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Notes On Resumption Of Diplomatic Ties With Panama By Latin American Countries

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 8, Vice President Dan Quayle's press secretary, David Beckwith, said that Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela were returning their ambassadors to Panama this week. Next, he said that the Peruvian government plans to raise the level of its diplomatic representation in Panama City. Aides to Quayle said that when the vice president visited Panama in January, he and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara devised a way to validate Endara's mandate without holding new elections. On March 3, Endara said that he would hold a referendum on certain amendments to the Panamanian Constitution. Endara said, "The referendum will serve to express the degree of acceptance that the current government has among the Panamanian people." No date has been set for the referendum. The New York Times reported that the State Department is tabs on the countries that have confirmed recognition of the Endara government or their plans to restore normal diplomatic relations with Panama. An unidentified Department official told the Times that these countries include El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru. (Basic data from New York Times, 03/09/90)

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