

LAYS MEXICAN MURDER TO MACHADO'S ORDER

*Former Cuban Cabinet Member
Testifies President Directed
Slaying of Writer.*

MEXICO CITY, May 14 (AP).—Rafael Iturriaga, former Secretary of the Interior and Navy in Cuba, testified on a witness stand here last night that President Gerardo Machado of Cuba had sent gunmen to Mexico to slay Julio Antonio Mella in 1929.

The testimony caused a sensation in the Second District Court, where José Lopez Valinas is on trial for the slaying.

Señor Iturriaga, who once served in President Machado's Cabinet, said he had definite knowledge that Señor Machado ordered Señor Mella's murder because Señor Mella, a communistic university student exiled from Cuba, had taken up his residence in Mexico and was writing criticism against Señor Machado for the Cuban press.

Señor Mella was shot down from behind in January, 1929. It was assumed that there was a Cuban political angle to the murder, but it was not until Valinas's wife became angry with him last Fall and denounced him as the actual slayer that the police made any real headway in the investigation.

Señor Iturriaga said Señor Machado, at one Cabinet meeting, became so enraged at an article in which Señor Mella called Señor Machado "a donkey with claws" that he dismissed his Cabinet after saying:

"I will silence that tongue, even though he go to Russia."