

**STATEMENT OF THE NDI/ CARTER CENTER  
MAY 2000 PRE-ELECTION DELEGATION TO PERU**

*Lima, May 5, 2000*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The fourth international pre-election delegation to Peru, organized jointly by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and The Carter Center issued its statement in Lima today. The delegation, which visited Peru from May 1 through May 5, stressed that:

“Unless immediate and comprehensive improvements are made to the political environment surrounding the presidential runoff election, as well as to administrative and technical procedures required for election day and the consolidation of results, Peru's election process will ultimately fail to meet minimum international standards for democratic elections.

*If the political will to make decisive improvements is demonstrated by the political contestants, governmental and electoral authorities, mass media, security forces, courts and others concerned with the process -- and if critical changes are made beginning in the next few days -- sufficient public confidence in the process could be established. At this juncture, however, the credibility of the election process is at risk.”*

The delegation supported recommendations of the working groups set up by Peruvian election authorities, which included representatives of the two candidates for Peru's May 28 presidential runoff election and observers, as well as recommendations of the Organization of American States Election Observation Mission, the Peruvian Ombudsman's Office (*Defensoria del Pueblo*) and national election monitoring groups *Transparencia*, *Consejo por la Paz* and others.

The delegation issued 13 recommendations that addressed the urgent needs for: political dialogue between the two presidential candidates, President Alberto Fujimori and Dr. Alejandro Toledo, and their representatives; efforts to avoid violence and violations of political rights; ending campaigns of vilification of Dr. Toledo, domestic election monitors and others; ending media bias in coverage of the candidates; provision of sufficient media access for both candidates; complete access to the election process by domestic and international election observers; and rectification of serious problems in election day administration and consolidation of the official election results.

*“Opinion polls indicate that a majority of Peruvians suspect that the process was influenced by fraudulent practices,” said delegation member Andres Dominguez Vial, Advisor to and former General Coordinator of the Chilean Human Rights Commission. “This perception in and of itself presents a real problem. The crisis of confidence must be effectively addressed if the elections are to be seen as credible. While intensive efforts to improve administrative procedures for election day are essential, an election is much more than a technical exercise. Therefore, the problems of the political environment that marred the first round and that are damaging the second must also be remedied immediately.”*

The delegation was invited by the government of Peru and Peruvian civic and political leaders. The delegation's observations are based

upon an extensive series of meetings with: representatives of the candidates; political party leaders; the Prime Minister; the *Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (ONPE)*; the *Defensoria del Pueblo* (Ombudsman's Office); nongovernmental organizations, including *Transparencia*, *Consejo por la Paz*, *Foro Democratico* and *Instituto Prensa y Sociedad*; the news media owners and Genaro Delgado Parker; the Organization of American States Election Observer Mission; and representatives of the diplomatic community from Latin America, Europe and North America.

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and The Carter Center are nongovernmental organizations that work to promote democracy around the world. The two institutions have conducted more than 100 impartial pre-election, election-day and post-election observation delegations in the Americas and around the globe. The purposes of this delegation were to express the support of the international community for a democratic election process in Peru and to assess the evolving political environment surrounding the upcoming elections, as well as the state of electoral preparations.

NDI and The Carter Center will continue to monitor developments surrounding the elections. A joint NDI/Carter Center observer team will be present for the May 28 election, and another joint NDI/Carter Center delegation is likely to visit the country in the period immediately following the runoff, in order to more fully assess the entire electoral process

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