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Ecuador: Rightist Opposition Party Gains Control Of Legislature

by Barbara Khol

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On June 17, Ecuadorans voted to elect 60 members of the National Congress representing the country's 21 provinces. The seats have two-year terms. Twelve seats with national constituencies have four-year terms, and will be contested in 1992. According to unofficial returns reported by three television stations on June 18, former president Leon Febres Cordero's Social Christian Party gained 11 seats and will control 18 seats in the Congress. The returns showed President Rodrigo Borja's Democratic Left party losing half of the 30 seats it held. Analysts said the Social Christians would be able to dominate the legislature through pacts with smaller parties. Ecuador has 15 registered political parties and at least a dozen were expected to win seats in Congress. The Democratic Left has dominated the legislature through an alliance with seven Christian Democrat congresspersons. As a result, President Borja was able to see his economic program approved. (Basic data from AP, 06/17/90, 06/18/90)

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