

# Backing For Civil Militia Stirs Row in Government

By FRANCIS L. MCCARTHY  
United Press Staff Correspondent

The "Batista is Peace" organization has offered the government 500 men and women for immediate enlistment in any civil militia, and pledged to furnish two thousand members, it was disclosed today.

The offer was made publicly by Orlando Alvarez Fundora, director of the group — an offshoot of the government's political coalition—who said he submitted the army a written outline for creation of a civil militia three months ago. The militia is needed to demonstrate that "the democratic citizenry" as well as the armed forces support the government, Fundora said.

The Cuban press meanwhile printed a government denial that it ever received or was considering plans for creating a civil militia, but it made no reference to a public falling out over the subject involving cabinet members Ra-

mon Vasconcelos and Morales del Castillo.

While Vasconcelos warned the government that "the barbarians are at the gates of Rome," and called for immediate creation of a militia, Morales del Castillo described the idea as "absurd."

In a front-page editorial in "Alerta" which he publishes and edits, Vasconcelos said the "immense majority" of Cubans are behind President Batista and asked, "what are we waiting for to arm them?" At the same time, Morales del Castillo in a palace statement said the army was big enough and strong to keep civil peace and that therefore any civil militia would be "absurd."

Morales del Castillo described the exclusive United Press report of discussion of a civil militia as a "tendentious novel."

Vasconcelos said he favored building a civil militia, "subordinate to, instructed by and controlled and ordered by the army" as an "auxiliary force."

Additional budget cost should not deter either the President or the armed forces from considering the idea, Vasconcelos said. He described political conditions in Cuba as be-

ing in a "spiraling subversive state."

There could be no better, wiser or more justified investment of the public monies than in the creation of a civil militia, Vasconcelos emphasized.

"The moral and material peace of Cuba has no price," he said.

Meanwhile, Senator Rolando Masferrer, reported originally to be a proponent of the creation of a civil militia, clarified his position in a front-page editorial in "Tiempo," which he publishes and edits.

He is not an advocate of a paid civil militia, Masferrer said, but merely wished to emphasize that if the need ever arises, "many thousands of youths with a basic technical understanding of the rifle will demand a place alongside the armed forces to quell civil war and chaos."

Such civilian aid, Masferrer said, "would not cost a single cent... among other reasons because the Cuban likes to fight."

The "Batista is Peace" group in a press statement supporting Vasconcelos' position justified its demand for a civil militia on the grounds that "to attain peace it is sometimes necessary to declare open war on your enemies."

Fundora, the group leader, said he was convinced that the time has arrived for Cubans to define themselves.

"The people through a civic mobilization of their moral and material resources... should give the lie to those who advocate violence to attain their unbridled ambitions," Fundora said.

## Soviet Ambassador Leaves Italy Post

ROME, March 25 —(UP)—Alexander Bogomolov, Soviet ambassador to Rome who witnessed Italy's Communist party halved during his three years of mission, left here yesterday to return to Moscow after being relieved of his duties.

It was not known when the new Russian ambassador, Semen Pavlovic Kozyrev, will arrive to take up his post. Bogomolov was seen

## Popovic Tagged As 'Unmarxist'

BERLIN, March 25 —(UP)—The East German Communist party newspaper Neues Deutschland yesterday criticized Yugoslavia for