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John Neagle

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Paraguayan Ambassador Rejects Report By Organization Of American States Human Rights Commission

by John Neagle

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On Oct. 14 in Washington, Paraguay's Ambassador to the US, Juan A. Llanes, dismissed accusations by the Organization of American States' Human Rights Commission that his government continues violating fundamental guarantees without introducing mechanisms for any substantive improvements. In a written statement, Llanes said that the tenor of the report did not take into account of the reality of the facts, and does not correspond to the development of the democratic process currently underway in Paraguay. With respect to Gen. Alfredo Stroessner's eighth consecutive term, the Commission said that opposition groups had organized demonstrations with the objective of calling international attention to the anti-democratic nature of the Paraguayan regime. The demonstrations were violently repressed. Llanes said that all reports of human rights abuses have been presented by "minorities who have marginalized themselves from national institutions." The latter were characterized by the ambassador as possessing an "inequivocal tendency to anarchy," and without any substantive ties to the majority of Paraguayans. (Basic data from AP, 10/14/88)

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