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## **Polling Organization Predicts Electoral Disaster For Christian Democrats**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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According to a poll released May 29 in San Jose (Costa Rica) by the Interdisciplinary Development Consultants firm (CID), Guatemala's governing Christian Democrat party (DC) is likely to experience disaster in the November presidential elections. Results of the poll show Jorge Carpio, of the National Centrist Union (UCN), leading with 26%. The DC candidate, former foreign minister Alfonso Cabrera, was in fourth place with only 5%. In second place was former president Efraim Rios Montt, at 23%. Under Guatemala's constitution, Rios Montt may not be permitted to run in the election. Former Guatemala City mayor Alvaro Arzu polled 8% of voter preferences. The CID survey was conducted from May 1 to May 10. The sample was comprised of 1,250 Guatemalan adults representing all regions of the country. CID claimed a margin of error of 3%. Carpio's base of support is in rural areas, while Rios Montt is strongest in the capital and other major cities. According to the same poll, 14% of respondents described President Vinicio Cerezo's performance as "good" or "very good," compared with 39% who answered "bad" or "very bad." Next, 61% of respondents said their economic situation had deteriorated in the past year, while 62% said they believed that the Cerezo government "has done nothing to stop the rising cost of living." Half of all respondents said "public monies have been very badly managed" under Cerezo. A majority identified the rising cost of living and corruption as major problems. (Basic data from AFP, 05/29/90)

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