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## **Central American Parliament Holds Inaugural Session**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 28 in Guatemala City, the first meeting of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) was convened. Participants in inauguration ceremonies included Presidents Jorge Serrano of Guatemala; Rafael Callejas, Honduras; Alfredo Cristiani, El Salvador; Guillermo Endara, Panama; and, Prime Minister George Price of Belize. Costa Rica and Nicaragua sent Vice Presidents German Serrano and Virgilio Godoy, respectively, as observers. At present, there are 67 PARLACEN deputies: 22 from Guatemala; 21, El Salvador; 22, Honduras; and two, Nicaragua. [The Costa Rican legislature has not ratified membership in the forum and Nicaragua has not yet elected delegates. Neither Panama nor Belize are signatories to the accord creating PARLACEN, but have expressed interest in joining.] Guatemalan Roberto Carpio Nicolle was elected president of the regional forum. Creation of the parliament was first called for in 1987 as part of the Esquipulas II regional peace accords. (Basic data from AP, AFP, 10/28/91)

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