

newspapers, but, in addition, a telephone bank had been set up to answer questions -- especially with respect to polling locations. This "hot line" continued right through election day with approximately three to four thousand calls having been received by the day before polling day. Of the approximate 7,000 polling stations, 58 of which were too remote or otherwise inconvenient were relocated, and this information was published separately in the newspapers.

Other changes included clearly numbering the ballot boxes, changing the chemical composition of the finger-marking ink to make it more rapid in appearing and more difficult to remove, and increasing the space between the two parties on the ballot paper to reduce the possibility of spoiled ballots. At the computer centre, an emergency power source had been installed to offset delays in computing official results as happened in March when the power went off in the evening of polling day and stayed off most of the following day.

Subsequent to our discussions with the election officials, we visited a number of large and small centres in San Salvador and in other parts of the country. We found that in all cases the boxes with the balloting supplies had arrived and were secured and guarded. Prior to polling day our observations confirmed that all aspects of the pre-election preparations were greatly superior -- officials and party workers were calmer and more confident of a better organized and more smoothly running electoral process.

OBSERVER TEAM ITINERARY

The observers visited a large number of voting locations prior to and during election day. Specifically, on May 3rd, the team visited both the