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Former President Carter On Elections In Nicaragua & Panama

by Deborah Tyroler

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In remarks to reporters on Feb. 1 following a closed-door meeting with Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, former US President Jimmy Carter said he had urged President Ortega to hold elections as planned in 1990. Carter added that the elections should take place with the participation of all parties, and in the context of a totally free press. The meeting took place in Caracas, Venezuela. Carter and Ortega were guests of the Venezuelan government to attend President Perez's inauguration ceremony. Carter said that if the Panamanian government accepts the presence of international observers during its general elections scheduled for May 7, the US would immediately terminate its economic sanctions against that country. In response to a question on whether relations with Latin America will improve under the administration of President George Bush, Carter said that he had no doubt they would improve in comparison to relations with region under the Reagan administration. (Basic data from AFP, 02/01/89)

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