

El Salvador

FM TENDICRMLPA 301750Z

TO IMMEDIATE FOD  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 30 APRIL  
AND TO ROUTINE SAN JOSE, MEXICO CITY, WASHINGTON, MANAGUA  
INFO BELMOPAN, PANAMA CITY, BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION GUATEMALA  
CITY.

mf

EL SALVADOR - NEW PRESIDENT

1. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY ELECTED SR. ALVARO MAGAÑO BY  
35 VOTES TO 17 AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR. HE WAS  
OPPOSED BY THE ARENA CANDIDATE SR. HUGO BARRERA. VICE PRESIDENTS  
ELECTED WERE SR. RAUL MOLINA (P.C.R.) AND SR. GABRIEL GUTIEREZ  
(ARENA).

2. MAGAÑO AGED 60 WAS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR P.C.R. IN 1969  
BUT IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A MODERATE INDEPENDENT (BY  
SALVADOREAN STANDARDS). HE IS A BARRER, HE WAS SUGGESTED BY THE ARMY  
WHEN THE THREE LEADING PARTIES (P.D.C., ARENA AND P.C.R.) WERE  
UNABLE TO AGREE ON A CANDIDATE. P.D.C. AND P.C.R. WERE UNWILLING  
TO ACCEPT THE CANDIDATE PROPOSED BY ARENA WHICH NEEDS P.C.R. SUPPORT  
TO CONTROL THE ASSEMBLY.

3. RESULT MAY BE SEEN ABROAD BY SOME AS RETURN TO TRADITIONAL  
INTERFERENCE BY MILITARY TO CONTROL GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER IN THIS  
CASE INITIAL INCLINATION TO AVOID SUCH CRITICISM WAS OVERTAKEN BY  
CONCERN THAT AN ARENA PRESIDENT WOULD NOT RECEIVE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL  
SUPPORT AND THAT SUCCESS OF ELECTIONS WOULD BE FRITTERED AWAY BY  
SCRAMBLING POLITICIANS. BOTH GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS MILITARY ASKED  
SALVADOREAN ARMY LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROCESS TO PRODUCE MORE  
WIDELY SUPPORTED CANDIDATE.

4. IT IS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST HOW EFFECTIVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE. KEY FACTOR IS WHETHER THE ASSEMBLY WILL TRY TO CONTROL  
GOVERNMENT POLICY OR BE RIVEN OFF TO CONSIDER NEW CONSTITUTION  
AND FUTURE ELECTIONS AS IN HONDURAS IN 1980/81.

FOD PASS TO ALL.

MARKET

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