

WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS
Western Hemisphere Affairs
Washington, DC

- The Honorable John F. Maisio
United States Permanent Representative to the
Organization of American States
Washington, DC

Panel 2

- Dr. Jennifer McCoy
Director of the Americas Program
Carter Center
Atlanta Georgia
- Mr. Jose M. Vivanco
Executive Director
Americas Division
Human Rights Watch
Washington, DC
- Mr. Miguel Diaz
Director
Americas Program (MERCOSUR/South America)
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Washington, DC
- Mr. Roger Tissot
Director of Markets and Countries Group
Latin America
PFC Energy
Washington, DC
- Dr. Mark Weisbrot
Co-Director
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Washington, DC

Witness names in blue are links to the statement given.

1 any kind of harassment or intimidation we denounce.

2 Senator Nelson: You have clearly seen the newspaper
3 reports about the question of the new voting machines. What,
4 if anything, will the Carter organization do as you try to
5 monitor the fairness of these elections? And mind you, I come
6 from a State that is very sensitive about the accuracy of
7 voting machines.

8 Dr. McCoy: Well, my State Georgia is the first State in
9 the country to use voting machines throughout the State, and I
10 was very happy with them in the last process that I
11 participated in.

12 On these particular machines, the Smartmatic machines, I
13 personally went and an entire team, including an engineer and
14 a statistician, some technical people on our team, to receive
15 a full presentation of the machine. I have been trying to
16 check into them as much as possible. We were very impressed
17 with the presentation we received, the security measures that
18 were shown to us, and the functioning of the machine that we
19 witnessed.

20 However, just as in the United States, the same
21 controversies and concerns about the black box of the computer
22 exists in Venezuela, those questions. So a very important
23 process is having the paper trail, the paper receipts, which
24 are provided by these machines. It is my understanding that
25 the National Electoral Council has decided to carry out an

1 audit on the evening of the vote, after the vote is completed
2 of a sample of the machines that would count the paper trails
3 and compare those with the results, which is definitely our
4 recommendation. That I think is very important to bring
5 confidence and transparency to the process.

6 Senator Nelson: Well, if Venezuela pulls that off, the
7 State of Florida is not even doing that with a paper trail.
8 So maybe Venezuela will teach Florida something.

9 [Laughter.]

10 Dr. McCoy: I hope so.

11 Senator Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Senator Coleman: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Thank you,
13 Dr. McCoy.

14 Mr. Vivanco.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25