Publisher may face charges

By MAGDALIS RODRIGUEZ The Associated Press

The Civil Rights Commission will ask the Justice Department to charge Cuban-exile publisher Antonio de la Cova with contempt for failing to appear to testify before the body, commission President Enrique González said Tuesday.

De la Cova was slated to appear before the commission to testify on the police department's practice of compiling intelligence files on alleged political subversives.

González said de la Cova would be subject to imprisonment as long as he refused to appear.

Meanwhile, de la Cova asked the commission to reconsider a motion he filed last Wednesday alleging that the commission had violated his constitutional rights and asking to be excused from testifying.

De la Cova said if the commission does not reconsider his request he will go to the courts to have them decide whether he must testify.

Tuesday's session focused on de la Cova's visits to the Police Intelligence Division in search of information on terrorism and certain people's political ideology.

Police Commander Sebastian Ortiz told the commission he refused to meet with de la Cova for an article on terrorism published in April in the Cronica Grafica monthly magazine and in which Ortiz allegedly discusses the 1978 murder of Carlos Muñiz Varela.

Muñiz Varela, whose agency organized trips to Cuba, was allegedly killed by a group of Cuban exiles.

Ortiz also said de la Cova had asked him for photographs of reputed political leftists but that he had not given them to him.

Other witnesses testifying Tuesday, including Lt. Angel Ramos of the undercover section, and explosives section director Jesús García, also said they had run into de la Cova at the police department while he sought information on leftists.