Brief Sketches Of Nicaraguan Presidential Tickets, Parties

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As of this week, 21 of Nicaragua's 22 political parties have announced presidential and vice presidential preferences for the Feb. 25, 1990 elections. Summarized below are brief sketches of parties and candidates. (Basic data from 09/28/89 report, Pensamiento Propio, publication by Regional Coordination for Economic and Social Research of Central America and the Caribbean- CRIES, Managua) Revolutionary Workers Party (Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores). Presidential candidate: Bonifacio Miranda Bengoechea, PRT secretary general. Vice presidential candidate: Juan Carlos Leyton Valle. Notes: Miranda was active in the leadership of secondary school students in Grenada during the Somoza regime, and became a labor leader in the metalworking industry. Leyton was also a student leader prior to the 1979 revolution. The PRT (f. 1984) is the successor of the Revolutionary Marxist League (Liga Revolucionaria Marxista), established in 1972. The LRM and now the PRT represents Nicaragua in the International League of Workers (Fourth International). Candidate registration with the Supreme Electoral Council: Aug. 28.

Molina Palacios. Vice presidential candidate: Milton Robelo Abud. Notes: In the 1984 elections, the PCDN received the second largest proportion of votes, resulting in the acquisition of 14 National Assembly seats. Molina has served as deputy in the Assembly since 1985. Candidate registration: Sept. 5. Popular Action Movement Marxist Leninist (MAP-MP). Presidential candidate: Isidro Tellez, party secretary general. Vice presidential candidate: Carlos Cuadra Cuadra. Notes: One of seven parties that participated in the 1984 elections, the MAP/MP received 1% of the vote, and thus, has two seats in the National Assembly. Both candidates are deputies. Tellez, a construction worker, founded the party, and has served as secretary general since 1982. Cuadra was a leader of the Nicaraguan teachers' movement in the 1960s, and specializes in political ideology and public relations for the party. Revolutionary Unity Movement (MUR). Presidential candidate: Moises Hassan Morales. Vice presidential candidate: Francisco Samper. Notes: Hassan was a member of Nicaragua's first revolutionary governing junta until 1982. Later, he served as Construction Minister and mayor of Managua. According to CRIES, Hassan recently dropped out of the FSLN because he refused to accept responsibilities considered unrelated to his training as an engineer, and an engineering instructor. Candidate registration: Sept. 7. National Unity Independent Liberal Party (PLIUN). Presidential candidate: Rodolfo Robelo Herrera. Vice presidential candidate: Lombardo Martinez Cabezas. Sandinista National Liberation Front. Presidential candidate: Daniel Ortega. Vice presidential candidate: Sergio Ramirez. Notes: FSLN delegates selected candidates for the presidency, national legislature and municipal posts at a national convention on Sept. 24. Among the list of deputy candidates is Domingo Sanchez, a former Socialist Party leader; and peasant leader Rafael Rayo, former member of the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC). Candidate registration: Sept. 25. [Eligible voters are estimated to number about 1.8 million. According to recent opinion polls, about 30% are undecided. In 1984, 90% of eligible voters registered for the November elections. A total of 75% of eligible voters cast ballots.]

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