

Panama: Political Opposition Selects Presidential Candidate

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, January 25, 1989

On Jan. 22, Panama's opposition coalition announced its formal selection of attorney Guillermo Endara as its candidate in the May 7 presidential election. Endara, 52, said he planned to form a "government of national reconstruction" and replace Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panamanian Defense Forces as the country's de facto ruler. The alliance also selected Ricardo Arias Calderon, 53, as candidate for first vice president and Guillermo Ford, 52, as second vice president. Arias Calderon, a former vice presidential candidate, heads the Democratic Christian Party. Ford, a businessperson, is a member of the executive committee of the National Liberal Republican Movement Party. The Civic Crusade and several other small opposition parties participated in the convention along with the Democratic Christian Party and the National Liberal Republican Movement. Another opposition party,, the Authentic Liberal Party, had scheduled a nominating convention for the following week. The seven-party government coalition will announce its candidate on Feb. 1. (Basic data from AP, 01/22/89)

-- End --