



communiqué

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FINAL REPORT OF CANADIAN OBSERVERS TO SECOND ROUND OF EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen,
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State
for External Affairs, today released the final
report of the Canadian Observers to the second
round of the Presidential elections in El Sal-
vador.

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FINAL REPORT

To the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In our report to you of May 8, 1984 on the outcome of the May 6, Presidential Election in El Salvador, we stated that given the absence of observed fraud and coercion, if the number of votes cast exceeded one million, it would be the conclusion of the Canadian observers that the results broadly reflect the will of the Salvadoran people.

On Tuesday, May 22, we received the official results of the May 6th election as compiled by the Central Elections Council of El Salvador. There was a total of 1,524,079 votes cast, which represents an 84.7% voter turnout as related to the estimated voter population of 1,800,000. This compares favourably with the voter turnout at the March 25 election of 1,419,493 (78.9% of the estimated 1.8 million voter population). There was a total of 1,404,366 valid ballots cast at the May 6th runoff representing 92.2% of the total, compared to 1,266,276 (89.2%) valid ballots on March 25th. Despite the larger turnout at the May 6th election, there were fewer spoiled, blank and challenged ballots, 119,713 (7.8%) than at the March 25 election where there were 153,217 (10.8%).

The final party standings following the May 6th election were 752,625, (53.6% of the total valid votes cast), for the Christian Democrats and 651,741, (42.8% of the total valid votes cast), for the ARENA party.

Based on the above data the Canadian observer team has concluded that an impressively large percentage of the voter population freely expressed their choices in what we observed to be a fair and well-administered election devoid of any significant indications of fraud or intimidation. Furthermore, because the leading party won by a clear majority, we are of the opinion that the results are satisfactorily conclusive. Finally, we believe that the election process itself successfully met the objective of providing an impartial mechanism to the voters of El Salvador for the selection of a new President.

R.G.L. Fairweather W.R. Bailie F.M. Filleul R.A. Gould