



Director of
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Contents

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Latin America: Contadora Marking Time 6

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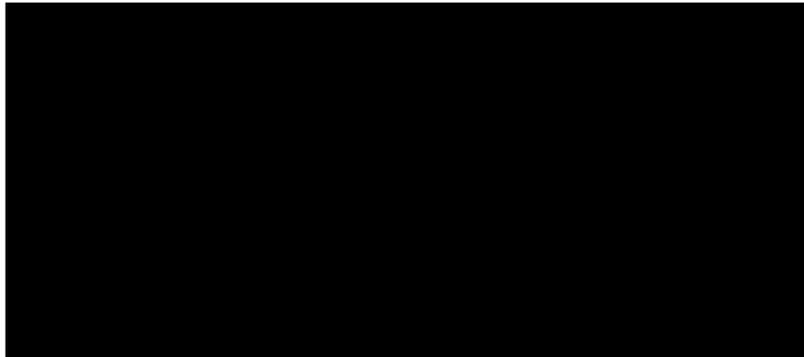
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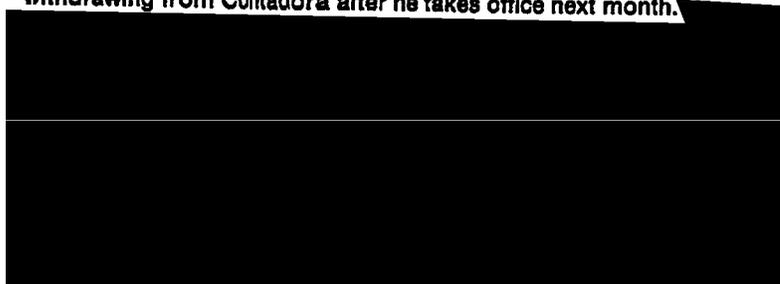
LATIN AMERICA:

Contadora Marking Time

Several players in the Contadora peace process are again working at cross purposes, and no major initiatives are likely soon.



Among the mediators—Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama—Colombian President-elect Barco reportedly is considering withdrawing from Contadora after he takes office next month.



Comment: The Central American democracies are likely to resist pressure for bilateral talks as an effort to divide them. They also believe that control of the peace process now lies in Central America and want to hold on to the initiative.

It is unclear whether Barco will withdraw Colombia from the process, but, even if he does, other Contadora countries, especially Mexico, might see such a development as an opportunity to revamp the negotiations.

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