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P.a.n. Split: Members Withdraw To Form New Party

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On Nov. 20, at least 700 members of the opposition National Action Party (PAN) met in Mexico City to formally withdraw from the party and create a political organization modeled after European Christian Democracy. (For related story see SourceMex 10/14/92). The new group, provisionally called the Doctrinaire and Democratic Forum (Foro Doctrinario y Democratico), includes former PAN presidential candidates Pablo Emilio Madero and Jose Gonzalez Torres. The dissidents accused the party's leadership of having made corrupt deals with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in exchange for electoral gains. The statement also said big business had accumulated too much power within the party and said its leaders were undemocratic. Speakers at the meeting said the party would have a more nationalistic, less avidly capitalistic program than the current PAN. It was unclear how strong the party would be in the rest of Mexico, or whether it would be able to fulfill legal requirements to be on the 1994 presidential ballot. Most of the 700 people at the meeting were residents of Mexico City, although one estimate indicated that the new party has about 3,000 new members. Meantime, there was little mention of the split at the PAN platform convention in Queretaro state Nov. 22. One party leader, Fernando Canales of Nuevo Leon state, suggested the split had left the party a little "leaner," with the most loyal and dedicated members remaining. For his part, PAN national leader Luis Alvarez told convention delegates the party was developing a platform to compete effectively with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in the 1994 presidential election. He predicted the PAN would attract a large portion of the vote in the election. (Sources: Spanish news service EFE, Agence-France Presse, Associated Press, 11/20/92; Notimex, 11/22/92)

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