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## **Costa Rica: Poll Results On Popularity Of Domestic & Foreign Leaders**

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Poll results released Aug. 12 indicated that President Rafael Calderon's popularity among citizens after his first three months in office is lower than equivalent ratings for predecessor Oscar Arias. Twenty-nine percent of respondents gave Calderon a negative rating, as compared to 11% for Arias in 1986. The survey was conducted between July 26 and Aug. 2 by Interdisciplinary Development Consultants (CID), which represents Gallup in Central America. Of the 1,200 Costa Ricans included in the sample group, 57% were residents of urban areas. After Arias' first 100 days in office, polls indicated a 48% supporting rating, compared to Calderon's 34%. In 1986, 32% of respondents described Arias as "neither good nor bad," compared to 28% this year for Calderon. On Aug. 13, CID released results of another poll on the popularity of foreign leaders. George Bush received a positive rating from 71% of respondents, and negative marks from 4%. The second most popular foreign leader was Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro with 61%. Panamanian President Guillermo Endara and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher tied with 44%. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received a 40% popularity rating. Only 5% of respondents said they had a favorable opinion of Cuban President Fidel Castro. Castro's negative rating was 69%. On popularity of Costa Rican politicians, former president Arias received an 81% approval rating, compared to 49% for President Calderon, a 20-point drop compared to last March. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 08/12/90; EFE, 08/13/90)

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