Labor dispute shuts down West Coast ports

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Vicente Fox's administration said Wednesday his victory in the presidential election was solid and unassailable because it had gathered more than 11 million votes, including from opposition areas.

"The margin is large, the opposition has not contested the result and the Christian Democratic Party, which has a tradition of winning, has obtained 25 percent of the vote," Fox told a news conference.

The president said the results of the Nov. 1 presidential election have given him the mandate needed to implement his reformist agenda and solve the country's economic and social problems.

Fox, who has been in power since 2000, said his government will continue working to implement the reforms he has promised, including education, health care, pension reform and tax increases.

"I count on all of you to join me in this task," he said.

Fox also said his administration will continue to work with the United States to improve relations between the two countries.

"We have a common interest in fighting against crime and drug trafficking, and we will continue to work together to achieve this goal," he said.

The president also thanked the international community for its support.

"I want to thank the people of the world for their support," he said.

Fox's victory was widely expected after his campaign promised to transform Mexico, reduce crime and corruption, and improve living standards for all citizens.

"The results are a clear victory for our country and our people," he added.

The president also said he would continue to work with the International Monetary Fund to implement economic reforms and reduce the country's budget deficit.

"I want to thank the International Monetary Fund for its continued support," he said.

The results of the presidential election were announced Wednesday, with Fox winning with more than 11 million votes, according to the National Electoral Institute.

The candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who has been in power since 1929, won a clear majority with 36 percent of the vote, while his closest rival, the candidate of the National Action Party (PAN), won 25 percent.

The PRI has controlled Mexico for most of the past century, and its loss in the presidential election was seen as a major defeat for the party and its leaders.

"This is a historic moment for Mexico," Fox said.

"We have won the presidency and we have the mandate to govern," he added.

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