de IFES), Dora Núñez Dávila (congresista de Perú), Theodore Piccone (asesor principal en el Instituto Sociedad Abierta de EE.UU.), Felipe Salaberry (diputado del Congreso de Chile), Soudriette (presidente de IFES), Jorge Tirado (consultor internacional de Puerto Rico) y Fernando Zertuche (secretario ejecutivo del Instituto Federal Electoral de México).

PARA LAS ELECCIONES DEL DOMINGO

## **Fundación internacional presentó a observadores**

La Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) realizó anoche la presentación de los observadores internacionales de esta organización que controlarán el proceso comicial del próximo domingo.

El presidente de IFES, Richard Soudriette, calificó el proceso de organización como extraordinario, por los esfuerzos realizados para la implementación del sistema electrónico de votación.

Patricio Fajardo, director para la América del organismo internacional, comentó que este es el momento propicio en Paraguay para que los candidatos ofrez-

can alternativas para el país y menos promesas, especialmente por el momento político y económico que vive la república.

Las elecciones nacionales están previstas para el próximo domingo 27 de abril y se estima que las mismas serán transparentes.

No obstante, los observadores de la IFES están preparados para afrontar cualquier expectativa o riesgo en el proceso electivo, lo que también es posible, teniendo en cuenta los altos intereses en juego y los antecedentes que en este sentido se han registrado en anteriores elecciones.

SE UTILIZARAN ADECUADAMENTE LAS URNAS ELECTRONICAS, DICEN

# Observadores confían en transparencia electoral

*Si bien los observadores del Sistema Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) reconocen que nuestro país será un campo experimental para la utilización de las urnas electrónicas, expresaron su confianza en la transparencia electoral. Resaltaron el trabajo desempeñado por el Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE).*



Algunos de los observadores de IFES que participaron anoche de la conferencia de prensa en el Hotel Excélsior.

Durante una conferencia de prensa que convocaron anoche en el Hotel Excélsior, los miembros de IFES anunciaron que recorrerán el domingo los locales de votación para observar cómo "los paraguayos utilizan y adaptan las urnas electrónicas".

El presidente del organismo Richard W. Soudriette reconoció que nuestro país será una especie de campo experimental en la utilización del sistema

electrónico y manifestó que se tuvo mucho éxito en un país vecino y con mayor cantidad de electorado como Brasil.

Requerido por qué precisamente Paraguay es el país elegido para la prueba, sostuvo que se debe en gran medida al buen trabajo realizado por el TSJE, "una institución que se ha ganado la credibilidad de la ciudadanía paraguaya", indicó.

Mencionó luego que va-

rios funcionarios técnicos de IFES estuvieron asistiendo al proceso de adaptación y de capacitación de los funcionarios de la Justicia Electoral, por lo que expresó su plena confianza en que el sistema tendrá éxitos.

Dijo además que el sistema es muy bien visto en otras naciones y de a poco se irá implementando gradualmente.

Soudriette recordó que IFES se fundó en 1989 y

desde entonces están trabajando en nuestro país. Dijo también que en 12 años organizó más de 30 misiones de observación en América Latina y el Caribe.

Informó además que el ex presidente de Costa Rica, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, jefe de la misión que observará las elecciones el próximo domingo, está llegando a nuestro país el viernes.

# ELEGIMOS



JUEVES 24 DE ABRIL DE 2003

## IFES también hará monitoreo

La Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) presentó a los personas que en nombre de su organización observarán los comicios del domingo. El presidente de IFES, Richard Soudrette, destacó que así pretenden renovar el compromiso de la institución con la consolidación democrática.

## Rechazan el centralismo

Los nueve candidatos a la Presidencia de la República presentaron su postura sobre la descentralización en una emisión televisiva realizada con los auspicios de la Federación de Asociaciones de Gobiernos Subnacionales que reúne a representantes de las gobernaciones y municipalidades.

## Lista 50 mostró a candidatos

El candidato a la Presidencia de la República por el movimiento Fuerza Democrática Independiente, Guillermo Hellmers, presentó a los candidatos que pujarán por los distintos cargos en disputa bajo la lista 50. Destacaron la idoneidad de los postulantes.

**Viernes 25 de Abril de 2003**

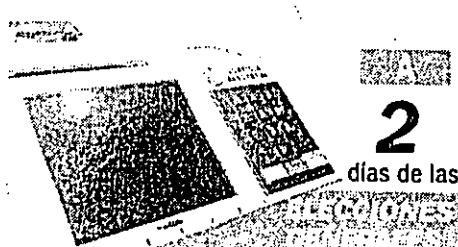
OR LOS COMICIOS GENERALES DEL DOMINGO

# Crece interés de observadores y prensa internacional

introducción del sistema informático en las presentes elecciones genera concita mayor interés en los organismos electorales otros países, organizaciones de apoyo a democracia y prensa internacional.

En cada proceso electoral general crece la expectativa de la comunidad internacional. En un 12.5 por ciento aumentó la presencia de observadores internacionales, respecto de los que acudieron en las pasadas elecciones generales de 1998. Y en un 15 por ciento respecto de los comicios para la presidencia del año 2000.

Para el presente año se prevé la presencia de unos 50 observadores internacionales provenientes de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Fundación International para Sistemas Electorales (IFES), Centro de Asesoría y Promoción Electoral (Capel), a más de presidentes y técnicos de los organismos electorales homólogos del continente.



En las elecciones presidenciales de 1998 (ganadores Raúl Cubas Grau- Luis María Argáñez) el país acogió a 39 observadores electorales, en representación de OEA y Capel, IFES mantenía entonces una oficina en el país.

Para el año 2000, cuando se eligió vicepresidente de la República a, Julio César Franco, vinieron al país 30 observadores internacionales, de la OEA y Capel, fue el último año que IFES mantuvo oficina nacional en Paraguay.

La prensa internacional asimismo man-

## HISTÓRICO DE OBSERVADORES INTERNACIONALES

AÑO	NUMERO DE OBSERVADORES	INSTITUCIONES
1998 (*)	39	OEA - CAPEL
2000 (*)	30	OEA - CAPEL
2003	50	OEA - CAPEL - IFES

(\*) IFES mantenía una oficina en Asunción

## PRENSA ACREDITADA

CNN	Suecia
BBC	China
EFE	Cuba
REUTERS	México
PRENSA LATINA	Alemania
Argentina.	Brasil



tiene una amplia expectativa por el desarrollo de los comicios paraguayos, y por los resultados por primera vez del sistema de voto electrónico en un país de habla hispana.

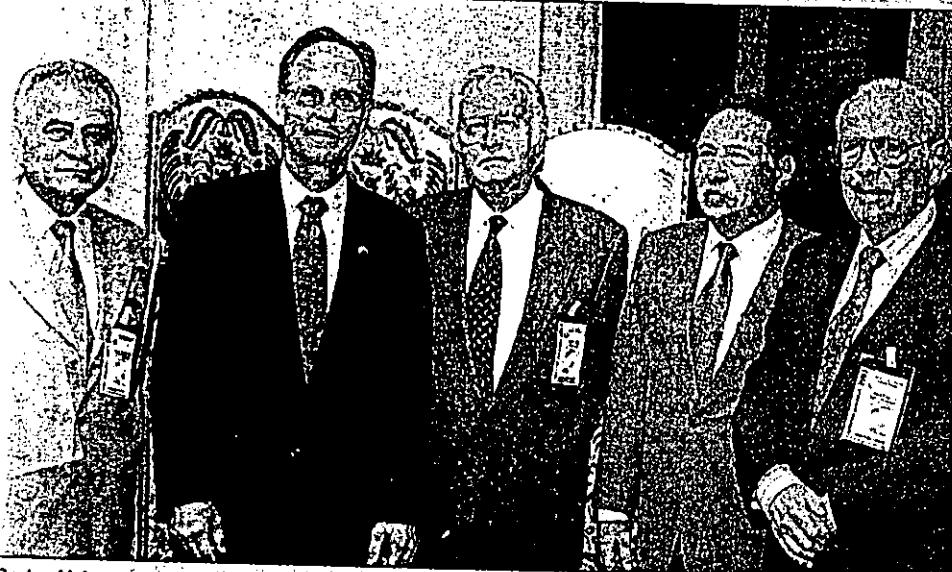
Hasta el momento se han acreditado periodistas provenientes de medios de co-

municación de México, Cuba, Argentina, Brasil, Alemania, China y Suecia.

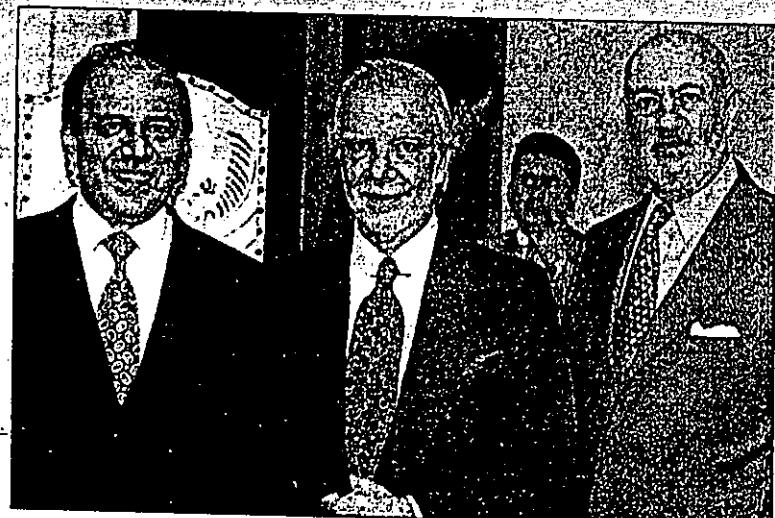
Asimismo, delegados internacionales de las agencias informativas mundiales, BBC, de Londres, CNN, EFE, Reuters, Prensa Latina, y Xinhua.

Viernes 25 de abril de 2003

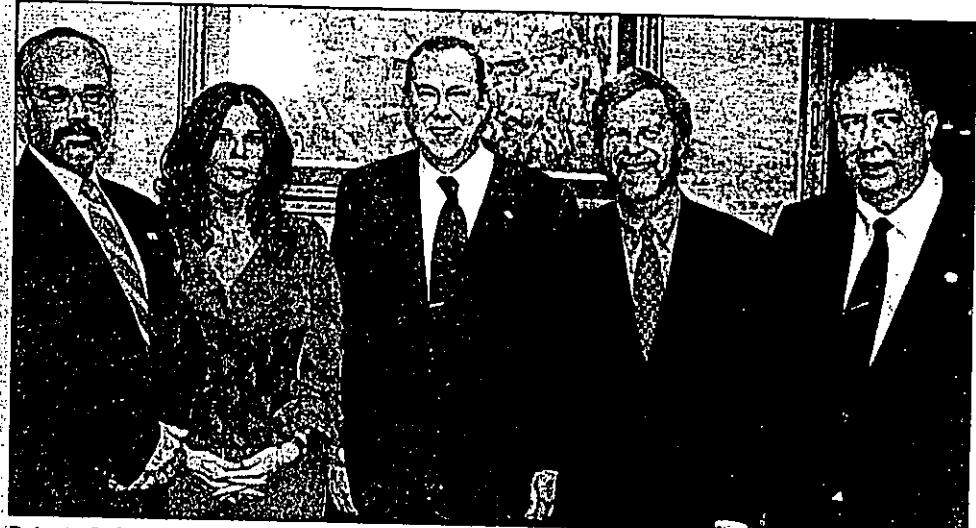
## Recepción para agasajar a observadores internacionales



Carlos Vela  
Marquillo, John  
F. Keane, Dr.  
Santiago Murray,  
Dr. Rafael Dendia  
y Juan Ignacio  
García.



Bonifacio Ríos Ávalos, Félix Córdoba Moyano y Fernando Guardia.



Roberto Cuéllar, Rocío Hermosa, Richard W. Soudlette, Wayne R. Nilsestuen y el Dr. Alberto Ramírez Zamboni.

Una recepción fue ofrecida anoche por el embajador de los Estados Unidos de América, John F. Keane, para agasajar a los miembros de la Misión de Observadores de los Estados Unidos,

quienes arribaron al país con motivo de las próximas elecciones generales. Este evento tuvo lugar en la residencia del diplomático, donde compartieron una grata velada.



Carlos Orlando, Carlos Urruty y Luis Alberto Mauro.

**Sabado 26 de Abril de 2003**

# **Observadores sondearon clima electoral en un intenso periplo**

#### **Elecciones Presidenciales**



Los observadores internacionales de la OEA, IFES y IIDH, llegaron para participar de las elecciones de mañana, todo el día de ayer para realizar visitas a los candidatos y autoridades nacionales. A la estadía en el Palacio López, los observadores manifestaron la trascendencia de estas elecciones, y el que le toca desempeñar vez más a Paraguay en la historia electoral, en esta ocasión la utilización de las tecnologías en un 46 por ciento del electorado.

González Macchi agradeció la presencia de los observadores que se siente muy aliviado por la presencia de los mismos para garantizar la transparencia de los comicios. Presidente del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral, Guillermo Ramírez Zambonini, indicó que ya todo está previsto para la realización de los comicios al tiempo de precisar la presencia de los observadores, lo que significa una erogación importante para el país. Finalmente a algunas

*La misión de observadores internacionales realizó ayer un periplo para conocer la posición de los actores políticos ante las elecciones presidenciales de mañana. El itinerario se inició con una visita al presidente de la República y a los dos candidatos opositores, Pedro Fadul y Yoyito Franco. Los observadores se mostraron complacidos por la implementación de las urnas electrónicas. Esta mañana se reúnen con Nicanor Duarte Frutos.*



**Los visitantes estuvieron esta mañana con el presidente Luis González Macchi.**

nos se les paga los gastos, pero la mayoría viene por cuenta de sus respectivas organizaciones.

Confirmó, además, que arribaron unos 80 observadores internacionales en todo el país, y que los diplomáticos acreditados ante el gobierno nacional también actuarán como observadores, por lo que la cifra llegará a cien.

Roberto Cuéllar, director del Instituto Internacional de Derechos Humanos (IIDH), destacó la importancia de incluir la tecnología al sistema de elección de autoridades, y dijo que en la mayoría de los casos se tuvieron muy buenas experiencias como en el caso del Brasil, y que solamente en la Florida se tuvo una experiencia no muy

bueno, pero que fue solamente por un error humano.

Finalizada la entrevista en Palacio, se trasladaron a Fernando de la Mora, donde puntualmente a las 10, se reunieron con Julio César Franco, candidato del PLRA. Aquí la reunión tuvo otra tónica ante la andanada de denuncias presentadas por el radicalismo auténtico. (Ver página siguiente.)

En horas de la tarde se reunieron con Pedro Fadul, del Movimiento Patria Querida, en el PC ubicado en Santa Teresita Aviadores del Chaco, donde hablaron del proceso electoral en nuestro país.

Hoy, a las 7, se reúnen con el colorado Nicanor Duarte Frutos.



**En horas de la tarde, los observadores dialogaron con Pedro Fadul.**



**El periplo también incluyó una entrevista con el canciller José Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli.**



Presidenciales 2003

## IFES Observadores de EEUU, conformes con TSJE Será una elección transparente

■ Dany Fleitas | Asunción

**Los ocho observadores de la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) que actuarán de fiscalizadores confían en la transparencia de los comicios presidenciales de mañana.**

Richard Soudriette, uno de los ocho observadores de IFES de EEUU, dijo que lo más importante y llamativo es la decisión del pueblo paraguayo de utilizar el moderno método de las urnas electrónicas para elegir a sus autoridades. "Es importante es-

tudiar y mirar este proceso. El Tribunal Electoral ha hecho un proceso muy transparente que consolidará la democracia. Confío en lo que están haciendo, y lo más importante es el uso de las urnas electrónicas. Es histórico porque es uno de los pocos países que está tratando de usar esta tecnología", dijo.

Soudriette estuvo ayer en la audiencia protocolar con el presidente de la República en Palacio de López, del que tomaron parte otros 36 observadores de la OEA y del IIDH,



■ Richard Soudriette.

que tendrán a su cargo la fiscalización de este proceso electoral que cierra su telón mañana. □

## Urnas electrónicas, nuevo desafío

■ D. F. | Asunción

**Los observadores están sumamente interesados en ver cómo reacciona el pueblo ante el uso de las urnas electrónicas brasileñas "en otro tipo de escena".**

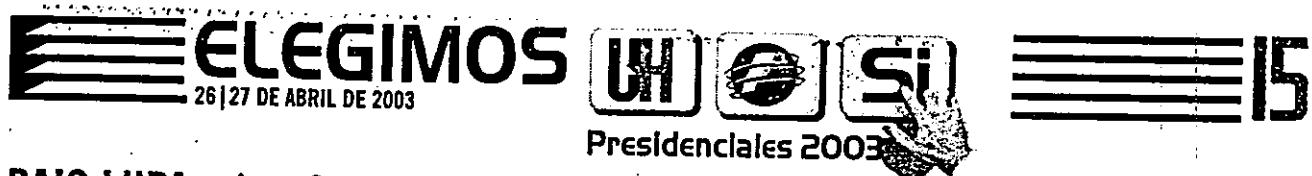
Así dijo Patricio Gajardo, uno de los 44 observadores internacionales que tendrá a su cargo la fiscalización de las elecciones presidenciales de este domingo. "Uno de los intereses primordiales de los organismos de la región es el nuevo sistema que implementa la

Justicia Electoral. Me refiere a las urnas electrónicas, que ya se ha dado en Brasil, aunque se los quiere ver en otra escena", recalcó el funcionario comisionado por IFES. Sin embargo, Gajardo aclaró que su opinión no debe ser interpretada como que Paraguay vendrá a ser en este caso una especie de "conejillo de Indias" de Latinoamérica. "El TSJE ya había dispuesto la utilización de esta tecnología en un 1,5% en las elecciones municipales, así



■ Patricio Gajardo

que ya tiene experiencia y ya hay antecedentes", acotó. □



BAJO LUPA □ Las Ong harán estricta vigilancia del desarrollo de comicios

## Habrá control interno y externo

■ Víctor Dentella / Asunción

Además de los observadores internacionales, varias organizaciones no gubernamentales harán una tarea de control y vigilancia para la limpieza de los comicios de mañana.

Decidamos, IDEA, IFES, Sumando, Contralorías Ciudadanas y otras organizaciones no gubernamen-

tales anunciaron que marcarán presencia activa en las elecciones a través de un trabajo de observación. Se estima que más de mil personas trabajarán directamente en este sentido. Decidamos reportará, a partir de las 11 de la mañana del domingo, el resultado de la observación. Para ello convocará a una rueda

de prensa en su local.

La Red de Contralorías Ciudadanas tiene pensado cubrir todo el país con sus 23 organizaciones. La intención es detectar la utilización o no de vehículos y otros bienes del Estado en favor de organizaciones políticas y denunciar estos hechos.

Por otra parte, 39 magistra-

dos electorales de quince países del continente americano observarán los comicios. Los visitantes pertenecen al Centro Interamericano de Asesoría y Promoción Electoral. Ayer estos observadores extranjeros dialogaron con el presidente de la República, el canciller y candidatos en pugna. ■

**Domingo 27 de Abril de 2003**



En la residencia de Nicanor Duarte Frutos se desarrolló el encuentro con los observadores internacionales.

## Nicanor explicó a observadores polémica sobre voto electrónico

**A diferencia de su adversario, Julio César "Yoyito" Franco, Nicanor Duarte Frutos no manifestó ayer ninguna preocupación puntual a la misión de los observadores electorales de la OEA, y por el contrario se mostró muy conforme con el desarrollo de todo el proceso electoral que culmina hoy.**

La reunión con los observadores, que se verificó temprano en el domicilio del presidenciable de la Lista 1, se extendió por más de una hora y fue cerrada para la prensa; sirvió, según la versión de los observadores, para que Duarte Frutos expresara sus expectativas sobre los comicios y para que de paso explicara la polémica posición que adoptó el Partido Colorado sobre las

urnas electrónicas.

"Vemos todo con mucha normalidad, no hemos observado nada, yo creo que vamos a ser parte de una gran fiesta cívica. El (Duarte Frutos) no ha expresado ninguna inquietud, al contrario está muy contento y agradecido por la presencia y el número de países representados en la misión", dijo Santiago Murray, asesor especial de la OEA, al relatar pormenores del encuentro.

El único tema un poco polémico que se abordó con el candidato de la ANR fue la denuncia que a los observadores formuló "Yoyito" Franco en torno a la presión que estarían teniendo los miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas para votar por la Lista 1. Sin embargo, la explicación que les dio Duarte Frutos pareció convencer a los observadores.

"El respondió que las FF AA son sin duda una entidad mucho más institucional desde hace 8 años. Antes, dijo, todo el mundo se enteraba quiénes eran los comandantes y que hoy las FF AA no pasan desapercibidas, pero ya no hay un liderazgo caudillista", afirmó Roberto Cuéllar, jefe de la misión electoral.

Por otra parte, preguntado por los rumores de que algunos medios difundirán resultados de boca de urna antes de que finalicen los comicios, Santiago Murray hizo un pedido especial a las empresas periodísticas para que no incurran en esta falta. De lo contrario, señaló, esto será perjudicial para el desarrollo de las elecciones. De paso, aseguró que será muy difícil que hoy se produzca fraude electoral.

## El segundo de la OEA está de vigilante

El secretario general adjunto de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Luigi Enaudi, participará como calificado observador internacional de las elecciones generales en Paraguay. Enaudi, el segundo del secretario general César Gaviria Trujillo, llegó ayer sábado a Asunción y se acoplará hoy a los trabajos de los más de 100 observadores internacionales que se encuentran en el país.

Enaudi, de nacionalidad estadounidense, es un reconocido internacionalista y es nieto del ex presidente italiano Luigi Enaudi, revelaron fuentes diplomáticas. Fue recibido en el aeropuerto internacional por el embajador paraguayo ante la OEA, Luis Enrique Chas Plate.

El secretario general adjunto de la OEA participó activamente en Washington, D.C. para la firma de un acuerdo con el Gobierno paraguayo sobre la implementación de las urnas electrónicas en forma masiva. Hoy el 46% de los paraguayos habilitados podrán votar por primera vez en la historia del país con las urnas electrónicas, aparatos que fueron cedidos por el Gobierno del Brasil.

### MAS DE 100 OBSERVADORES

El presidente del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE), Alberto Ramírez Zambonini, declaró a los periodistas que más de 100 observadores internacionales se encuentran en el país.

MILITARES YA NO TIENEN LIDERAZGO DE ANTES, SEGUN CANDIDATO

## FF.AA. están institucionalizadas, dijo Nicanor a observadores



Nicanor Duarte Frutos, a la izquierda sentado, durante la reunión ayer en su casa con los observadores de la OEA.

Las Fuerzas Armadas más institucionalizadas paraguayas se han institucionalizado y en la actualidad si bien no pasan desapercibidas ya no tienen el liderazgo de antes, dijo ayer el presidenciable colorado Nicanor Duarte Frutos a la delegación de observadores que le visitó en su casa particular. La información fue dada a la prensa por Roberto Cuéllar, jefe de la misión de observadores de la OEA, al término de la reunión con el postulante presidencial oficialista.

Cuéllar, consultado sobre qué hablaron con Duarte Frutos, respondió que de las FF.AA. "El Dr. Nicanor Duarte nos dijo que hoy las FF.AA. están

ma superado". "El Partido Colorado defendió el sistema de voto tradicional, pero terminó aceptando el avance de la tecnología en materia electoral. El sistema de voto electrónico tiene todas las medidas para evitar fraude", aseguró Cuéllar.

También destacó que conversaron sobre el voto electrónico, del control de mesas, de la crisis que tuvo el Partido Colorado con el porcentaje de las urnas electrónicas y de la educación. A criterio del jefe de observadores de la OEA, el voto electrónico "es un te-

Finalmente, dijo que en cuanto al tema de los derechos humanos, "uno tiene que predicar DD.HH. ahí donde hace falta convencimiento. Le puedo comentar que hace un año estuvimos cuatro meses con las FF.AA. del Paraguay y se ha percibido un cambio, no digo que sean las FF.AA. del Vaticano, pero si hay cambios", agregó.

Lunes 28 de Abril de 2003

LUNES 28 DE ABRIL DE 2003

## 14 OPINION

Protagonista

Patricio Gajardo

Uno de los observadores internacionales comisionados que tuvieron a su cargo la fiscalización de las elecciones, y cuyo interés particular se centró en el uso de urnas electrónicas. ■

La cifra

**32.500.000.000**

de guaraníes fue el costo operativo de las elecciones nacionales, incluyendo la movilización de las fuerzas de seguridad. ■

# Observadores felicitaron

no | Asunción  
discrepancias. Todos  
observadores internaciona-  
luyeron en que hubo  
ciones exitosas, transpa-  
tes y sin restricciones.

Organización de Estados  
Americanos (OEA), la Fun-  
ción Internacional para  
temas Electorales (IFES),  
Tribunal Electoral del Bra-  
do, Instituto Nacional De-  
mocrático (NDI) y el Institu-  
to Interamericano de Dere-

chos Humanos coincidieron  
en que hubo elecciones exi-  
tosas y fue una ocasión más  
de reafirmación de la demo-  
cracia paraguaya.

Todos ellos dieron su eva-  
luación en el Salón Auditó-  
rio del Tribunal Superior  
de Justicia Electoral (TSJE)  
minutos antes de conocerse  
los resultados finales del  
conteo rápido y felicitaron  
al pueblo paraguayo por el  
ejemplar comportamiento

cívico demostrado.

También todos felicitaron a  
la Justicia Electoral por el  
profesionalismo demostrado  
en la organización de los co-  
micios y por la excelente  
prueba que dio el 46% del  
electorado que votó en urnas  
electrónicas. Para la OEA, el  
exitoso proceso electoral, por  
la vía del voto electrónico,  
abre la posibilidad para que  
otros países puedan repetir la  
experiencia. ■



■ Observadores con Ramírez Zambonini, en el TSJE. | C. B.

## ELEGIMOS

LUNES 28 DE ABRIL DE 2003





# Observadores felicitan madurez cívica de los paraguayos

Los observadores internacionales felicitaron anoche la madurez cívica que demostraron los paraguayos en las elecciones generales realizadas ayer en todo el país. El secretario general adjunto de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA), Luigi Enaudi, dijo que los comicios se realizaron en forma libre y sin restricciones, en tanto que la máxima autoridad electoral brasileña, José Pablo Sepúlveda dijo que para su país fue un orgullo cooperar con las urnas electrónicas.

"La misión (de la OEA) constató durante el día de la elección que los

ciudadanos acudieron a las urnas a ejercer su derecho al sufragio de manera libre y sin restricciones y, particularmente, observó el efectivo uso de las urnas electrónicas en los distintos sectores seleccionados", añadió.

Enaudi, de nacionalidad estadounidense, congratuló también al pueblo paraguayo por su alto espíritu cívico, así como por su ordenada, entusiasta y pacífica participación. Igualmente, felicitó a los candidatos presidenciales que reconocieron y apoyaron el esfuerzo de incorporar nuevas tecnologías en la contienda electoral y recono-

nocen el compromiso demostrado por el Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE) de llevar a cabo este proceso con la firma convicción de abonar la transparencia y la legitimidad al soberano ejercicio del sufragio.

## EMBAJADOR DE EE.UU. DESTACA CIVISMO

El embajador de EE.UU., John F. Keane, manifestó también anoche su satisfacción por el alto grado de civismo del pueblo paraguayo y comentó a nuestro diario que tuvo la oportunidad de visitar varios locales de votación y le sorprendió la rápida adaptación de los electores a las urnas electrónicas.

## De elecciones paraguayas informará la OEA

El secretario general adjunto de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA), Luigi Enaudi, informará en la sesión del organismo internacional el desarrollo y los resultados de las elecciones paraguayas. Enaudi declaró que los comicios realizados ayer representan una evolución en la cultura política del Paraguay.

El alto funcionario de la OEA, quien se mostró satisfecho por el desarrollo de las elecciones, dijo que no comparte la visión negativa que desde el exterior se le da al Paraguay y señaló que se debe conocer la idiosincrasia de nuestro país para emitir una opinión.

Enaudi, de nacionalidad norteamericana, recorrió la mayoría de los 130 locales de votación habilitados en Asunción acompañado del jefe de la misión de los observadores de la OEA en Paraguay, Santiago Murray; de ministros del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE) y del embajador paraguayo ante la OEA, Luis Enrique Chase.

## Afirman que democracia abarca mejorar lo social

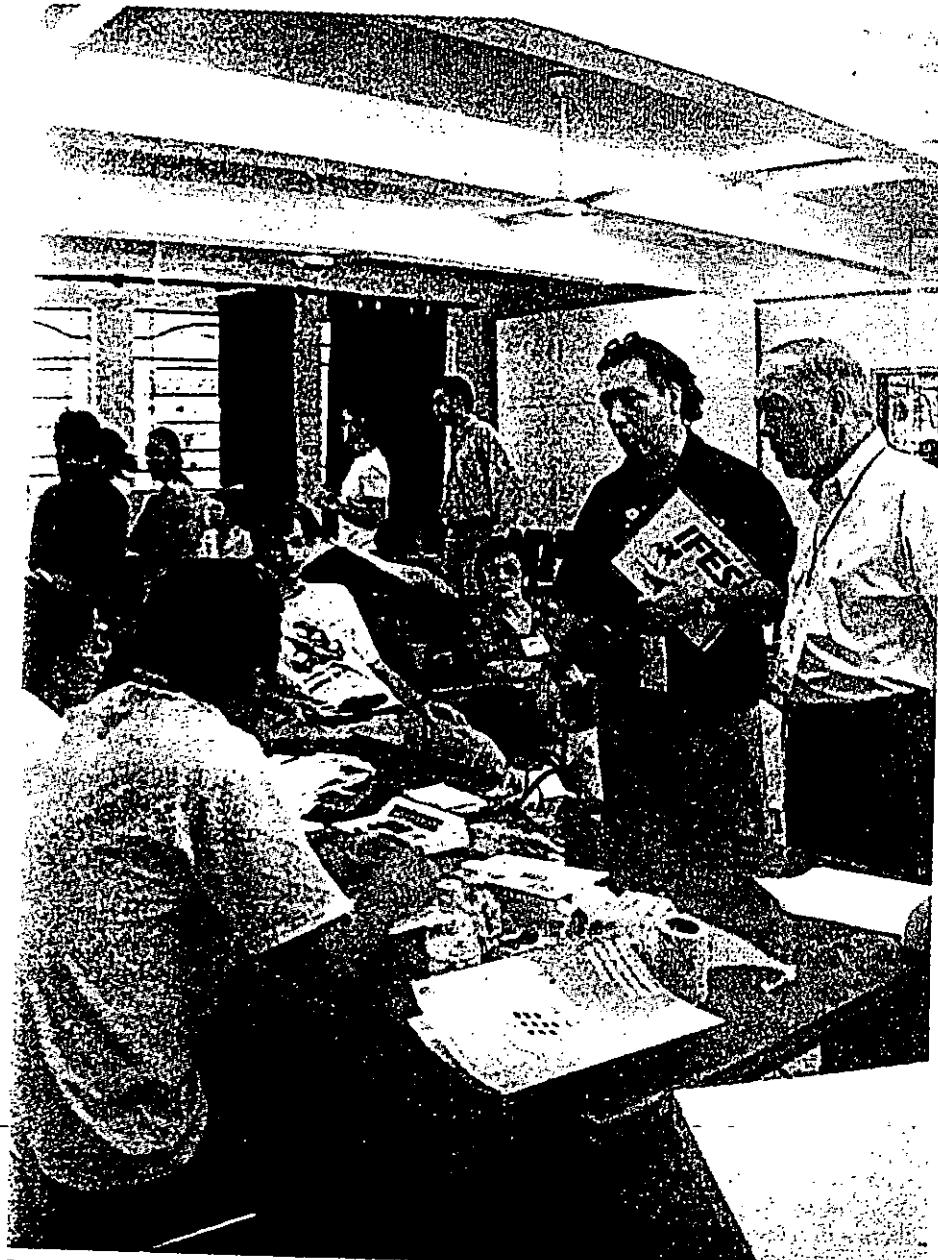
La democracia no se debe agotar en las elecciones y se debe extender también al mejoramiento de los niveles de vida económico y social, declaró anoche en la Justicia Electoral el jefe de uno de los tres grupos de observadores internacionales, Roberto Cuéllar. Sugirió que el candidato ganador traduzca su victoria en el mayor sustento de la vida y en los derechos humanos.

Al igual que sus colegas observadores, Cuéllar destacó la madurez cívica de los paraguayos que mantuvieron un comportamiento ejemplar durante la jornada comicial de la víspera. Insistió en la necesidad de instalar definitivamente la democracia, que comienza con las elecciones libres, pero continúa con el mejoramiento de los aspectos económico y social.

El coordinador del Centro Interamericano de Defensa y Promoción Electoral (CAPEL) felicitó a los paraguayos por su rápida adaptación al uso de las urnas electrónicas.

LOS EXTRANJEROS APRUEBAN USO DE URNAS ELECTRÓNICAS

# nivel cívico y transparencia

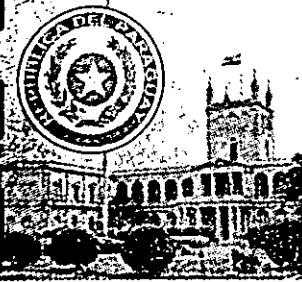


S marcó también su presencia en capital e interior del país. En la gráfica, Patricio Gajardo, representante de la organización para América Latina, acompañado de William Hybl, también de

# Observadores destacaron el clima de normalidad de las elecciones

Elecciones Presidenciales

2003



*Los observadores internacionales, que siguieron las elecciones de ayer, señalaron la regularidad con que transcurrió la jornada, a la vez de destacar la positiva utilización de las urnas electrónicas. Coincidieron en que además de un avance tecnológico, el sistema implementado dio seguridad a los comicios. Hay cosas que mejorar y se espera que los políticos ayuden en ello, acotaron como recomendación.*

Los integrantes del cuerpo de observadores internacionales, que presenciaron las elecciones generales de la víspera, coincidieron en señalar la normalidad con que se desarrollaron las mismas, destacando las ventajas que otorgaron la implementación de las urnas electrónicas en el intento de constituir un avance tecnológico favorable para la democracia.

En este sentido, el jefe de la misión de la OEA (Organización de Estados Americanos) y secretario general de la misma institución, Luigi Enaudi, describió el "ambiente de las elecciones" como "ágil, moderno y de tranquilidad". Remarcó que la misión evaluó positivamente la implementación de las urnas electrónicas, cuyo uso significó un valor agregado".

Enaudi afirmó que la delegación "constató que los ciudadanos acudieron a las urnas de manera libre y sin presiones, a hacer uso de las urnas electrónicas que respondieron dentro de los márgenes previstos por la autoridad electoral".

José Paulp Sepúlveda, presidente del Tribunal Electoral Brasileño, institución que llevó los dispositivos para "voto electrónico", subrayó que tal asistencia se dio "con la convicción de que en América Latina la construcción de la democracia debe

ser una obra de cooperación permanente de todos los pueblos comprometidos con el sueño democrático".

el proceso electrónico. Esperemos que los dirigentes políticos puedan ayudar a mejorar", y que la IFES "se solidariza con la democracia y la lucha para sacar adelante a este país.

**La transmisión rápida de los datos preliminares de las elecciones funcionó sin inconvenientes en la Justicia Electoral, donde se montó la Infraestructura necesaria para ello.**



# PEA DESTACA AMBIENTE AGIL, MODERNO Y TRANQUILO

# Observadores resaltan

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O

as elecciones de ayer se desarrollaron dentro de un ambiente ágil, tranquilo pero, sobre todo, moderno, sostuvo Luigi Einaudi, secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA). Este destacó el óptimo nivel cívico de la población, remarcó la transparencia y el respeto de la voluntad popular. El jefe de misión, Santiago Murray, reconoció la capacidad del Tribunal Electoral al aplicar con éxito el uso de urnas electrónicas. Miguel Angel Rodríguez, jefe de misión de IFES, también felicitó al pueblo paraguayo por su juez. Destacó que la jornada fue ordenada y coincidió en la transparencia. Los demás técnicos electorales extranjeros coincidieron en dar su aprobación a las urnas electrónicas.

La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) felicitó al pueblo paraguayo por haber participado libremente y sin ninguna restricción de los comicios de ayer; a los candidatos por reconocer los resultados y al Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE) por haber potenciado su capacidad con el uso de las urnas electrónicas. Así lo señaló Luigi Einaudi, secretario general de la OEA, quien destacó que nuestro país asumió con éxito el desafío de avanzar por el camino de la modernidad.

Evaluó como positivo el resultado del voto digital así como el proceso de interacción registrado entre las autoridades electorales y la población.

Por su parte, Santiago Murray, jefe de la misión de OEA, sostuvo que al margen de los resultados la jornada comicial de ayer fue calificada como una gran fiesta cívica en la que triunfó la decisión soberana. La misión no identificó ni comprobó maniobra dolosa alguna.

Según dijo, los testigos extranjeros que vinieron a observar el desarrollo de este proceso podrán llevarse una buena experiencia y sobre todo, recomendar el uso del voto digital a sus respectivos países. Considera que el éxito no sólo es del TSJE sino también de la OEA, que ha venido apoyando este novedoso sistema de votación a través de las urnas electrónicas.

Sobre los resultados, Murray sostuvo que el candidato de la preferencia fue Nicánor Duarte Frutos y esto debe ser respetado por todos. Sostuvo además que en adelante le cabe al ganador y a sus colaboradores llevar a cabo un programa de apunte al desarrollo económico con equidad y lo más importante es dar respuestas a las inquietudes y demandas de la sociedad.

Entre tanto, Miguel Angel Rodríguez, jefe de misión de la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) y ex presidente de Costa Rica, remarcó que los comicios de ayer se desarrollaron dentro de un ambiente ordenado y transparente. Añadió que satisfizo enormemente el sistema digital de votación e indudablemente los

técnicos extranjeros podrán llevar una buena experiencia aplicable a otros países. Por su parte, Patricio Gajardo, director para América Latina y el Caribe, evaluó positivamente el proceso pero evidentemente harán sugerencias para mejorar el aspecto logístico. En tanto, Jorge Tirado, también de IFES, señaló que en algunos puntos los miembros de mesas demostraron cierto déficit en la capacitación pero todas fueron subsanadas por los efectivos del TSJE (soporte técnico).

# No se detectó manejo doloso

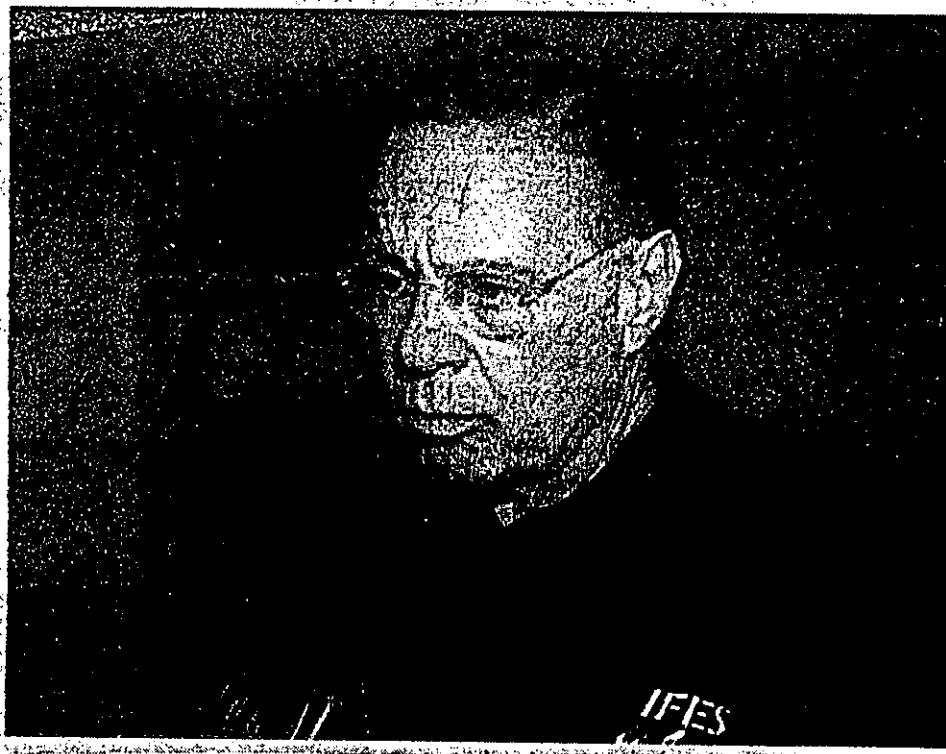
Hubo quejas y reclamos durante la jornada de ayer, reconoció Santiago Murray, jefe de misión de la OEA, pero estos no pasaron de ser rumores porque ni las autoridades electorales ni los observadores internacionales recibieron denuncias ni pruebas concretas. IFES tampoco recibió denuncias graves. En cuanto a las fallas de las urnas electrónicas, estas fueron menores al nivel esperado, coincidieron la mayoría de los veedores internacionales.

Ayer, durante la visita que hicieron a varios locales pudieron apreciar la rapidez del voto. "Fue un espectáculo ver a la gente usar las urnas electrónicas", puntualizó Murray.

La OEA por cuarta vez participa activamente de las elecciones en nuestro país, aunque esta última fue una misión de monitoreo técnico.

## IFES hará hoy una evaluación

IFES hará su evaluación final esta mañana a las 10.30 en el Hotel Excelsior. Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, jefe de misión, y Richard Soudrette, presidente de IFES, harán una declaración pública sobre el proceso y acto eleccionario.



El jefe de misión de IFES, Miguel A. Rodríguez dará hoy una rueda de prensa para evaluar los comicios de ayer.

**Martes 29 de Abril de 2003**

# Observadores de IFES recomiendan controlar financiamiento de campañas

La Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES) culminó ayer su misión de observación en las elecciones. En una conferencia de prensa, los observadores destacaron la madurez del pueblo paraguayo al reconocer al nuevo Presidente de la República escasas horas de concluida la votación. Luego dijeron sentirse altamente impresionados por la rapidez de la transmisión de datos.

Por otra parte, felicitaron a los electores por su participación en el derecho al sufragio, al tiempo que destacó la disminución participativa comparación a las elecciones

presidenciales de 1998.

Miguel Angel Rodríguez, ex presidente de Costa Rica, encabezó la delegación que contó con la presencia de diplomáticos y autoridades internacionales, quienes destacaron el trabajo realizado por autoridades y funcionarios del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral (TSJE).

Finalmente, los observadores internacionales hicieron unas recomendaciones según lo observado durante el proceso electoral. En este punto, los veedores aconsejaron transparentar el financiamiento de las campañas y partidos políticos, generando mayor control sobre el origen y

destino de los fondos utilizados, así como la necesidad de dar a conocer con mayor anticipación los nombres de los integrantes de las listas de candidatos.

Otra de las recomendaciones realizadas tiene que ver con la propaganda electoral en el sentido de insistir en el cumplimiento de las normas legales que prohíben el proselitismo en las afueras de los locales de votación. En cuanto a la logística electoral, aconsejan mayor información hacia los electores para la ubicación de sus mesas y mejor accesibilidad a los ciudadanos con discapacidades a los diferentes centros de votación.



Observadores Internacionales de IFES, entre quienes se encuentra el ex presidente de Costa Rica, Miguel A. Rodríguez, realizaron una evaluación positiva del proceso electoral.

Elecciones Presidenciales

2003



# González Macchi aclaró que su mandato finaliza el 15 de agosto

*Un día después de la victoria rotunda de Nicanor Duarte Frutos, el presidente Luis González Macchi se mostró más firme y seguro que nunca y destacó que su mandato irá hasta el 15 de agosto, y que todas las decisiones serán has-*

*ta ese momento responsabilidad del Poder Ejecutivo actual, en respuesta a algunas declaraciones del presidente electo. Anunció la conformación de una comisión de transición con el equipo de Nicanor, a quien felicitó vía telefónica ayer.*

Luis González Macchi ratificó ayer en una conferencia de prensa que su gobierno irá hasta el 15 de agosto como lo establece la Constitución Nacional en su artículo 229, y que todas las responsabilidades que genera el cargo las va a ejercer hasta la fecha de entrega de mando. El mismo había reiterado en varias ocasiones que podría entregar el mando antes de finalizar el período, siempre y cuando existiera un acuerdo político.

Si bien anunció la creación de una comisión de transición que tendrá a su cargo el proceso que concluirá con la entrega del poder, González Macchi señaló que esta comisión podrá sugerir algunas cuestiones administrativas, pero que el Poder Ejecutivo actual optará por ejecutar la medida si le parece conveniente o no hacer, bajo su estricta responsabilidad.

Se le consultó sobre las "barridas" que ha anunciado Nicanor en algunas instituciones como Aduanas, IPS y otros, a lo que respondió que "eso lo hará cuando sea presidente en ejercicio", y que ahora las decisiones es-

tarán hasta agosto bajo la responsabilidad de su gobierno.

González Macchi dijo además que ayer llamó por teléfono a Duarte Frutos para felicitarlo por la victoria obtenida, y que tienen previsto reunirse la próxima semana en el Palacio de López para hablar de los temas que hacen al periodo de transición, pero mientras ya se conformara la misma.

Por otra parte, dijo que está muy orgulloso del comportamiento cívico de los paraguayos. Ante la consulta de cómo deja el país a su sucesor dijo que políticamente deja un país pacificado, tranquilo.

## CON OBSERVADORES

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, ex presidente de Costa Rica, quien integró la misión de observación electoral, visitó a González Macchi. A su salida, reiteró que el país ha demostrado un comportamiento cívico admirable y la efectividad de las urnas electrónicas y que es necesario que Paraguay aproveche este proceso para enfrentar los retos en materia económica.



Luis González Macchi recibió ayer el saludo de los observadores internacionales, el ex presidente de Costa Rica, Miguel Rodríguez, y de Lluís Enric Urtasun, secretario general adjunto de la OEA.

OBSERVADOR PIDE QUE POLITICOS INFORMEN FINANCIAMIENTO

# Dinero ilegal apeliga a la democracia, advierten

*El dinero de dudoso origen que se destina a campañas políticas apeliga a la democracia, advirtió ayer el ex presidente de Costa Rica Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, quien trabajó como jefe de un grupo de observadores internacionales. Sugirió que los partidos políticos y movimientos justifiquen e informen quiénes les financian, porque puede generar corrupción.*

"Es muy peligroso que haya dinero cuyo origen no se conoce, pero que financian campañas políticas. Esto permite al dinero que no tiene un buen origen interferir en campañas políticas. Eso es sumamente peligroso para la democracia", expresó Rodríguez al ofrecer una conferencia de prensa.

El ex mandatario insistió también en la necesidad de que los electores sepan quiénes están financiando a los partidos políticos, porque el financiamiento se puede convertir de alguna manera en favores políticos, y esto se convierte en corrupción.

Sugirió a los partidos políticos publicar nombres y montos y el modo de utilización del dinero por la salud, la ética y el prestigio de la democracia.

## FINANCIAMIENTO PUBLICO

Rodríguez recomendó que el Estado paraguayo extienda su financiamiento a partidos y movimientos políticos y que no se restrinja solamente a los partidos políticos con representación parlamentaria. Indicó que la

ayuda financiera permitirá equidad y acceso a todos a un mínimo de participación en los medios masivos de comunicación. "De la misma manera que si un medio de comunicación hace descuentos a un partido político y esto tenga que revelarse (o anotarse) como una contribución política", añadió. Rodríguez encabezó la misión de la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas Electorales (IFES), que trabajó en Paraguay con 13 observadores.



El ex presidente de Costa Rica Miguel Ángel Rodríguez (der.) conversa con el presidente Luis González Macchi en Palacio de López.

Dejando entrever su desacuerdo con el sistema de integración de las cámaras del Congreso, Rodríguez declaró en el Palacio de López que debe haber mayor discusión, más debate público, para la nominación de los candidatos a senadores y diputados en el Paraguay.

Destacó el gesto de Julio César Franco y Pedro Fadul por haber reconocido la victoria del candidato de la ANR.

SE DEBE TRANSPARENTEAR EL ORIGEN DEL DINERO

## IFES está preocupada por financiamiento de partidos

Varias recomendaciones al proceso electoral paraguayo realizó la misión de observación internacional de la Fundación Internacional para Sistemas electorales (IFES, por sus siglas en inglés). La principal es la necesidad de impulsar los controles sobre las fuentes de financiamiento de las campañas electorales.

La misión, que contó con 24 observadores, evaluó a los comicios como normales, y se mostraron altamente impresionados por la transmisión rápida de los resultados. También por su pronta difusión pública, lo que ayudó al ambiente pacífico después de los comicios, hecho que proporciona mayor credibilidad al proceso electoral.

Asimismo, recomienda un mayor control y conocimiento del origen y destino de los fondos utilizados en una campaña política.

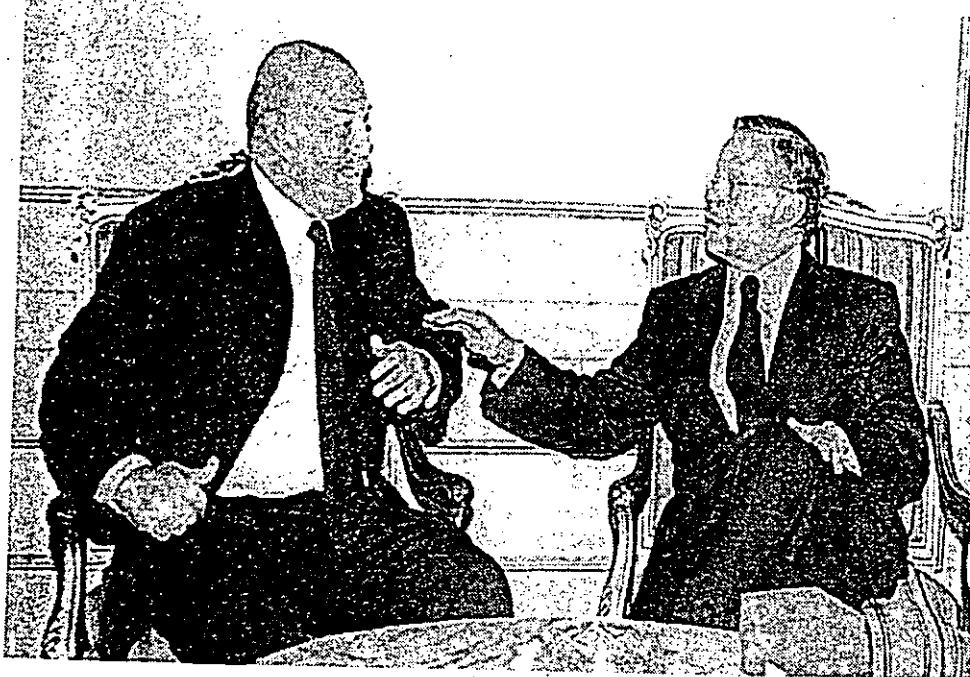
Esto implica trasparentar las donaciones públicas y privadas, y los fines a los que se dirigen, buscando la mayor equidad posible. El jefe de la misión y ex presidente de la República de Costa Rica, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, aseguró que la recomendación no se debe al hecho de haber detectado algo que no sea público y notorio.

"No hay un sistema de información sobre cuánto gastan los partidos y quiénes contribuyen económicamente con ellos. No hay ningún sistema de información de qué precios cobran los medios a un partido o a otro. Tampoco hay un medio de información que le permita saber a los ciudadanos qué fuerzas económicas del país están contribuyendo a las campañas de los distintos candidatos y en qué volúmenes", dijo el ex mandatario centroamericano.



Los miembros de la misión electoral de IFES dejaron varias recomendaciones al país, para mejorar el proceso electoral paraguayo.

# González Macchi reconoce que deja un país más pobre



El Presidente habló ayer con los periodistas poco después de haberse reunido con el ex presidente de Costa Rica, Miguel A. Rodríguez, jefe de la misión de observadores que llegó al Paraguay para las elecciones.

El presidente Luis Angel González Macchi reconoció ayer que está dejando a su sucesor un país con graves problemas sociales y económicos. Tras reunirse con el ex presidente de Costa Rica, Miguel Angel Rodríguez, el Mandatario habló con los periodistas acreditados en Palacio de Gobierno. Según dijo, lo que si deja a Nicanor Duarte Frutos es un país políticamente ordenado.

"Según yo creo, dejo un país política-

miente pacificado", dijo. "Políticamente tenemos un país no convulsionado. Políticamente dejamos un país que en estos 4 años ha realizado tres elecciones nacionales", precisó.

"Creo -agregó el Presidente- que políticamente el país está institucionalizado, con respeto a las autoridades legalmente constituidas pero indudablemente que tenemos graves problemas económicos y sociales".

# **IFES**

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