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Uruguay: More On Cabinet Reshuffle

by Erika Harding

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On Feb. 14, the New Space coalition (Nuevo Espacio- NE) comprised of the social democrat Government by the People Party (PGP) and the Christian Democratic Party submitted to President Luis Lacalle a list of conditions the administration must pursue to obtain NE participation in the new cabinet. Conditions included strengthening the role of the Congress, modifying electoral and political party formation legislation, creation of a bicameral commission to monitor future privatization of state-run enterprises, and a wage hike for public and private sector workers. NE leader Sen. Hugo Batalla was offered the Housing and Environment Minister post, previously held by Colorado Party faction leader Jorge Batlle. In the 1989 elections, NE came in fourth with 9.01% of the vote, and currently occupies nine seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two in the Senate. On Feb. 18, Lacalle rejected the NE's demands and Batalla declined the cabinet post. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 02/14/92, 02/18/92)

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