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## **Guatemala's First Party Primary**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Aug. 13, Christian Democrats went to the polls in 330 municipalities to select a candidate to succeed President Vinicio Cerezo, marking the country's first party primary. The favorite was Alfonso Cabrera, a political ally and friend of Cerezo. In 1988, Cerezo announced he would back Cabrera. Cabrera has been plagued by muddled and unsubstantiated rumors of corruption and involvement in the drug trade. His brother was arrested for drug trafficking in Miami. Cabrera is also reported to lack solid and congenial relations with the army. The Washington Post cited Jorge Skinner-Klee, opposition politician and lawyer, as saying: "If he's elected, I don't think Cabrera would last the five years." (Basic data from Washington Post, 08/14/89)

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