



NEWS RELEASE

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IAF's New President Begins

ARLINGTON, Va—Veteran diplomat and statesman Ambassador Larry L. Palmer yesterday became the seventh president of the Inter-American Foundation, a U.S. government foreign assistance agency supporting grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Amb. Palmer entered the Foreign Service in 1982. He became U.S. Ambassador to Honduras in 2002 and also worked in Quito, Ecuador, as Chargé d'Affaires and as Deputy Chief of Mission starting in August 1999. In the Dominican Republic, he served as vice consul from 1982 to 1984, and performed as a personnel officer in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Asuncion, Paraguay, from 1984 to 1986.

In 1989, Amb. Palmer became a Pearson Fellow, assisting the president of the University of Texas at El Paso to advance the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Amb. Palmer also served as personnel officer in Seoul, Korea, from 1991 to 1994, and later served as counselor for administration in the Dominican Republic from 1994 to 1998.

Born in Augusta, GA, Amb. Palmer graduated from Emory University (B.A., 1970) and completed his graduate training at Texas Southern University (M.Ed., African History, 1973) and Indiana University Bloomington (Ed. D., Higher Education Administration and African Studies, 1978).

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Amb. Palmer was a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia, West Africa (1971-1973); assistant director of financial aid at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville (1973-1974); professor of history at Cuttington College in Suakoko, Liberia (1974-1976); and at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, NC (1978-1981).

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Congress created the IAF in 1969 as an alternative to traditional government-to-government assistance. It provides assistance directly to poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is the only U.S. Government foreign assistance agency financing self-help projects designed by local community organizations. Since 1971, the IAF has funded more than \$571 million in over 4,500 projects in 32 countries. For more information about the IAF, please visit its Web site at <www.iaf.gov>.

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