

Panel is used as an 'image tool'

# Nicaraguan granted asylum

WASHINGTON — An official of Nicaragua's government-operated human rights commission has secretly defected to the United States, accusing Sandinista authorities of refusing to allow his office to investigate most abuses in that country, according to U.S. government documents.

Mateo Guerrero, former executive director of Nicaragua's National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, told U.S. interrogators after his defection that Sandinista officials increasingly view the panel as a tool to improve Nicaragua's image abroad.

The commission was established

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five years ago as an autonomous government agency.

Guerrero went to Miami four months ago, telling Nicaraguan authorities he wanted to go there for English lessons, U.S. sources said Tuesday. Once in Miami, he requested and was granted political asylum.

A four-page U.S. government summary of the story he told U.S.

officials, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, included the following allegations:

- The commission, established in 1980 for the purpose of investigating human rights abuses, has come gradually under the control of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, which has tried to convert the office into a government propaganda arm.
- The ministry's secretary gen-

eral, Alejandro Bendana, has monitored the commission's activities since late 1983. Early this year, he told commission leaders not to investigate allegations of abuses concerning the forced relocation of several communities in northern Nicaragua.

- When two U.S. lawyers visited Nicaragua last year to investigate abuses by anti-communist rebels, the commission paid their three-month hotel bill, totaling \$2,777, and provided them with office space and transportation.
- Of the nine commissioners appointed in 1983, six place the political goals of the Sandinista government above the human rights interests of the commission.

# New tax proposal may spur migration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Texas could see a migration from its cities to its suburbs, cuts in local government services of as much as \$310 million and a drop in local bond ratings if the federal deduction for state and local taxes is eliminated, according to a group that is against the Reagan administration proposal.

The Coalition Against Double

Taxation, a group of government, business and labor officials, commissioned an economic study of Reagan's new tax proposals.

Under the Reagan administration proposal to simplify the federal tax code, some deductions would be eliminated, but the overall tax rate would be reduced.

Elimination of the state and local tax deduction might appear a bene-

fit to a low-tax state like Texas because it could draw businesses and wealthy individuals away from high-tax states. But the study contends the disadvantages outweigh the benefits.

The average Texan who itemized and took the state and local tax deduction saved \$404 in 1982, according to the report.

The report said 42.4 percent of Texans itemize deductions and estimated that 99 percent of itemizing taxpayers take the state and local tax deductions.

If a mean figure of 15 percent is used, Texas could lose up to \$310 million in state and local services backed by currently deductible taxes, the study said.

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