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The San Juan Star

COLECCION DE REVISTAS Y PERIODICOS
NO CIRCULA FUERA DE LA SALA

Virgin Islands 65¢

Monday, June 11, 1990

Daily 30¢

Fujimori wins runoff in Peru

Plebiscite, AIDS central issues N.Y. celebrates Puerto Rican Day

By SAMUEL RENE QUIÑONES
Special to the STAR

NEW YORK — The off-island Puerto Rican plebiscite vote and the Commonwealth's handling of AIDS took center stage Sunday when more than 50,000 people marched in the largest Puerto Rican Day parade ever.

Organizers estimate more than 1 million people turned out for the Fifth Avenue event, including 32 island mayors, top Puerto Rico lawmakers and dozens of New York Puerto Rican politicians and community leaders.

New York Mayor David Dinkins also attended, as did musicians Wilkins, Willie Colón and Tito Puente, among others.

City Councilman José Rivera captured the feeling of many New York Puerto Ricans with a large banner that read, "We are Puerto Ricans, too. If there's no absentee vote, there's no plebiscite."

The Coalition of Hispanic Gays and Lesbians focused attention on AIDS, carrying placards denouncing Gov. Hernández Colón and Cardinal Luis Aponte Martínez for failing to adequately address the epidemic.

Some posters blasted the governor for allocating too little money for AIDS treatment and prevention, while others rapped the cardinal's opposition to condom advertisements.

"The Coqui Uses Condoms," said one banner carried by a member of the estimated 300-member contingent.

Crowds also cheered loudly for a group of Puerto Rican members of the New York State National Guard, who dressed in fatigues and

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AP Laserphoto
An enthusiastic crowd watching the annual Puerto Rican Day parade waves flags in front of the Soldiers and Sailors monument along Fifth Avenue Sunday in New York.

President-elect vows to resolve national crisis

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Alberto Fujimori, a politician unknown four months ago, soundly defeated celebrated novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in a presidential runoff Sunday and promised to improve the economy of this bankrupt nation. Vargas Llosa conceded defeat. He wished Fujimori success in trying to turn the country around, fight drug trafficking and battle a decade-old guerrilla insurgency.

Voting took place despite a wave of attacks in the Andean region by Maoist guerrillas who had vowed to sabotage the balloting. At least one voter was killed.

Exit polls gave Fujimori, 51, an agricultural engineer and former university rector, a 13-to-19 point lead.

The projections "give us overwhelming support," Fujimori said at a news conference two hours after polls closed. He invited all political parties to participate in his government in areas where agreements could be reached.

He said he recognized the "titanic task" of governing Peru and invited all political parties to participate in his government in areas where agreements could be reached.

Fujimori said his government would stress economic development over military and police repression as the best way to fight both leftist subversion and cocaine trafficking.

He did not indicate where the money would come from for economic development. The treasury is running a \$100 million current deficit, and the nation has a \$20 billion foreign debt.

Before 1,000 supporters outside his campaign headquarters, Vargas Llosa conceded, wishing Fujimori "success in the difficult responsibility the Peruvian people have placed on him."

"Respectful of democratic traditions, I accept the decision of the Peruvian people."

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people."

Vargas Llosa's chief political aide, Alfredo Barnechea, called it a protest vote.

"It has not been a vote for a political program but a vote to stop Mario Vargas Llosa," Barnechea said after the televised projections were released.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, was vying with the center-right Vargas Llosa to replace populist Alan García, whose five-year term ends July 28. García, leader of the Aprista Party, is ineligible to serve a consecutive term.

The election comes as Peru is weathering its worst economic crisis of the century. The impoverished Andean nation also is being bloodied by the savage, leftist insurgency that has claimed nearly 20,000 lives.

The independent polling firm Apoyo gave Fujimori 51.1 percent to 37.8 percent for Vargas Llosa, with 11.1 percent blank and null votes. POP, another independent polling firm, showed Fujimori with 56 percent and Vargas Llosa 36.5 percent. POP put blank and null votes at 7.5 percent.

Both firms based their projections on 100 percent of the vote nationwide. Both firms said their surveys had a 3 percent margin of error.

The polls closed at 3 p.m. local time. Official returns were not expected for at least three weeks because of poor communication with mountain and jungle regions.

Nearly 10 million Peruvians are registered to vote, and the law requires them to cast ballots.

As the polls opened Sunday morning, armored helicopters crisscrossed Lima's sunny skies. Tanks and troop carriers patrolled the streets of the capital, home to a third of Peru's 22 million people.



Alberto Fujimori waves to supporters in Lima after casting his vote during Sunday's presidential runoff against Mario Vargas Llosa.

AP Laserphoto

The Shining Path guerrillas, a Maoist group, bombed a polling station and killed at least one voter in Huancayo, a rebel stronghold in the Andes mountains, reporters there said.

Guerrillas exploded at least nine other bombs in the city 120 miles east of Lima, police said.

Four dead men with gunshot wounds were brought into the city morgue in Huancayo. Police said they had no information on who killed them.

Guerrillas also exploded dynamite at six other locations in Huancayo. No one was reported hurt in the other attacks, but rebel threats crippled transportation in three other mountain cities.

Last week, the rebels unleashed a wave of attacks in Lima, including two car bombs within 24 hours near the government palace.

Vargas Llosa, 54, ran on a free-market platform. He pledged harsh austerity measures to revive Peru's moribund economy and ease hyperinflation, running at 2,000 percent annually.

Fujimori, is an independent like Vargas Llosa. He called for food subsidies and price controls and attacked Vargas Llosa's proposal for an economic "shock" program.

Support for Vargas Llosa and Fujimori was deeply divided along class and geographical lines, polls indicated.

Vargas Llosa was favored to win the April 8 first round, but Fujimori's popularity surged in the final days and he took a close second in the field of nine candidates. He forced a runoff by denying Vargas Llosa a majority vote.

Some pollsters said voters were inclined to cast a vote based on their opposition to one of the candidates.

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carried Puerto Rican flags aboard trucks equipped with cannons.

Many of the Popular Democratic Party leaders carried flags that read Commonwealth, while a delegation led by the New Progressive Party's Bayamón Mayor Ramón Luis Rivera waved a banner that said "Statehood Now."

In interviews Sunday, politicians from the island and New York unanimously agreed that off-island Puerto Ricans should have some degree of participation in the proposed 1991 status plebiscite.

But they disagreed over whether the vote should be extended only to U.S. citizens born in Puerto Rico or should also include children of Puerto Rican parents whatever their birthplace.

Watching the parade near the Plaza Hotel, New York-born Noel García called for an ample vote for all Puerto Ricans.

"Even if I was born here, I have a right to vote," García said. "The plebiscite defines more than island status. It also defines my status in American society."

However, at least two PDP leaders from Puerto Rico suggested a more limited absentee vote.

Senate Vice President Miguel Deynes Soto, PDP-Mayaguez, and House Majority Leader Presby Santiago, PDP-Sabana Grande, endorsed a vote only for U.S. citizens born in Puerto Rico, citing problems in logistics and verification for a more ample vote.

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer said he has called a meeting of mainland Puerto Rican leaders June 21 in New York to discuss the plebiscite in

preparation for June 25 status hearings in the city by a key House subcommittee.

Ferrer said he favors the "widest possible participation" of mainland Puerto Ricans in the status process, but his main concern is that the plebiscite bill require Congress to implement the winning status option.

The parade started shortly after noon and lasted more than six hours under sunny skies with temperatures reaching the mid 80s. At least two Hispanic TV networks carried portions of the event live.

Marching Sunday were contingents of Puerto Rican employees from numerous New York city and state government agencies. Corporations — including ATT, Goya and Coors beer — helped sponsor some floats.

At the parade's reviewing stand, Mayor Dinkins took advantage of the event to call for harmony in a city recently plagued by racial and ethnic violence.

He referred to Puerto Ricans as part of "the gorgeous mosaic of New York."

The Puerto Rican vote in New York was said to have been key to Dinkins' election last year.

Visiting Puerto Rico officials, some of whom attended on public money, justified the expense for their trips, claiming that the show of Puerto Rican unity was priceless.

"You can't measure the value of this Puerto Rican affirmation in terms of dollars and cents," said Cayey Mayor Junior Oquendo.



Salsa great Tito Puente adds to the festive atmosphere Sunday by playing in the annual Puerto Rican Day parade along Fifth Avenue in New York Sunday

AP Laserphoto