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Honduras: National Party Candidate Claims Win In
Presidential Election

by John Neagle
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On Nov. 27, unofficial returns from balloting in the Nov. 26 presidential election showed 50.2%
for National Party candidate Rafael Leonardo Callejas, and 44.25% for Carlos Flores, candidate of
the governing Liberal Party. The new president will take office Jan. 27 for a four-year term. Both
candidates made it clear they wanted the US-supported Nicaraguan contras out of Honduras.
Callejas fears that without US aid to the contras, however, Honduras alone will have to cope with
"persuading" them to leave. Honduras is the second most impoverished country of the western
hemisphere after Haiti. Population is 4.3 million. About 35% of school-age persons and adults are
illiterate. More than half of the labor force, 58.9%, works in agriculture. Eighty percent of Honduran
exports derive from agriculture, and the main exports are bananas, coffee, lumber, meat and metals.
The foreign debt totals over $3 billion. (Basic data from AP, 11/27/89; AFP, 11/26/89, 11/27/89; New
York Times, 11/28/89)

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