

San Salvador, 8 May 1984

INTRODUCTION:

In response to the invitation of the Government of El Salvador, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs appointed observers to the second and final round of the presidential election, which took place on May 6, 1984. As in the case of the first round, the role of the observers was to report on the integrity of the electoral process and as to whether it was conducted responsibly and in a manner consistent with generally recognized democratic principles.

The mandate of the Canadian team was to observe and report on the elections themselves, not make assessments or judgements on the political situation in the country. There was a change in the composition of the team as compared with the first round. Mr. Gordon Fairweather remained as the head of the team, but on this occasion stayed in Ottawa where he co-ordinated the team's reporting effort. His place in El Salvador was taken by Mr. Warren Bailie, Chief Election Officer of Ontario. R.A. Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for Canada and F.M. Filleul, Canadian Ambassador to El Salvador returned as the other members of the observer group. They were assisted by Miss Susan Howell of the Canadian embassy.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM:

As reported by the observer group, following the March 25th election, the major problem was one of administrative chaos caused by a number of factors. On our arrival in San Salvador on May 2nd, our activities focussed on meetings with election officials to determine what changes had been made to attempt to