

Grand Jury

Subpenas

Carlos Prio

Carlos Prio, former President of Cuba, has been subpoenaed to appear today before a federal grand jury in Miami.

Prio said he was served with a summons calling for his appearance at 10 a.m., and that he would comply.

The former Cuban president, who was overthrown by Fulgen-
cio Batista March 10, 1952, has been called before a grand jury currently investigating possible connections between Cuban exiles living in the Miami area and recent revolutionary uprisings against Batista in Cuba.

Prio said he is adhering strictly to a pledge he made U. S. immigration and naturalization officials that he would not, while a resident of the United States, take part in any acts against the present Cuban regime.

"I will appear before the grand jury and will answer any questions," Prio said, "but there is nothing that I can tell them, as I know nothing of any of the activities against Batista except what I have read or heard about."

He said the outbreaks in Cuba in recent months are nothing more than the Cuban people "expressing their feelings toward the rule" of Batista.

The inquiry got under way here yesterday with four Cuban members of the local chapter of the 26th of July Club being questioned. The club was organized in Cuba in 1953 after an attack by rebels against the regime of President Batista and chapters have since sprung up in New York, Tampa and Miami.

Gino Negretti, an attorney representing the people who have been subpoenaed, said the hearing is "an apparent attempt to link

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Prio with the local club and Fidel Castro's revolutionary movement."

Castro, an attorney and leader of the 125-man attack against the Moncada army barracks at Santiago de Cuba in July, 1953, organized the 26th of July Club, and dedicated it to the overthrow of the Batista government.

"I am not a member of that organization," Prio said.

He said he knew of at least a dozen other exiled Cubans here who had received subpoenas to appear before the federal jury.

Juan A. Horta, Juan Sheda, Oscar Ramirez and Rafael Izquierdo testified yesterday behind the closed doors.

Prio said the latest accusations against him were coming from Dr. Santiago Rey, Cuban minister of the interior, now in Washington.

"Rey says that I have associated with Communists in order to provoke acts of insurrection and sabotage," Prio said. "This I deny. As a Cuban political leader, on whom the Cuban people conferred the highest post in the land, I wish to put an end to these acts of violence."

Prio has been living in exile in Miami and Miami Beach since his own regime was overthrown by Batista in a bloodless coup. Prio went back to his homeland for a brief period last year, but soon returned to Miami.