



**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI)/CARTER CENTER
ELECTION OBSERVER DELEGATION TO
PERU'S JUNE 3 PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF ELECTION**

Lima, June 4, 2001

This statement is offered by the joint National Democratic Institute (NDI)/Carter Center international election observer delegation to Peru's June 3, 2001, presidential runoff election. This was the ninth multinational NDI/Carter Center delegation to Peru since November 1999. The delegation, which visited Peru from May 30-June 5, included 35 members from 12 countries and was led by: Madeleine K. Albright, Chairman of NDI and former Secretary of State of the United States; Ramiro de Leon Carpio, former President of Guatemala and current Vice President of Guatemala's Legislative Assembly; Rodrigo Carazo Odio, former President of Costa Rica; and Sam Gejdenson, former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee.

The official results of Peru's June 3 presidential runoff election have not yet been certified. This statement therefore is preliminary in nature. The National Democratic Institute and The Carter Center are planning to send a post-election delegation to Peru and will continue to monitor electoral-related developments through the installation of the new Congress and inauguration of the new President of the Republic. A detailed report on the 2001 election process, including recommendations, will be issued at a later date.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

The June 3 presidential runoff election represents an extraordinary accomplishment in the process of returning Peru to the world community of democracies. We congratulate the government of President Valentin Paniagua, the election authorities, the two candidates for president and, most of all, the people of Peru for their tremendous and continuing efforts in advancing Peru's democratic transition.

Hundreds of thousands of Peruvians helped to ensure the integrity of the election process by participating as election officials, political party pollwatchers and nonpartisan election monitors – as millions of voters went to the polls. The voting and counting processes were peaceful and well organized throughout the country on election day.

Officials from the ONPE (Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales, the authority responsible for organizing the elections), the JNE (Jurado Nacional de Elecciones, the authority with juridical power over the elections) and RENIEC (Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil, the authority responsible for producing voter identification documents and the voter registry) deserve praise for developing a process that earned a high degree of public confidence. Pollwatchers from the two competing political parties, Peru Posible and APRA, worked cooperatively with election officials and election monitors around the country. Transparencia mobilized over 21,000 nonpartisan Peruvian election monitors nationwide and completed a rapid independent vote tabulation that helped instill public

confidence in the election results. The Defensoria del Pueblo also monitored the process throughout the country, and other Peruvian organizations contributed to wide citizen participation in the election process. The police and armed forces remained politically neutral, as did other agencies of government, as required by the constitution, and the news media provided accurate coverage of election day events.

These accomplishments stand out all the more when contrasted to the illegitimate process of last year, which was among the worst ever observed in this hemisphere by NDI and The Carter Center. The legal framework and the pre-election conditions this year, while not without difficulties, established a solid basis for truly democratic elections. Earlier NDI/Carter Center statements expressed concern about negative aspects of the campaign atmosphere and called for an issue-oriented campaign. The delay in officially setting the June 3 election date introduced an unnecessary degree of uncertainty into the process. These and other issues, including minor election day administrative problems, will be addressed along with recommendations in later NDI/Carter Center reports.

Yesterday, the Peruvian people sent a clear message of their desire and determination to establish a government based on a democratic electoral mandate. The statements last night to our delegation and made publicly by the apparent President-elect, Dr. Alejandro Toledo, and candidate and former President, Dr. Alan Garcia, present an important spirit of tolerance and cooperation. Other political leaders also spoke out in that spirit. A crucial challenge and a unique opportunity lie immediately ahead for the newly elected Congress and President to map a course for Peru's political, social and economic development. The dialogue called for by President Paniagua, President of the Council of Ministers Javier Perez de Cuellar and other governmental, political and civic leaders could provide an important basis for approaching that challenge and opportunity. NDI and The Carter Center will continue to monitor developments and to offer our assistance to those working to advance democracy in Peru.

THE DELEGATION AND ITS WORK

NDI and The Carter Center are independent, nongovernmental organizations that have conducted more than 100 impartial pre-election, election-day and post-election observations around the globe. This delegation was invited by the government of Peru and Peruvian civic and political leaders. The delegation included current and former elected officials, political and civic leaders, electoral and human rights experts and Peru specialists. The purpose of the delegation was to demonstrate the continuing interest of the international community in and support for strengthening democratic institutions and processes in Peru and to provide the international community with an accurate and impartial assessment of the Peruvian electoral process.

The delegation conducted its activities in accordance with international standards for nonpartisan international election observation and Peruvian law. NDI and The Carter Center do not seek to interfere in the election process nor, at this juncture, to make a final assessment about the overall process. Our methodology for assessing elections is based on the premise that all aspects of the election process must be considered to accurately understand the nature of the elections. Moreover, elections cannot be separated from the broader political process of which they are a part, and the elections themselves constitute just one step in Peru's

democratic transition. Our two institutions recognize that ultimately it will be the people of Peru who determine the outcome of the election and its meaning for the future of the country.

The delegation held intensive meetings in Lima with a wide range of Peruvian leaders, including: the President of the Republic Valentin Paniagua; President of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Javier Perez de Cuellar; Minister of Women and Human Development Susana Villaran; all of the members of the *Jurado Nacional de Elecciones* (JNE, the National Election Tribunal); the head of the *Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales* (ONPE, the body responsible for electoral administration) Fernando Tuesta; both presidential candidates, Alejandro Toledo, candidate of *Peru Posible*, and Alan Garcia, candidate of *APRA*, and with their parties' General Secretaries; Lourdes Flores Nano and other political leaders; the *Defensoria del Pueblo* (Human Rights Ombudsman's Office); representatives of the news media and public opinion research organizations; civic, business and religious leaders, including leaders of *Transparencia*; the head of the OAS Election Observation Mission in Peru Eduardo Stein; the head of the European Union Election Observation Mission Eva Zetterberg; and other representatives of the international community.

The delegation cooperated closely with the election observation missions of the OAS and European Union, as well as with *Transparencia* and the *Defensoria del Pueblo*. The delegation participated in events organized by *Transparencia* and received invaluable assistance from it in Lima and in the localities where delegates deployed. Delegates divided into teams and were deployed around the country for meetings with governmental, electoral, political and civic leaders in their respective localities. On election day, the teams observed the voting, counting and tabulation processes in 11 of Peru's electoral districts. Delegates then reconvened in Lima to debrief and develop this statement. The delegation expresses its gratitude to all with whom it met and especially to the Peruvian election observers, electoral officials and voters for their warm welcome and cooperation.