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Panamanian Opposition Renews Offer To Participate In New Elections If Gen. Noriega Resigns

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On Oct. 18, former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara told reporters that the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) would participate in new elections if Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega resigned and democracy were guaranteed. He added that ADOC still demands that results of the annulled May 7 elections be respected. Endara said Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez offered ADOC a plan to resolve the Panamanian crisis when opposition leader Guillermo Ford visited Madrid last month. The proposal called for respect for human rights, new elections and Gen. Noriega's removal from power, Endara said. Ford returned to Panama Oct. 17 after a two-week tour of Europe and the US. On Oct. 13, Endara told reporters that the opposition would be "willing to hold talks on many grounds" regarding new elections if Gen. Noriega steps down. The government rejected such terms in negotiations mediated by an Organization of American States team in August. (Basic data from AP, 10/13/89; AFP, 10/18/89)