

## Political Parties Prepare their Electoral Strategies

President Miguel de la Madrid has rightly called 1987 a "political year". From January on, all the officially-registered parties have been gathering their forces for the 1988 Presidential elections. Eight of them are getting ready to take part: the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Mexican Socialist Party (PMS), Revolutionary Worker's Party (PRT), Mexican Democrat Party (PDM), Socialist Worker's Party (PST), Popular Socialist Party (PPS) and the Authentic Mexican Revolution Party (PARM).

The governing PRI adopted its election policy at its March National Assembly, which was attended by two ex-presidents, Luis Echeverría and José López Portillo. The so-called PRI Democratizing Tendency has called for changes in the party's presidential candidate selection procedures.

The PAN, chief right-wing opposition party, will elect its presidential candidate at its

October national convention. The approach of the elections has unleashed severe faction-fighting in PAN ranks, with challenges offered to the legitimacy of newly-elected party president Luis H. Alvarez, ex-mayor of Chihuahua

City.

On the left, a new party, the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS), is in the process of formation, product of the amalgamation of two registered parties, the United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) and the Mexican Worker's Party (PMT), with three unregistered organizations, the Left Communist Union (UIC), the Patriotic Revolutionary Party (PPR) and the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP). The fusion was announced at the end of March, and the new party plans to hold its constituent congress in October. It remains to be seen whether the Trotskyite PRT will form an electoral coalition with the PMS or run its own presidential candidate.

Among other parties, only the PST has shown signs of change, but not precisely on electoral issues. The party is locked in a power struggle involving two factions mutually accusing each other of "betraying founding principles". Neither the PPS nor the PARM has made important announcements over the past few months. Probably they will not contest the presidential election, opting, as usual, to support the PRI candidate. Meanwhile, the right-wing PDM has recently ratified as leader ex-presidential candidate Ignacio González Gollaz. No changes there, either. ★

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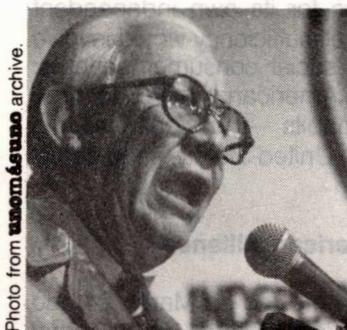
## Legislative Elections

PARTY	1973		1976		1979		1982	
	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%
PAN (National Action Party)	2,207,069	14.70	1,359,384	8.47	1,490,486	10.73	3,631,660	17.53
PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)	10,458,618	69.67	12,869,058	80.19	9,699,445	69.83	14,350,021	69.27
PPS (Popular Socialist Party)	541,833	3.61	493,590	3.07	357,500	2.57	393,227	1.90
PARM (Authentic Mexican Revolution Party)	272,339	1.82	405,640	2.52	251,627	1.81	282,229	1.36
PCM-PSUM (Mexican Communist Party United Socialist Party of Mexico)					690,537	4.97	905,058	4.37
PST (Socialist Worker's Party)					294,732	2.12	370,244	1.79
PDM (Mexican Democrat Party)					284,104	2.04	473,362	2.07
PRT (Revolutionary Worker's Party)							264,153	1.27
PSD (Social Democrat Party)							38,994	0.19
Others	36,858	0.25	46,121	0.28	9,500	0.06	53	0.04
Informal	1,493,267	9.95	872,928	5.43	810,572	5.83	8,359	0.04
TOTAL	15,009,984	100.00	16,046,721	100.00	13,888,513	100	20,717,360	100.00

From the book *Las elecciones en México: evolución y perspectivas*.



President Miguel de la Madrid addressing PRI's thirteenth National Assembly in March.



Heberto Castillo, Mexican Workers' Party leader.



Luis H. Alvarez, PAN president.

### Votes for the PRI and Other Parties in Presidential Elections

YEAR	PRI VOTES (MILLIONS)		OTHER PARTIES (MILLIONS)	
	(MILLIONS)	%	(MILLIONS)	%
1964	8.40	89.0	1.0	11.0
1970	11.90	85.8	2.0	14.2
1976	16.77	93.6	1.1	6.4
1982	16.75	71.0	6.8	29.0

From the book *Las elecciones en México: evolución y perspectivas*

### Abstention Rates in Mexican Presidential Elections 1964-1982

YEAR	GENERAL ABSTENTIONISM		REAL ABSTENTIONISM	
	ABSOLUTE (MILLIONS)	RELATIVE %	ABSOLUTE (MILLIONS)	REAL %
1964	8.0	46.0	4.2	30.6
1970	8.7	38.3	7.6	35.0
1976	9.9	35.5	8.0	31.0
1982	12.1	33.9	7.9	25.2