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Nicaragua: Social Christian Party Nominates Presidential Candidate

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 13, the Social Christian Party (PSC) nominated party chief Erick Ramirez as its presidential candidate for the Feb. 25 elections. Some 300 PSC delegates attended the two-day convention. After the nomination, Ramirez said he was willing to "explore possibilities of organizing political alliances with any opposition sector," but that if no coalitions were formed, "we will go into the elections alone." Luis Vega Miranda, a Social Christian spokesperson, said the party convention approved a platform to create a government "based on the search for a democratic society and community, dignity, liberty and personal freedom." The platform calls for an economic system "neither capitalist nor communist," an end to conscription, independence from the superpowers, abolition of repressive organizations and agrarian reform, he said. Ramirez said the party is "a historical alternative between the Sandinista and Somoza dictatorships." The PSC broke away from the 12-party National Opposition Union (UNO), which has announced its intent to nominate a single candidate to run against the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). However, Ramirez told AP that he would step aside if UNO nominated Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Under Nicaragua's electoral legislation, presidential and vice presidential candidates must register with the Supreme Electoral Council between Aug. 25 and Sept. 13, and candidates for legislative races must register by Sept. 29. Twenty-one parties are registered in Nicaragua. The PSC was the second opposition party to announce candidates for the presidential election. The Revolutionary Workers Party has nominated its secretary general, Bonifacio Miranda, to run for the presidency. The PSC, founded in September 1957, did not participate in the 1984 presidential election. (Basic data from AP, AFP, 08/13/89)

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