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Nicaragua: Note On Univision Poll Results

by Deborah Tyroler

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Between Oct. 27 and Oct. 31, Univision, a US-based Hispanic television network, polled 1,129 registered Nicaraguan voters in six geographical regions of the country. One of the survey coordinators, Sergio Bendixen, was cited in a Nov. 17 report by Notimex. Bendixen said 40% of the respondents stated they plan to vote for President Daniel Ortega in the Feb. 25 elections, and 39% for Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, candidate of the National Opposition Union (UNO). Respondents were also asked their opinions on Nicaragua's friends and enemies. A total of 70% described Cuba as a "friend of Nicaragua," although 40% had a negative opinion of Cuban President Fidel Castro. Next, 66% described the Soviet Union as a friend, and only 25% stated that the United States was a friend of Nicaragua. Only 14% said the government was forced to organize the general elections in February 1990 by the contras, compared to 53% who credited the Central American presidents with responsibility for the advanced election date.

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