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LEVEL 1 - 34 OF 45 STORIES

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A Texas firm accused of recruiting Spanish-speaking military veterans for CIA activities in Central America denied the allegation.

"We're not recruiting for the CIA. We're not recruiting for anybody," said Alvin Ornstein, deputy chancellor for American Educational Complex, an education service based in Killeen, Texas, under contract to the Defense Department.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, at a news conference in Washington Tuesday made the allegation of CIA involvement, at the same time reiterating his earlier claim of CIA involvement with operations at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.

The statements by the veteran congressman from San Antonio prompted a protest Wednesday outside the gate of the San Antonio air base by 10 members of a group called Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America. They stood outside the entrance of the base holding up small placards and large banners, one saying "U.S. out of Centro America."

Ornstein said Tuesday his company had placed an advertisement with the Texas Employment Commission simply as a market survey to determine the availability of Spanish-speaking men with military experience who would be willing to work as instructors in Central America.

"You can understand our anticipation of a potential market. We went to the TEC because they have a better network for getting the word out," Ornstein said.

Ornstein said the company had anticipated a Pentagon need for Spanish-speakers to serve as instructors in Central America. He said about 300 names and resumes were obtained.

The program was being coordinated by civilian instructors at the Army's III Corps Training School at Fort Hood, near Killeen.

The instructors are from Central Texas College, one of several American institutions that are members of an educational consortium called the American Educational Complex. The American Educational Complex is under Defense Department contract to provide a variety of educational services to the military through its member colleges.

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Proprietary to the United Press International, October 8, 1986

The advertisement, offering \$25,000 a year tax-free plus expenses, appeared in employment commission offices statewide. Commission officials in San Antonio said they received a notice Monday to end the program.

Gonzalez, without mentioning the organization, had said the CIA was using the Texas Employment Commission to recruit mercenaries to go to Central America.

Gonzalez also reiterated his charges Tuesday that a civilian cargo plane that crashed Saturday shortly after takeoff at Kelly Air Force Base, killing all three crew members aboard, was connected to the CIA.

Gonzalez had charged Monday in Washington that the plane was on a covert mission to supply explosives to rebels in Nicaragua -- an allegation called "totally false" by the Florida company that operated the plane.

Gonzalez Tuesday sent a letter to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger asking for additional information about the plane's mission, and whether it was ever owned by the Defense Department.

The plane that crashed, a civilian version of the military's C-130 Hercules, was operated by Southern Air Transport, a Miami-based airlines. The plane was en route to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

The air base routinely contracts with private firms such as Southern Air Transport to ferry cargo from one base to another.

Air Force officials had said the plane contained small explosive devices used in pilot ejection seats and an unknown amount of "classified equipment." Kelly spokesman Frank Weatherly said Tuesday the classified material consisted of "small pieces of electronic gear."

The cause of the crash is unknown, and an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board is under way.

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# College recruited veterans for Latin military training

**By James Pinkerton**  
American-Statesman Staff

A community college in Kilteen was, until Friday, recruiting 1,000 Spanish-speaking veterans of military service for yearlong tours in Central and South America to teach classes in weapons, communications, medicine and aircraft maintenance.

Central Texas College, part of a publicly funded college district that has a number of overseas training contracts with the Department of Defense, asked the Texas Employ-

ment Commission in mid-August to help it find 1,000 Spanish-speaking instructors with military backgrounds.

TEC officials say they were told the college was negotiating for a "government grant" that would have paid the salaries of the instructors and they expected the jobs to become available in 60 to 90 days.

The TEC has taken applications from 346 veterans who were interested in the instructor jobs, which the college advertised as paying \$18,000 to \$25,000 annual salary

plus free room and board.

However, a college official said Friday that no government contract exists. He said the college began recruitment in hopes one would materialize because of increased U.S. military presence in the Caribbean.

The official later called TEC with instructions to quit recruiting.

"We started this marketing effort early this summer, and we thought we would be able to market some kind of program," said Al OrNSTEIN. OrNSTEIN is deputy chancellor for administration of American Educational Complex Systems, which is a

division of the American Educational Union Junior College District.

"Since the Gramm-Rudman cuts took place, there has been some curtailment of these activities, that is the requirement for the military to provide training services. In other words, they haven't solicited our services," OrNSTEIN said of the federal government.

He said if TEC officials believed the college was about to win a government contract it was because "overzealous" employees of the college, who were instructed to ask the

TEC to recruit applicants, believe, one would materialize.

"The people who executed my general directive got overzealous, because when I do this kind of program, I'm generally successful, and they thought we'd get going pretty soon," OrNSTEIN said.

Mike Bartlett, manager of the TEC office in Kilteen, was disappointed to learn that Central Texas College didn't have any jobs for the 1,000 veterans it asked him to find.

"Apparently they've hit some kind of contracting snag, and they

## Recruit From 81

have all the applications they need," Bartlett said late Friday after he was contacted by the college.

"He's (OrNSTEIN) asked us to close the order out and not make any more referrals to him."

Bartlett said the TEC was not in business "to take applications."

"OrNSTEIN apologized if we misunderstood the situation from his people, which I guess is what happened. Or that his people misunderstood, because we were pretty clear on the fact he had the contract and needed the people. There was some urgency to it. I'm just disappointed," Bartlett said.

The prospect of jobs for 1,000 Texas veterans was a pleasant one for TEC officials.

According to a Sept. 22 interoffice memorandum obtained by the American-Statesman, TEC officials in Austin told their field offices "these job opportunities provide local offices with real potential for serving veterans and

meeting or exceeding Veterans Performance Indicators of Compliance."

In addition to recruitment by the TEC, the Central Texas College sent recruiting teams to Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio after running newspaper ads announcing the jobs.

OrNSTEIN said that college recruiters took applications from 300 veterans, but said that for now they "would just sit on them."

He said the college could find jobs for the veterans if the government decides it needs more instructors in Central and South America.

"If our government, the Department of Defense, were to put a solicitation out and ask for education and training, we'd respond. I don't know that we'd be awarded it, but we'd be ahead because we have done recruitment and taken applications. That'd give us a competitive edge."



# Congressman links job to CIA

By JOHN MacCORMACK  
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The job order appeared in mid-August on computer screens at Texas Employment Commission centers throughout the state. Wanted, Spanish-speaking veterans with instructional skills interested in making \$25,000-a-year while living in Central or South America. Room and board free.

The job description went on to describe

the duties involved: radio communications, small arms weapon procurement, field medical, wheel vehicle maintenance, physical security, aircraft maintenance, clerical. Academic environment. Must pass security clearance.

To unemployed Hispanic veterans, it must have glittered among the dull stones of help wanteds for janitors, cook's helpers and day laborers at minimum wage. According to commission records, 367 people asked for the referral.

However, to U.S. Rep. Henry Gonzalez of San Antonio, the job prospect doesn't look so bright. To him, it looks like a bait trip for the home boys to El Salvador and Nicaragua, compliments of the CIA.

"Now \$25,000 might be attractive to some of these young guys, some of these young Rambos in San Antonio. But it's going to end in misery and I think they ought to know who's getting them," Gonzalez said.

*Please see CIA, A-26*

From A-25

Gonzalez said Monday.

A CIA official said the agency has nothing to do with the commission notice.

"We don't know who that advertisement is for but it is not for the CIA. We don't have anything to do with that," said CIA spokeswoman Sharon Foster.

"It would be helpful if the congressman would check his facts before he made these public announcements," she added.

The company that placed the commission job order, American Educational Complex, likewise denies association with the agency.

"It's just not true. We do not provide personnel or services to the CIA," said Al Ornstein, deputy chancellor of American Educational Complex, headquartered near Fort Hood in Killeen.

"I have never been contacted by any representative of the CIA for any service in Latin and Central America. Ever. I have no relationship with them," he said.

Ornstein said American Educational Complex, founded 20 years ago, provides a wide range of instructional services by contract to all branches of the military at approximately 300 bases around the world. He said his anticipation of an increased need for Spanish-speaking instructors led him to place the job order with the employment commission.

"Obviously I anticipated a larger U.S. military presence in the Caribbean, Central America and South America. I wanted to be prepared in the event there was a request for services. It's just a good marketing strategy to have your people lined up, to be able to respond quickly," he said.

But it turns out that there aren't going to be any jobs with American Educational Complex in Central or South America after all. Ornstein says he misread the tea leaves on the U.S. military buildup in the area.

The names of those who inquired about being instructors will be kept on file in case anything requiring their specific skills develops, Ornstein said.

"We didn't try to deceive the TEC," he said, "And we are very up-front with the applicants. We tell them we do not have a contract and there is no specific job."

In Gonzalez's home port, at least, the response wasn't that great anyway, according to Art Underwood, the employment commission representative in San Antonio who handled inquiries.

San Antonio

# Company denies recruiting for CIA

By **JIM MICHAELS**  
and **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**  
Staff writers

A military education contractor has denied charges by U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez that the firm was recruiting Spanish-speaking military veterans for CIA activities in Central America.

Also Tuesday, Gonzalez broadened his attack on what he claimed was clandestine CIA involvement with operations at Kelly Air Force Base.

Gonzalez sent letters to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and two ranking congressmen, asking for additional information about the mission of the cargo plane that crashed Saturday at Kelly and about two Honduran government jets that burned during the crash in a nearby hangar.

Responding to Gonzalez's charge that his company was recruiting for the CIA, an official with the American Educational Complex, a Killeen-based education service under contract to the Defense Department, said his company had placed an ad with the Texas Employment Commission because it anticipated a Pentagon need for Spanish-speakers to serve as instructors in Central America.

The advertisement, offering \$25,000 a year tax-free plus expenses, ran statewide in the employment commission's offices. It was unclear Tuesday whether the ad began circulating in August or September.

The company's deputy chancellor, Alvin Ornstein, Tuesday said the firm does not have a contract with the Pentagon for such instructors nor does it expect to receive one in the wake of Gonzalez's accusations that the firm was recruiting for the CIA.

"We're not recruiting for the CIA," Ornstein said. "We're not recruiting for anybody."

He said the congressman "was misinformed."

Ornstein said his company's ad with the Texas Employment Commission simply was a market survey to determine the availability of Spanish-speakers.

Please turn to CIA/E2



## CIA: Link denied

CIA/from B1  
ing men with military experience who would work as instructors in Central America. They would be on "unaccompanied tours."

"You can understand our anticipation of a potential market," he said. "We went to the TEC because they have a better network for getting the word out."

The program was being coordinated by civilian instructors at the Army's III Corps Training School at Fort Hood, near Killeen.

The instructors are from Central Texas College, one of several American institutions that are members of an educational consortium called the American Educational Complex.

The American Educational Complex is under Defense Department contract to provide a variety of "educational" services to the military through its member colleges.

Gonzalez, without mentioning the organization, said the CIA was using the employment commission to recruit mercenaries to go to Central America.

The TEC was asked to find Spanish-speaking men with military experience who would instruct in radio communications, small arms, weapons procurement, field medical care and vehicle maintenance.

An employment commission memo dated Aug. 18 stated the individuals would be on one-year tours without their dependents, if they were married. Housing and food

would be furnished, and applicants must pass a security clearance.

Ornstein said the market test began in the summer, but TEC officials in San Antonio said they only received a request for recruitment assistance Sept. 22.

Monday, commission officials said they received a memo to end the program.

Ornstein said officials with the educational complex obtained about 300 names and resumes.

Gonzalez made the charges of CIA involvement at a Washington news conference Tuesday. He also repeated earlier charges that the plane that crashed at Kelly Air Force Base, killing all three crew members, was connected to the CIA.

"The plane had undoubtedly had materials being gathered for eventual use in Central America," Gonzalez said.

The plane that crashed, a civilian version of the military's C-130 Hercules, was leased by Southern Air Transport, a Miami-based airlines that was owned by the CIA between 1960 and 1976, Gonzalez said.

A General Accounting Office study reported that Southern Air was supplying aid to the rebels in Nicaragua, Gonzalez said.

The Air Force would not comment on Gonzalez's charges directly, but spokesmen have said the plane was on its way to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, where an air logistics center is located.



**CASPAR WEINBERGER**  
is asked for information

Kelly spokesman Frank Weatherly confirmed Tuesday the plane was carrying some classified material, consisting of "small pieces of electronic gear."

The National Transportation Safety Board is continuing its investigation into the cause of the crash.

Gonzalez sent letters to Weinberger, Rep. Wes Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In the letters, Gonzalez asked if the Defense Department had ever owned the aircraft that crashed at Kelly, and if so, when it was sold and to whom. He also asked who was servicing the Honduran jets and under whose authority.

2-A

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1986

# AEC Officials Respond: Gonzalez 'Misinformed'

By DEBRA FOWLER  
Herald Staff Writer

American Educational Complex officials said Tuesday afternoon that U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, was "misinformed" when he released a statement Tuesday morning associating the AEC with U.S. involvement in Latin America.

Referring to the AEC, Gonzalez said that "Killeen Community College" was screening "Spanish-speaking Texans" for positions with the Central Intelligence Agency for a year's duty in Central America.

Gonzalez's statement indicated that he thought the applicants would work as commandos for the CIA.

AEC officials said this was not true.

According to Al Ornstein, AEC deputy chancellor for administration, the AEC in early summer "initiated a marketing effort to determine the availability of qualified instructors in military occupational specialty areas."

The AEC asked the Texas Employment Commission to help it find 1,000 Spanish-speaking instructors, who also were military veterans, according to Mike Bartlett, director of Killeen's TEC office.

The instructors were to be recruited for yearlong tours in Central and South America, where they would teach classes in weapons, communications, medicine, security and aircraft maintenance.

The AEC was hoping to obtain a government contract to employ the instructors at salaries ranging from \$18,000 to \$25,000.

The contract did not materialize, and on Oct. 3, the TEC was asked to halt its recruiting efforts. At that point, the TEC had taken applications from 366 veterans.

"None of the jobs were combat-type military occupational specialties," said Bartlett. "Had they been, we would have had to take a serious look at the request. We asked them (AEC officials) if the jobs were combat-type MOSs, and they laughed. They said, 'These (jobs) are not for advisers.'"

"It would be a story if they were looking for 1,000

advisers," Bartlett said. "I'm more interested in putting 1,000 veterans to work."

Bartlett said he was disappointed to learn that the AEC didn't have jobs for the veterans he was asked to recruit.

In a written statement released to the Killeen Daily Herald Tuesday, Ornstein stated, "Marketing preparations were made in anticipation of a project that didn't materialize. The Texas Employment Commission was asked to assist in this effort, and they did publish information about employment opportunities with the AEC.

"Unfortunately, TEC personnel were led to believe that the AEC had a contract already, and this recruiting effort was to meet the requirements of this contract," the statement said.

"The TEC was asked to discontinue its efforts because the project was closed down. No contract existed at the time of the recruitment effort and none is now anticipated," the statement said.

Ornstein said that since the Gramm-Rudman cuts took place, the Department of Defense has curtailed some of its contracting activities and has not solicited the teaching services of the AEC.

He had said earlier that "if the TEC officials believed the college was about to win a government contract, it was because 'overzealous' college employees, who were instructed to ask the TEC to recruit applicants, believed one would materialize."

Ornstein said he is generally successful in obtaining contracts; thus, the AEC employees had confidence in his efforts.

Ornstein has apologized to the TEC for the misunderstanding. The applications already taken by the TEC will be kept on file by the AEC, should a government contract become a reality in the future.

In his statement, Ornstein added that "telephone contact was made with an assistant in Congressman Gonzalez's office in Washington, D.C., who stated that he would try to get (Gonzalez's earlier) news release clarified."

# Texas school linked to Contras intrigue

By **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**  
Staff writer

A Central Texas college has been caught in the intrigue of U.S. involvement in Central American conflicts, amid growing evidence that it was hiring Spanish-speaking U.S. veterans to teach weapons and tactics to foreign military units — possibly Nicaragua's Contra rebels.

Officials with the American Educational Complex in Killeen near Fort Hood deny the charge. But their denials do not square with information they provided the Texas Employment Commission when they placed an employment advertisement.

Questions have been raised also about the college officials' claims that they advertised for the veterans on their own, without a work contract from the government.

The controversy first came to light last week, when U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez publicly charged the school was attempting to recruit "Chicano" veterans for covert CIA operations in Central America, such as teaching the Contras.

College officials told The Light that

the school's current policy is to accept Pentagon contracts to teach only American soldiers, dependents and civilians who work for the Department of Defense.

But that assertion is rebutted by Martin Aguirre, the Texas Employment Commission assistant regional director who set up the recruitment program after discussions with the college's officials.

Aguirre said he was told on Sept. 9 that the school would hire American veterans to translate technical manuals into Spanish and teach small arms maintenance, radio communication and other fields.

"My understanding was that they would be teaching foreign military (units)," Aguirre said Friday in a telephone conversation from his Austin

office.

Records obtained by The Light show that 32 San Antonio area veterans, almost all of them Hispanic, were referred to the school by local TEC offices. Resumes and military DD214 forms, which outline an individual's military records, were forwarded to school officials.

Please turn to TEC/B4

**DD**  
*What they needed were people who could teach police people*

...  
— **SOURCE**  
On school hirings

**DD**

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT  
SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 12, 1986

# METRO

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## TEC: Has information involving controversy at college

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Aguirre said he met with James Nixon, dean of the college's Fort Hood campus, on Sept. 9 after TEC officials became curious about the size of the job order issued on Aug. 18.

Aguirre said Nixon told him the school was looking for 1,000 veterans to teach in Central and South America. Although the school is required to post government job openings with the employment commission and does so routinely, Aguirre said the large size of the job request was unusual.

Also, he said, he had his own concerns "about whether we were hiring mercenaries."

On Sept. 9, he said, Nixon assured him that none of the teaching jobs would involve mercenary or combat activity, and said the school did not contract for such work.

Nixon also told TEC officials that the school did not, in fact, have a contract in hand. But school officials, Nixon reportedly told Aguirre, were certain the college would receive a contract, although he did not say whether it would be a Pentagon contract or a contract from private sources.

The latter could include groups such as the World Anti-Communist League, led by retired Gen. John K. Singlaub, which are openly providing assistance to the Contras.

"We were anticipating increased soldier movements into the Central American area because of the military involvement in there," college spokesman Bill Alexander said last week.

Aguirre said Nixon told him the instructors would be hired to work in "six different countries" including Paraguay, Uruguay and Honduras. Aguirre said he could not recall the names of the other three countries.

Aguirre said Nixon described two different scenarios for the one-year tours of duty.

The first, he said, "would be in an academic setting." The second would involve mobile teams of teachers that would travel, each team teaching a particular field before moving on to be replaced by a different team.

The TEC employment memo said the instructors would teach "radio communication, small arms weapons procurement, field medical, wheel vehicle maintenance, physical security, aircraft maintenance and clerical" jobs in an academic setting.

Alexander denied that the phrase relating to weapons procurement originated with college officials.

But Aguirre said Nixon told him some instructors would teach the maintenance and repairing of small arms and how to set up warehouses

for weapons parts.

"They would teach the repair and maintenance and set up a stock inventory system," Aguirre said.

School officials told The Light that Nixon was not available for comment last week because of illness.

Aguirre said school officials had indicated an "urgent need" for the teachers and had at one point indicated a deadline as early as Oct. 1. When TEC officials advised them that there was no way to meet such a deadline, Aguirre said the time frame was extended "a couple of months."

Aguirre and Regional Director John Howell said they do not believe the veterans were, in fact, being recruited for CIA operations. They said the TEC acted on "good faith," believing, like school officials, that a contract would soon be issued to the school.

On that premise, 375 Hispanic and other Spanish-speaking veterans were referred to the college by TEC officials until Oct. 3, when school officials issued a halt to the referrals.

Coincidentally, Gonzalez's charges of CIA involvement surfaced the same day.

Vice Chancellor of Admissions Alvin Ornstein said last week the school canceled the recruitment because Gramm-Rudman budget cuts

had made it unlikely that a Pentagon contract would be issued. He added that he believed American military involvement in the area would be reduced.

Swartz said he could not comment on reports that the Spanish-speaking recruits would be teaching Central and South Americans "because I don't know."

But a former Marine corporal and an experienced machine-gunner who declined to give his name for publication said he met with an interviewer from the school in San Antonio on Aug. 23 and was told "what they needed were people who could teach police people and maybe some military people."

"I have a feeling," he said last week, "maybe everything is on hold because too many people know what's going on."

The TEC job description states that the work would be a "1 year, unaccompanied tour" with tax-free housing and food provided in Central and South America.

Applicants, it said, must have prior military service, be fluent in Spanish and must pass a security clearance.

The salary was \$25,000 the first year. The Marine corporal said he questioned the interviewer about the relatively low salary for the overseas job, but was told there could.

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# CTC Denies Mercenary Recruitment Charge

(Continued From Page One)

agency in Spanish.

The pay is \$25,000 per year for one year, including food and lodging, Brieger said.

"Obviously (Gonzalez) has information we don't have," Brieger said.

He said he did not know where the college got its order.

Ornstein said the order was a mixup and the result of actions taken by an "overzealous" em-

"In anticipating this project, we started trying to determine how many local instructors could be located that could meet the instructional qualifications required by the Department of Defense," Ornstein said.

The employee contacted the commission, he said, "and through an amiss request and unclear guidance, the TEC had found 1,000 applicants by the time we asked them to stop," he said.

"There was never a contract, and I don't think there ever will be

"We were just trying to get a competitive edge over the others if a contract would have been open to bid," he said.

Ornstein said he apologized for the incident Tuesday to Mike Bartlett, manager of the Texas Employment Commission's office in Kil-

leen.

Ornstein also said he asked the commission to stop seeking applicants for the project.

Gonzalez first made the accusation about the CIA and the ill-fated cargo plane that crashed at Kelly

the House floor Monday and he held a news conference Tuesday to discuss his allegations.

The plane that crashed early Saturday at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio was owned by Southern Air Transport, a Miami-based company which Gonzalez said had a history of CIA involvement.

Bill Kross, marketing director for Southern Air Transport, said Gonzalez' accusations are unfounded.

"We don't know where he's getting his information from," Kross said.

# Orlov Visits White House — Rogan Makes Summit Appeal To Congress

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# Angels Rout Red Sox In AL Series

— Page 1B



# Following Chemical Spill — 11 Hood Workers Hospitalized Briefly

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NO. 325

TEXAS 76501, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1986

Price: Twenty Five Cents

# Use Asked To Study CIA Link In Plane Crash

## Rep. and Wire Reports

SALETON — A U.S. congressman on Tuesday called for a probe into two air crashes that occurred within the past week in Texas and Nicaragua to determine if they were part of a covert operation aimed at toppling the Santhorpe government.

The development, an official from Central Texas College in Stephenville Tuesday denied that the college was seeking to have a Department of Defense contract, Spanish-speaking

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, charged that a civilian cargo plane that crashed at a Texas military base was on a secret CIA mission carrying weapons to American-backed rebels in Nicaragua.

In a late afternoon news conference, Gonzalez said a smaller plane that reportedly crashed inside Nicaragua near the Honduran border also was on a CIA-backed mission.

Gonzalez also said the CIA is offering \$25,000 to Spanish-speaking

Texas Employment Commission and the Veteran's Service Officer.

"In San Antonio, the Texas Employment Commission, through its veteran service officer, is attempting to recruit 1,000 Chicano, Spanish-speaking, for unaccompanied tours for one year in Central America," he said at the news conference. "(People) who have a background of experience in small arms and communications."

Gonzalez produced copies of an internal memo from the employment commission describing a job in which employees would be sent

training in "small arms procurement, field medical, ... physical security, aircraft maintenance, ..."

Asked if he was saying mercenaries are being recruited, he earlier replied, "That's what it amounts to."

Alvin Ornstein, deputy chancellor for administration of the American Education Complex in Killeen, however, emphatically denied Gonzalez' claims. "We were making marketing efforts in an attempt to solicit for a project that may have been

complete for — not only us, but any college," Ornstein said.

The project, Ornstein said, would have placed Spanish-speaking instructors in Central and South American countries to provide vocational instruction in the repair and maintenance of equipment, "not to teach technical strategy and fix guns."

Gene Hritger, supervisor of placement field services for the employment commission in San Antonio, said the agency received an order from Central Texas College and is trying to fill it.

contract, and we require to list jobs with the employment agencies.

"They're not going to get orders to be in contact with us in any big deal."

He said he would be for people to be in contact with subjects in the field and South American countries. He said he would be for people to be in contact with subjects in the field and South American countries.

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT  
SUNDAY  
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# Texas school linked to Contras intrigue

By **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**  
Staff writer

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Officials with the American Educational Complex in Killeen near Fort Hood deny the charge. But their denials do not square with information they provided the Texas Employment Commission when they placed an employment advertisement.

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**33**  
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— SOURCE  
On school hirings

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**B**



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TEC/rom B1

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"We were anticipating increased soldier movements into the Central American area because of the military involvement in there," college spokesman Bill Alexander said last week.

Aguirre said Nixon told him the instructors would be hired to work in "six different countries" including Paraguay, Uruguay and Honduras. Aguirre said he could not recall the names of the other three countries.

Aguirre said Nixon described two different scenarios for the one-year tour of duty.

The first, he said, "would be in an academic setting." The second would involve mobile teams of teachers that would travel, each team teaching a particular field before moving on to be replaced by a different team.

The TEC employment memo said the instructors would teach "radio communication, small arms weapons procurement, field medical, wheel vehicle maintenance, physical security, aircraft maintenance and clerical" jobs in an academic setting.

Alexander denied that the phrase relating to weapons procurement originated with college officials.

But Aguirre said Nixon told him some instructors would teach the maintenance and repairing of small arms and how to set up warehouses

for weapons parts.

"They would teach the repair and maintenance and set up a stock inventory system," Aguirre said.

School officials told The Light that Nixon was not available for comment last week because of illness.

Aguirre said school officials had indicated an "urgent need" for the teachers and had at one point indicated a deadline as early as Oct. 1. When TEC officials advised them that there was no way to meet such a deadline, Aguirre said the time frame was extended "a couple of months."

Aguirre and Regional Director John Howell said they do not believe the veterans were, in fact, being recruited for CIA operations. They said the TEC acted on "good faith," believing, like school officials, that a contract would soon be issued to the school.

On that premise, 375 Hispanic and other Spanish-speaking veterans were referred to the college by TEC officials until Oct. 3, when school officials issued a halt to the referrals.

Coincidentally, Gonzalez's charges of CIA involvement surfaced the same day.

Vice Chancellor of Admissions Avin OrNSTein said last week the school canceled the recruitment because Gramm-Rudman budget cuts

had made it unlikely that a Pentagon contract would be issued. He added that he believed American military involvement in the area would be reduced.

Swartz said he could not comment on reports that the Spanish-speaking recruits would be teaching Central and South Americans "because I don't know."

But a former Marine corporal and an experienced machine-gunner who declined to give his name for publication said he met with an interviewer from the school in San Antonio on Aug. 23 and was told "what they needed were people who could teach police people and maybe some military people."

"I have a feeling," he said last week, "maybe everything is on hold because too many people know what's going on."

The TEC job description states that the work would be a "1 year, unaccompanied tour" with tax-free housing and food provided in Central and South America.

Applicants, it said, must have prior military service, be fluent in Spanish and must pass a security clearance.

The salary was \$25,000 the first year. The Marine corporal said he questioned the interviewer about the relatively low salary for the overseas job, but was told there could.