

PERMANENT BASES IN CUBA PROPOSED

Grau San Martin, Candidate for Presidency, Says U. S. Must Retain Defenses

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, April 29—"United States military air bases in Cuba should remain a permanent part of the defense system of America," former President Ramon Grau San Martin, who will be the opposition Presidential candidate in the June elections, said today. "It will undoubtedly be necessary, in view of the post-war plans for the maintenance of world peace now being formulated by the Allies, for Cuba indefinitely to extend military cooperation to the United States."

The former President is making his second bid for the Presidency since the revolutionary period in 1933, when he served as Chief Executive for several months. In 1940 he was defeated by President Fulgencio Batista and now is the candidate of his Cuban Revolutionary party and the newly formed Republican party. He is running against Dr. Carlos Saladrigas, a friend of President Batista and candidate of the Government coalition.

In sharp contrast to the costly campaign of his opponent, Dr. Grau San Martin's appeal to voters is being made at mass meetings. Publicity also is obtained through the modest campaigns of the candidates of his party for minor offices. His platform urges the collaboration of all classes, fair treatment for foreign capital, rural education, improved communications, development of a merchant marine, utilization of waterways for irrigation and power and collaboration in international relations rather than blind nationalism.

In an interview at his residence in Vedado, a suburb of Havana, the former President expressed the hope that the Government would not interfere during the voting.

"Otherwise, the situation in Cuba will become exceedingly difficult," he said.

The record party registrations, which give the Government coalition an apparent majority, means little according to Dr. Grau San Martin, who said, "registration is public but balloting is secret."

He criticized the Government for 'mismanagement of the war economy,' which he said was the cause of inflation, shortages and black market operations. He deplored the \$25,000,000 loan to Cuba from the United States. He said it was unnecessary because the public works for which it was obtained could have been done with the huge revenues now received which he charged were being wasted.