

Batista Sworn as Cuba's President



Associated Press Wirephoto

Gen. Fulgencio Batista and his wife after yesterday's ceremony in Salon of Mirrors of Presidential Palace, Havana.

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HAVANA, Feb. 24—Gen. Fulgencio Batista was sworn in as constitutional President today. Cuba's strong man during the Nineteen Thirties and President from 1940 to 1944, who seized control of the Government in March, 1952, in a military coup, was elected Nov. 1.

The 1940 Constitution, suspended by General Batista when he seized power, automatically went into force with the re-establishment of Constitutional government.

The oath was taken in the Salon of Mirrors of the Presidential Palace in the presence of the retiring President, Dr. Andres Domingo Morales del Castillo, members of the Supreme Court, diplomats, Gov-

ernment officials and high military officers.

Police, armed with rifles, were stationed on roofs near the palace and park in front of it.

A few hours before the inauguration, Orlando Leon Lemus, known as "El Colorado," was shot and killed in the Vibora suburb in a gun battle with the police. His companion, José Fernandes Rodriguez, also known as a gunman, was killed an hour later when the police discovered his hiding place. Police Col. Martin Perez was wounded in the battle.

The police said they found forty rifles, seventy machine guns, many revolvers and a large quantity of ammunition in the house where Lemus had been hiding.