



THE CARTER CENTER



Latin America and Caribbean

Dr. Manuel S. Subria
President Raul Alf

For

Sr. Rodrigo Madrigal Monte
nchez, Council member and

representative of Oscar
sent of Costa Rica

Coaguila Daly Arbulu, Council
Council member and former pres

Dr. Fernando Belandier

Dr. Roberto A. Santos

of Jimmy Carter

Sr. Genaro Arr
Christian Democratic Party

eral representative of Chile

In addition, the delegation: Mr. David Center's Latin American Kjersten Walker from

roll

OR Ca Boy

Mr. Arriagada has members of the delegation

agreed to

following statement

We are committed to the sovereignty, with respect to the hemisphere, and of which Mexico defend each other's

ico, who interie s friend

respectful in Mexico of democracy in the action universal igation to

Our principal witness the observation by first like to thank assistance but fair, al critic

is not hit Mexi derabl e ind ents

in elections but groups. We sign and for they knew we would And frankly, we groups have

Ob

Many of election obs expressions. unique in common with unique tea

pa ma ear. is ila ach nas

In the les erent politic the opposition tends to exac interpret that as part unintentionally encourages Opposition parties demand accept the results.

only commu ate any sl conspirac

obs bers of go with each or irregularity governing party perceive tactics. ocess and rarely

With little common ground, national election observers are often perceived as partial to the opposition. This has been the concern in Mexico. There are of the observer groups are critical of the government they're capable of performing

developed. Based on these encouraging aspects of our observations, courage, and coordinators and that were throughout the two state well-trained in the state relate to election officials rather extensive forces and the key units of good electoral environment. In many cases, they will enter the casilla.

Our assessment of local observer groups is based on interviews with leaders and with them a detailed evaluation.

However, recognizing the conditions did not permit our view, conclusion. In our view, merit such a conclusion as 30-37% in both Michoacan.

the case of Michoacan, we have not yet identified irregularities in the very difficult to describe the study, and the padron, but it is irregularities to create simply, without proof, as. Moreover, correcting the list

The other issues raised in the by the governing party, the parties, inequitable access to

Chihuahua, and the hoacan that they wor

law system at on deal n. le

oper way ed in the. doc on mentati s worked to observations. To

to discuss and discuss

ob ect ct groups ratio at t do n a di

the observe structure, need been very high given and demographic the PAN in Michoacan between the census? one to the rate of one than. US on tal has have a political proces

the use of state funds eliminate spending between the partiality or directio their resolution would s in other our experiences the election can be meaningful

morning by tradicts th

the essential conditions for
According to the logic of the
stands in the way
vote count is fair

an election did not exist.
atement, the only issue that
Michoacan is whether the in

the Observers can and did play other important roles. During
election campaign in Michoacan, the observers' presence
to be a positive factor that reduced the risk of violence.
la Democracia in Michoacan. The high court by the Consejo para
election-monitoring, and Chihuahua was an example of a state that
to accept the results. The people's demand for a republic has
resources, and the observers' presence is a guarantee of
fair access to a fair election.
the Atlas, they could
establish the accuracy of the vote count

IV. Summary and Conclusion

Were the elections in Michoacan and Chihuahua free and fair?
that is the question you would like
posed to stay for the questions. We did not
judge the elections. To have observed
would need to be there long before the
such large teams have done quickly
all and welcomed by the state
every stage of the
hand this time. And the
elections were

Chihuahua free and fair?
us to answer, you do not
come here to observe or
the elections effectively
elections, to have fielded
s, to have been invi
ave complete access
elections had not

view, the In our Mexico
since positive way 988, and
election climate on day. But
s continue opinion polls to show
and a system of the election. But
of the election. Mexico's
ds of Mexican thousand observers - deter
in the electoral system to ensure that

actor system has opened
are purged by the pacif
opposition parties and public
confidence in the fairness
the most positive element

The local observer groups are new
dedicated and could play a vital role
they are often a vital part of
process that is essential to be
national unity. Such a role may
parties, in deep, and the political
hope the system accountable. We
environment will be created to
this role, and if invited, we
observer groups should

are a vital part of the
if the political process
access to the electo
this and to demonstrate
succeed as civil society
crease their capacity to make
at the legal and political
election observers to play
be prepared to help the