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Paraguay: President Of Ruling Party Says May 1 Elections Will Not Be Postponed

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 20, Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the ruling Colorado Party, said that general elections definitely will take place May 1 and will not be postponed as requested by opposition party leaders. Chaves said, "We will give freedom to all political parties to participate in May 1 elections, even if they have 10,000 members or 1,000. But the elections will not be postponed." Meanwhile, leaders of the Authentic Radical Liberal, the Christian Democrat and the Revolutionary Febrerista parties met with the Rev. Ismael Rolon, archbishop of Asuncion, to discuss conditions under which they would participate in elections. Febrerista party president, Euclides Acevedo said, "We reiterated our call for a delay, but we also described some basic modifications needed in the electoral law, the need to negotiate democratically, the need for automatic voter registration so that all citizens can participate, and the need for the ban on coalition candidates to be lifted." The three parties comprise a coalition called the National Accord. On Feb. 17, Acevedo and Jorge Dario Cristaldo of the Christian Democrats met with provisional President Gen. Andres Rodriguez. President of the Authentic Liberal Party, Domingo Laino, called the meeting an attempt to split the Accord. (Basic data from AP, 02/20/89)

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