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Lowenthal On U.S. Central America Policy

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On June 29, at a seminar on US Central America policy organized by the Council of the Americas in New York, Abraham Lowenthal, executive director of the Inter-American Dialogue, said the Panamanian political crisis is an example of the "spectacular problems" provoked by the Reagan administration's tendency toward ideologue policy. He asserted that contemporary US policy toward promoting democracy in Latin America must be formulated with due consideration of "justification and limits." Lowenthal stated that the present inter-American effort toward developing a policy position on Panama has greater possibilities of success. Next, Lowenthal asserted that the "bipartisan consensus" on Central America policy is precarious since Republicans and Democrats have not yet worked out a long-term vision of policy toward Latin America. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/29/89)