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Colombia: Former Guerrilla Leader Navarro Wolf Scores High In National Opinion Poll

by Barbara Khol

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Results of a public opinion survey published in the Bogota magazine *Semana* in the first week of January showed that former M-19 rebel leader Antonio Navarro Wolf ranked as respondents' first choice as person of the year. The survey, comprised of 600 adults over 18 years of age, was conducted in November in 20 cities throughout the country. A total of 36.2% of respondents selected Navarro Wolf as person of the year, compared to 23.2% for President Cesar Gaviria. Navarro Wolf received the largest number of votes in the Dec. 9 elections for National Constituent Assembly members. Next, 56% of the respondents said they thought Navarro Wolf would be president in 10 years, compared to 44.2% for Andres Pastrana of the Conservative Party. Additional highlights of poll results follow: * A majority of respondents said they believed that constitutional reform will strengthen the justice system, improve congressional procedures, provide foundations for a higher standard of living, and lead to peace with the guerrillas and drug traffickers. A majority also indicated expectations that the Constituent Assembly will approve direct election of department governors, prohibit the extradition of Colombian citizens, cut the number of seats in the national congress, and create a unicameral legislature. * 83.3% of respondents said they believed the nation's rebel movements should be dealt with via negotiations, and 12.5% opted for military force. * On whether the "Extraditables" (Colombians facing drug charges abroad) should be permitted to run for public office as have former rebels, 49.1% of respondents said "yes," and 45.6%, "no." (Basic data from EFE, 01/07/91)

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