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## **Preparatory Meeting Of Central American Parliament**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Sept. 9-10 in San Salvador, Honduran, Guatemalan and Salvadoran elected representatives to the Central American Parliament held a preparatory meeting aimed at laying out the framework for the regional body's first meeting, scheduled to take place by Oct. 28 in Guatemala. Other participants included Vice Presidents Francisco Merino and Gustavo Espina, of El Salvador and Guatemala, respectively; former Honduran president Jose Azcona and Guatemalan counterpart Vinicio Cerezo; and, observers from Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. [The latter three nations have not yet formally joined the parliament and have three years to do so.] Vice President Merino told reporters that the Guatemalan government would cover the parliament's operating expenses through December. He added that once Nicaragua and Costa Rica formally join the regional body, the European Community has promised to supply \$50 million. Salvadoran delegate Francisco Guerrero said that the parliament would begin functions with a president, two vice presidents, and three secretaries. Officials are appointed for a one-year term, after which the posts are rotated. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 09/09/91; Salpress, 09/11/91)

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