

**INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS
GROUP— EVENING MEETING
APRIL 20, 1988**

AMOS SALVADOR—Biographical Sketch



Amos Salvador is currently Professor of Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, a position he assumed September 1, 1980, after retiring from Exxon Company, U.S.A. He had been Chief Geologist his last eight years with Exxon.

Dr. Salvador was born in Madrid, Spain. He completed his undergraduate work at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, and received his Ph.D. at

Stanford University in 1950.

His first professional assignments included surface and regional geological work for Gulf in various countries of South America, North Africa and Europe. In 1955, he joined Exxon in Venezuela and since then held a number of professional and managerial positions with that organization, including Vice President of Exploration Research with Jersey Production Research Company in Tulsa, Manager of the Geological Department of Creole Petroleum Corporation in Caracas, Manager of Humble's Gulf Coast Exploration Division, Executive Vice President of Esso Production Research Company and Chief Geologist of Exxon Company, U.S.A., the last three assignments in Houston.

Dr. Salvador has for many years been interested in the geology of the Gulf of Mexico Basin and the Caribbean, and has devoted most of his research activities at the University of Texas to these areas.

CARIBBEAN TECTONICS - FACTS AND FANTASY

A currently-accepted interpretation of the tectonic history of the Caribbean favors the idea that the so-called Caribbean plate is a fragment of the Pacific that has progressively wedged itself between the North American and South American plates during the last 40 to 50 million years. This interpretation would require very large horizontal displacement along the northern and southern boundaries of the plate. While there is evidence of large horizontal displacement between the North American and Caribbean plates, particularly along the Cayman Trough, evidence of comparably large displacement between the Caribbean and South American plates is not evident.

East-west-striking transcurrent faults have been recognized onshore and offshore in northern Venezuela and Colombia, but present evidence indicates that their horizontal displacement is not of the required magnitude. There is, on the other hand, considerable evidence of NNW-SSE compressive deformation and NW-SE right-lateral transcurrent displacement in northern Venezuela and the southern Caribbean.

An alternative interpretation of the tectonic history of the Caribbean which better agrees with the available geological and geophysical evidence needs to be developed.