

# CUBAN EX-PRESIDENT SCORES GRAFT CASE

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HAVANA, March 19—Former President Ramon Grau San Martin today said his prosecution by the Cuban courts on a charge of responsibility for misappropriation of funds was "unjust" and a "political coincidence," since he was getting ready to register a new opposition party to be known as the Cubanidad Autentica party.

Dr. Grau San Martin, surrounded by friends and henchmen in his palacial Miramar residence this afternoon, said his break two years ago with President Carlos Prío Socarras, former close friend and political adherent, now was definite and he was organizing a party to oppose the President in the coming election.

Grau San Martin defended his late former Minister of Education, José Manuel Aleman, regarded as the leader in the alleged misappropriation of many millions of dollars in that department. Dr. Grau San Martin said he had been unable to act as a "policeman" to watch his Ministers during his administration.

Señor Aleman rose from a clerk in the Ministry of Education to Minister during Grau San Martin's administration and at the time of his death was reputed to be worth many millions of dollars.

Special Judge Justiniani has ordered Dr. Grau San Martin and seven former officials of the Ministry of Education prosecuted for misappropriation of some \$38,000,000. This is part of the original \$174,000,000 case against Dr. Grau San Martin and officials of his Government. Judge Justiniani said other indictments would be issued as fast as the case could be prepared from evidence on hand.

All the records in the graft case were stolen from court several months ago by an armed gang. However, Judge Justiniani says he has now obtained copies of all the documents.