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CIA has limited rebel control in Nicaragua

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reagan administration officials say the limits of CIA control over the rebels it backs in Nicaragua have been made evident by Honduras' charges that the rebels have murdered political dissidents in Honduras.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the Honduran allegations caught the CIA off guard. They said rebel leaders had assured the CIA a key military officer allegedly implicated in the abuses had been expelled two years ago from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

The U.S.-backed force, known in Nicaragua by its Spanish initials, FDN, has been fighting for four years to overthrow the leftist Sandanista government in Nicaragua.

U.S. officials expressed surprise last week when informed that, according to statements from two rebel leaders, the officer, Col. Ricardo "Chino" Lau, had not been purged but at least until last year was still with the rebel group.

"If Lau was there after January 1983, it was clearly deceptive," said one official familiar with U.S. efforts to rid the FDN of Lau and other National Guard officers who fought for longtime dictator Anastasio Somoza before his overthrow in 1979.

The official said FDN leaders, opposed to the purge, apparently decided to "fool the gringos" by shifting Lau from a public to a secret position.

Another official said the incident showed that while the CIA had direct command and control over certain operations, such as the mining of Nicaragua's harbors, the agency had only limited influence over the FDN's internal operations.

One U.S. official said the CIA began pressing FDN leaders to oust Lau in September 1982 and was assured by rebel leaders that Lau was removed in January 1983. The official said the CIA was then told that Lau was hired by Alvarez to run a secret Honduran "counter-intelligence" unit.

But that timing conflicts with a statement by FDN president Adolfo Calero, published in The New York Times on April 12, 1984, in which Calero said he had received Lau's resignation several weeks before — more than a year after the CIA was told Lau had left.

But Chamorro said even the 1984 departure date is incorrect.

Congress cut off covert CIA funding for the Nicaraguan rebels last year, but President Reagan is expected to push for new assistance after the congressional ban expires Feb. 28.



Read It, Ags

Aggies at the A&M — Houston basketball game Sunday hold up newspapers while the Cougar lineup is announced — all except

one guy caught peeking under his paper. When the Aggie players were introduced, the papers were thrown into the air.

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Chernenko reported to be ill

Associated Press

LONDON — British newspapers reported Sunday that Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko is being treated in the intensive care unit of a private Kremlin hospital, and may relinquish power because of deteriorating health.

Western diplomats contacted by The Associated Press in Moscow said

they had not heard any such reports, although most said they believe Chernenko, 73, is ailing.

The Sunday Times quoted "unofficial reports" as saying Chernenko, who has not been seen in public since Dec. 27, will become the first Soviet leader to step down voluntarily.

Another newspaper, The Ex-

press, carried a report that said Chernenko "has become so ill he may be forced to resign." The newspapers did not say what their sources were, or how they obtained their information.

The Sunday Times said the ruling Politburo already has approved a plan to replace Chernenko with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, 53.

Shuttle ends secret flight

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After three days of operations high above Earth, Discovery came home Sunday from America's first manned military space mission. It left behind a superspy satellite to tune in on sensitive Soviet communications.

Viewers at the Kennedy Space Center could see the shuttle as only a glinting speck in the sun for five minutes before it touched down. When the craft rolled to a stop, applause broke out. Touchdown was at 4:23 p.m.

Like everything else about the mission, the route of the shuttle's return was kept secret to deny the Soviet Union information that would tell it about the satellite, called SigInt (signal intelligence).

In the last few minutes of flight, Mission Control announced the shuttle was crossing the Louisiana coast, moving across the Gulf of Mexico and crossing central Florida to the landing site.

Navy Capt. Thomas K. Mattingly, commander of the shuttle's all-military crew, was ordered to bring the ship home after three days of flight, apparently because weather condi-

tions for a landing Monday at the Kennedy Space Center were deteriorating.

NASA said there was nothing wrong with ship or crew.

The Sunday return was a surprise at the oceanside launch center. Although the mission duration was never announced, it was believed the shuttle would stay up another day, possibly two.

However, the mission's primary objective had been achieved in the first 10 hours of flight. The satellite, according to sources, was released from the shuttle's cargo bay about 7 a.m. Friday.

The successful use of the heavy-lift rocket booster, called IUS for inertial upper stage, was good news for its manufacturer, Boeing Aerospace, as well as for NASA and the Air Force.

NASA and the Air Force have never confirmed reports from other sources that Discovery's cargo was an advanced spy satellite, the first of a new generation, capable of intercepting radio, radio-telephone and digital communications from ground and space.

Regents prepare for proposed cuts

By SARAH OATES

Staff Writer

Texas A&M University already has trimmed its budget in anticipation of more severe cuts during the coming year, President Frank Vandiver told the Board of Regents Friday.

The University's \$192 million budget has been reduced by two percent for the remainder of the fiscal year ending in August. Vandiver said the cuts include a hiring freeze, tightening the publications budget, reducing recruitment funds and the number of minority scholarships and streamlining academic programs.

Vandiver said the savings from the cuts will be applied to next year's budget, which he said will be smaller.

The 20 percent cut in A&M's budget proposed in December by the Legislative Budget Board is a chance for the University to become a more streamlined operation, Vandiver said.

"We've developed a scheme for a leaner, more efficient and economical way of running A&M," Vandiver said. "We're already off and running on this. We've already begun saving."

The plan to cut A&M's publications budget by \$100,000 includes "throwing out anything not state mandated," Vandiver said. All publications not required by law must be submitted for the president's approval. The graduate and undergraduate catalogs, formerly provided for free, will in the future be sold to students.

The Board passed a resolution stating no vacant positions will be filled or new positions created without the approval of System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen. Hiring of new employees also must be approved by Vandiver.

Vandiver said all construction and renovation will be deferred and equipment purchases will be reduced. The resolution also required all purchases over \$1,000 be submitted for the chancellor's approval.

Travel expenses, program renovations and overtime pay have been cut. Vandiver also said he wants to emphasize a campus energy conservation program.

Hansen referred to the "shock and trauma" of the LBB's proposal, expressing again his commitment to

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Abortion: a moral issue with no answer in sight

Editor's note: This is the first article in a three-part series on abortion.

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD

Staff Writer

America is searching within itself for the true dividing line between personal freedom and murder.

In the more than 12 years since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law banning abortions, the controversy has spread across the nation.

It places the President of the United States and the Supreme Court on opposite sides; it results in fire bombings of abortion and family planning clinics; it is grounds for candlelight vigils, mock funerals and protection of clinics by voluntary guards.

It even touches the usually quiet Texas A&M campus.

The Jan. 22 anti-abortion mock funeral outside Rudder Tower is a

symptom of the growing abortion controversy.

Perhaps the only common ground in the battle over abortion is the shared hope that unwanted pregnancies will end.

Planned Parenthood of Brazos County does not provide abortion services, but it will refer patients to others who do. Clinic Director Sally Miller says the demand for their services and abortions continues to grow.

"When we started out, the majority of our patients were college students or in some way related to the University," Miller says. "If not students, then student wives. Easily 90 percent of our patients were students. Since then about 70 percent are students — maybe less than that."

Brazos County's population soared from almost 58,000 in 1970 to almost 94,000 in 1980.

"Our community continues to grow," Miller says. "So there has to be proportional amount of child-bearing age people in that growth. The need for services like this will grow."

Although the clinic has not been threatened, five non-Planned Parenthood clinics in Houston have been bombed since March 1984. Nationally 30 clinics have been firebombed since May 1982.

West Loop Clinic Director Ortega Evcil says a Molotov cocktail heavily damaged that Houston clinic in September. No prosecutions have been made in the case and no extra precautions added to the building.

"We feel like there is nothing we can really do," says Evcil. "How do you protect yourself against a bomb?"

Life Advocates' Communications Director Diane Rinn denies that any

pro-life groups are responsible for the violence.

"No responsible pro-life group could condone the bombings," she says. "We fight through respectable means. These bombings are an effort to divert attention to the real butchery that goes on inside. That violence is the little babies being ripped apart."

Rinn believes other clinic owners, women who have had abortions and the fathers of the aborted fetuses may be responsible for the attacks. She approves of demonstrators outside clinics attempting to dissuade women from entering the clinic.

Peter Durkin, executive director for Planned Parenthood of Houston, does not.

"The anti-abortion people who do it call it 'sidewalk counseling.' I call it harassment," Durkin says. "They make no distinction between the woman who is coming in for educa-

tion services, counseling, family planning or her annual Pap Smear versus those who come in here for a first trimester termination."

Planned Parenthood of Houston only performs abortions at their clinic on Fannin Street. Only 4 percent of that clinic's services in 1983 were abortions. Durkin says the clinic has erected a fence to protect the parking lot, coordinated patrols with the police department, hired a security service and expanded an escort service for those patients entering the clinic.

The number of patients handled by the Fannin Street Clinic rose 7 percent between 1983 and 1984, but the actual number of abortions handled decreased. Durkin attributes the decline to an aging population and other clinics providing abortions, rather than to the effect of the picketing.

In a recent ABC "Nightline" in-

terview, Nellie Gray, president of March for Life, ruled out the possibility of compromise saying, "We are not giving any of these babies to the abortionists at all."

Lynn McCoy of the National Organization for Women says the group will continue its nightly watches at some area clinics. McCoy says the group rotates the clinics they watch to confuse potential attackers. NOW is co-sponsoring an escort service for women entering the clinics.

Texas State Senators Bob McFarland, R-Arlington, and John Sharp, D-Victoria, have proposed a bill that would place new restrictions on women who seek abortions. The bill would require parental consent for teenagers, a ban on public funding for hospitals that perform abortions, notification of a woman's husband in some circumstances and licensing of abortion clinics by the state.