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\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

**Young Salvadoran & Nicaraguan Leaders to Visit Lansing & St. Joseph, Michigan;  
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – From October 18-19, 2007, a delegation of eight young political leaders from Nicaragua and El Salvador will visit Lansing and St. Joseph, Michigan, as part of a ten day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and funded by the U.S. Department of State. The delegates kicked off their program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. and will also visit Houston, Texas, before heading home. During their stay in Michigan they will be hosted by ACYPL alumni, including State Representatives Bill Huizenga, R- Zeeland, and Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, in Lansing and Berrien County Circuit Court Judge Charles LaSata in St. Joseph. ACYPL first began exchanging delegations with El Salvador and Nicaragua in the early 1980s and renewed its exchanges with both countries in 2000.

**Who:** Members of this ACYPL delegation include:

**El Salvador**

- Ms. Marta Evelyn Batres Araujo (ARENA - National Republican Alliance) - Political Advisor, Salvadoran Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Ricardo Bladimir Gonzalez (FMLN - Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional) - Member, Salvadoran Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Guillermo Antonio Olivo Méndez (FMLN - Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional) - Member, Salvadoran Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Luis Eduardo Quiñonez Alas (ARENA - National Republican Alliance) - San Salvador Director, Youth Wing of the National Republican Alliance

**Nicaragua**

- Ms. Luz Esther Garcia Talavera (FSLN - Frente Sandinista Liberación Nacional) - León Municipal Development Committee
- Mr. Francisco Javier Jarquin Urbina (ALN - Alianza Liberal Nicaragüense) - Member, Nicaraguan National Assembly
- Ms. Pastora del Socorro Perez Salinas (PLC - Partido Liberal Constitucionalista) - Mayor, City of Diriomo
- Mr. Jose Ramon Sarria Morales (FSLN - Frente Sandinista Liberación Nacional) - Member, National Assembly

**What:** Program highlights will include:

- Meetings with members of the Michigan state legislature and members of the Michigan Supreme Court, including Justice Stephen Markman, a 1986 ACYPL delegate to the USSR; and
- Tours of the Michigan State Capitol, St. Joseph City Hall, the Berrien County Courthouse and Jail, the corporate headquarters of the Whirlpool Corporation and General Motors' Lansing Delta Township (LDT) Assembly Plant.

**When:** October 18, 2007 (Lansing) / October 19, 2007 (St. Joseph)

**Why:** The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Give them a new perspective on American culture; and
- Allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

***About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)***

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members

of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-349-4060 x1201 OR [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org).

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