

## **EL SALVADOR**

**Date of Elections:** 31 March 1985

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in the Legislative Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of El Salvador, the Legislative Assembly, comprises 60 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who are at least 18 years of age, except for members of the armed and security forces, are entitled to vote for members of the Legislative Assembly. Voting is not compulsory.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On 4 December 1984, the election date was set for 17 March 1985. The poll was subsequently postponed to 31 March. It was combined with voting for municipal officials.

During the two-month campaign, debate centered on proposed economic reforms, solutions to the country's five-year-old civil war, and on the policies of President of the Republic Jose Napoleon Duarte (in office since June 1984). Besides President Duarte's Christian Democratic Party (PDC), main contenders for the 60 Assembly seats were the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), led by Major Robert D'Aubuisson, and the National Conciliation Party (PCN), which together formed a right-wing coalition.

On a relatively calm polling day, the centrist PDC gained a somewhat unexpected victory, capturing 33 seats and thus replacing the right-wing groups as the majority party in the Legislative Assembly. The conservative parties complained of fraudulent voting practices and called for an annulment of the results.

The newly-elected Parliament held its first session on 1 May. President Duarte announced changes in the Cabinet on 27 May, with effect from 1 June.

**Statistics**

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Legislative Assembly*

Voters . . . . .	.1,101,606
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	.136,375
Valid votes. . . . .	.965,231

Political Group	of Votes obtained	^ " ^
Christian Democratic Party (PDC) . . .	54	33
Nationalist Republican Alliance . . .	)	
(ARENA). . . . .	29 V	25
National Conciliation Party (PCN) . . .	8 J	
Others. . . . .	9	2