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Former Mexico City Mayor Camacho Creates New Centrist Political Party

by LADB Staff

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In mid-February, former Mexico City mayor Manuel Camacho Solis announced the creation of the Partido del Centro Democratico (PCD) at a rally in the capital. Camacho said the party plans to field a candidate in the presidential elections in 2000 as an alternative to the governing Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) and other parties. "

We are a political option for the country, we are a new party alternative, and we are a real opposition force," said former PRI member Camacho, who also served as Chiapas peace negotiator under ex-president Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Ideologically, Camacho said the PCD will fall somewhere between the center-left Partido de la Revolucion Democratica and the conservative Partido Accion Nacional (PAN).

At the rally, Camacho reserved his strongest criticism for the PRI. "The PRI is an obstacle to stability," said Camacho. "The party could have prevented its current crisis if political reforms had occurred earlier." Camacho said the PCD is hoping to forge a coalition with other opposition parties for the 2000 elections.

Meanwhile, a number of other candidates said they will seek the presidency, although they lack party nominations. The list includes PAN Gov. Vicente Fox Quesada of Guanajuato and PRI Gov. Manuel Bartlett Diaz of Puebla. Mexico City Mayor Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the PRD is also widely expected to seek nomination. Jesus Silva Herzog, another former PRI member, could join the crowded field of presidential hopefuls. Silva Herzog, who served as finance secretary, will represent the Partido Autentico de la Revolucion Democratica (PARM) in the 2000 elections, said PARM president Carlos Guzman Perez. (Sources: La Jornada, Associated Press, The News, 02/18/98, El Universal, 02/18/98; Excelsior, 02/18/98, 02/23/98)

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