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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Young Salvadoran & Nicaraguan Leaders Wind Up Political Exchange in Houston;
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – From October 20-23, 2007, a delegation of eight young, Nicaraguan and Salvadoran political leaders will visit Houston as part of a two week 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 arrive in Texas on the heels of stops in Lansing and St. Joseph, Michigan. While in the Houston area, they will be hosted by Texas State Representative Ana Hernandez, D-Houston, a 2006 ACYPL delegate to Turkey. 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:

- Attending the Harris County Democratic Party “Johnson-Rayburn-Richards Dinner” on October 20, 2007.
- Meetings with Harris County Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, members of the Houston City Council, former Texas State Representative Debra Danburg and officials from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the Port Of Houston Authority, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) and the American Cancer Society; and
- Observing a meeting of the Harris County Commissioner's Court.

When: October 20-23, 2007

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.

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