



# SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL

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## TRAINING BEGINS

The Supreme Electoral Council organized the first national training workshop for some 100 members of the different political parties who will work in the polling places registering voters and later staffing the polls on the Feb. 25, 1989 election day. The Organization of American States elections observation delegation was present for the event.

The seven day seminar was held at a conference center in the southern part of Managua. Dr. Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, President of the Supreme Electoral Council, Vice-President and Alternate Mr. Julian Corrales Munguía and Secretary of the Electoral Council and Alternate Dr. Rosa Marina Zelaya attended the event.

Dr. Fiallos told workshop participants that the "task ahead of us is an extraordinary responsibility. Every time we hold an activity we must remember that we are distributing the wealth, that we are making an investment. The people hope that this investment will be fruitful and will solidify democracy. Our task is not to legitimize one party or another, but to legitimize the entire political system of democracy in Nicaragua in order to peacefully resolve the existing problems."

## Workshop Objectives

Dr. Roberto Evertz, Director of Electoral Affairs of the Supreme Electoral Council, told the press the basic objective of the workshop was to "train officials from the 9 Regional Electoral Councils so that they are prepared to direct the logistical and technical aspects of the voter registration campaign and the elections themselves. The workshop also served to train members of political parties so that they know their rights and can train their official poll watchers".

## Multiplying Effect

In their corresponding electoral districts, workshop participants will teach what they learned to other polling place personnel. According to Dr. Evertz, by early september "there will be trained personnel in each polling place". He added that this time around, unlike during the 1984 campaign, "the training emphasized voter registration in light of the fact that there are no I. D. cards and that voter registration is the corner stone of the electoral process"

All the political parties were invited to the workshop by the Supreme Electoral Council. At the inauguration representatives from the Social Christian Party, the Revolutionary Workers Party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, the Central American Unionist Party, the National Action Party, the Social Conservatism Party and the Nicaraguan Socialist Party were present. Additionally, members of the police force attended the event because article 203 of the electoral law establishes that the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for guaranteeing the voter registration and election processes. Their role is defined in the legislation which governs polling places.

## Diverse Opinions

In reference to the workshop, Humberto Salvador Doña from the National Action Party stated that "it showed wisdom on the part of the Supreme Electoral

Council because all the existing political parties were invited and the workshop was carried out independently of political ideologies. Participation was equalitarian and no one criticized the laws but instead learned the theory and practice of the electoral structure."

Fernando Caracas of the Social Christian Party recognized the efforts of the Supreme Electoral Council in spite of the severe economic limitations facing the country. He considered the event to be a great success.

Nicolás Morales Amador of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement said "we are more clearly informed after the workshop because we have acquired sufficient bases so that the elections personnel can work adequately." He suggested that the parties which did not attend the workshop send delegates to upcoming workshops. He added that those parties not participating "lost a good opportunity to prepare their leaders."

Guillermo Aguirre of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party claimed that although the experience was interesting, no one should be obligated to adopt the methods discussed at the workshop. For this reason he favors the utilization of existing legislation to train poll watchers. He mentioned that they will incorporate ideas from voting procedures in other countries.

### Study Themes

Workshop participants discussed the Electoral Law and its reform, the Law governing the means of communication, the Autonomy Statutes of the Atlantic Coast and the Municipal Law. There was also discussion on the upcoming Civic Education Manual soon to be prepared by the Supreme Electoral Council.

The Director of Electoral Affairs of the Supreme Electoral Council, Roberto Evertz said that there are 144 national workshops planned to teach the people who will be working in the electoral process about the laws. He concluded by saying the cost of these workshops would reach a billion cordobas.

## WORKSHOPS ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The Supreme Electoral Council began a series of workshops on August 21, 1989 for all officials who will participate in electoral activities on the regional level.

The Supreme Electoral Council invited all legally registered political parties and asked them to choose regional representatives and inform the Regional Electoral Councils of the names of those picked.

The workshops were held in each of the nine regions of the country.

### REGION I

Estelí, Nueva Segovia y Madriz  
Place: Centro Pastoral San Ramón

Date: Aug. 21-23, 1989

### REGION II

León, Chinandega  
Place: Quinta San Agustín

Date: Aug. 25-27, 1989

### REGION III

Managua  
Place: Training Center  
"Blanca Aráuz"

Date: Aug. 25-27, 1989

### REGION IV

Masaya, Carazo, Granada and Rivas  
Place: Training Center  
"Blanca Aráuz"

Date: Aug. 28-30, 1989

### REGION V

Boaco, Chontales  
Place: Training Center

Date: Aug. 19-20, 1989

### REGION VI

Matagalpa and Jinotega  
Place: Cartuja and Santa Emilia School

Date: Aug. 25-27, 1989

### REGION VII

Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region  
Place: National Institute

Date: Aug. 25-27, 1989

## REGION VIII

*Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region  
Place: Bluefields Hotel*

*Date: Aug. 24-26, 1989*

## REGION IX

*Río San Juan  
Place: National Institute San Carlos*

*Date: Sept. 1-3, 1989*



## NAMING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS

*On July 10, 1989 the Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council named members of the nine Regional Electoral Councils in accordance with Article 17 of the Electoral Law. This article states that there shall be nine electoral councils with a President and two additional members, as well as alternates for each post. These Councils are appointed by the Supreme Electoral Council.*

### REGION I

#### Member

*President: Professor José M. Córdobas González  
First Member: Ms. Martha A. Peralta Paguaga  
Second Member: Mr. Freddy Sánchez Blandón  
(PLIUN)*

*Alternate Reyna Arróliga Zamora  
Professor Deyanira  
Valenzuela Lazo  
Udo Tórres Resse (PCDN)*

### REGION II

#### Member

*President: Mr. Dionisio Palacios Altamirano  
First Member: Dr. Alden Haslam Pineda  
Second Member: Mr. Ramón Berríos Guillén  
(PSC)*

*Alternate Dr. Oscar Munguía Cáceres  
Dr. Xiomara Paguagua*

## REGION III

#### Member

*President: Mr. Oscar R. Meléndez Rojas  
First Member: Mr. Sergio Denis García Velásquez  
Second Member: Humberto Masís Ricarte  
(PCDN)*

*Alternate Mr. Félix Contreras Reyes  
Ms. Zobeida Gómez Sandoval  
Prof. Abel Reyes Téllez  
(PSC)*

## REGION IV

#### Member

*President: Dr. Luis Luna Raudez  
First Member: Dr. María Magdalena Moreno Requene  
Second Member: Camilo Barberena Chamorro  
(PCDN)*

*Alternate Ms. Nelly Miranda Matus  
Prof. Guillermo Medina Sierra*

## REGION V

#### Member

*President: Prof. Jofiel Acuña Cruz  
First Member: Prof. Mirna Rosales Aguilar  
Second Member: Prof. Reina Isabel Castro García  
(PCDN)*

*Alternate Azarías Rocha Martínez  
Leonardo Icaza Díaz  
(PSOC)*

## REGION VI

#### Member

*President: Mr. Sadrach Zeledón Rocha  
First Member: Mr. Guillermo Francisco Kühl Baldizór  
Second Member: Dr. Rubén Altamirano Altamirano  
(PCDN)*

*Alternate Prof. Noel Lazo Lira  
Isabel Moreno de Rodríguez*

**REGION VII**

**Member**

*President:* Mr. Ronaldo Siu  
*First Member:* Arthur Renald Henríquez Bent  
*Second Member:* José Luis Acosta Charles  
(PUCA)

**Alternate** Miguel Abella  
Ella Hodson  
Marcelo Zúñiga Budier

**REGION VIII**

**Member**

*President:* Ciry1 Omier Green  
*First Member:* Ms. Maura Díaz López  
*Second Member:* Efraín Omier Wilson  
(PSC)

**Alternate** Mr. Jorge Brooks Saldaña  
Harlam Kent Henríquez

**REGION IX**

**Member**

*President:* Mr. Donald Romero Sandino  
*First Member:* Salomón Oporta Gómez  
*Second Member:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate** Thelma Chamorro Centeno  
Blas Pineda Martínez  
Roberto Rankin Lockwood

