

# Trouble In Cuba

## *Aleman Calls Batista Cruel Of Difficulty*

*Third of a Series*

By **JACK W. ROBERTS**

Miami News Staff Writer

"Our main trouble is Batista. Kill him or get him out of the country and Cuba could return to a democracy."

The speaker is Jose B. Aleman, 25, owner of Miami Stadium and heir to an enormous fortune left by his late father, former Cuban Sen. Jose M. Aleman.

Young Aleman, father of four children, is a key leader in the fight to overthrow the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in Cuba.

He candidly admitted to The Miami News that he is one of five men running the Directorio Estudiantil, the powerful student group which staged the March 13 assault on Batista at the presidential palace.

### **Provides Funds For Exiles**

Aleman, who has provided funds for countless Cubans who have fled their homeland for political reasons, said he wanted no mistake made about his status as an anti-Batista man.

"I'm not in this for politics," said Aleman, sitting in the office of a luxurious Miami Beach hotel which he owns.

"All I want is for Cuba to return to a democracy so I can go home and manage my farms. Once Batista is out, I'll retire. So will most of the other members of the Directorio. They're in this for ideals . . . not politics."

Aleman, who lived in Cuba for two years after Batista grabbed control in a bloodless coup, said his wife still suffers nervous seizures brought on by the cruelty of Col. Blanco Rico, Cuban chief of military intelligence.

"Blanco Rico was polite to me on two occasions when I was arrested by Batista's men," said Aleman, "but once when the police were looking for me Blanco Rico called on my wife and told her that she might as well buy her widow's clothes since he was going to kill me.

"He took her to my father-in-law's house and kept telling her that he was going to kill me. She has never recovered from the shock. Only today she had a spell."

### **Intelligence Chief Killed**

Col. Blanco Rico was killed after the incident involving Aleman's wife, but Aleman said he didn't want to give the impression that he ordered the colonel's death.

"Batista claims that the Directorio killed Blanco Rico, but that has never been proved," said Aleman.

Aleman said he is opposed to the idea of "brother killing



**JOSE ALEMAN**  
Batista Enemy

# Jose Aleman Blasts At Batista's Rule

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brother" in Cuba and would much prefer for Batista to simply relinquish control of the country rather than have a revolution.

Aleman, one of the few Cuban leaders who will speak straight and still allow his name to be used, said he expects to return to Cuba and fight Batista if the strongman refuses to relinquish control.

"I have to go," said Aleman simply.

A close associate of Aleman's is Alberto Mora, 22, a member of the Directorio and son of the late Sen. Menelao Mora, who was killed in the assault on the palace March 13 and has since become a symbol of heroism to the underground.

"I wasn't with my father during the assault," Mora explained to The News, "although I planned to."

Mora went on to explain that just prior to the attack he, his father and two other men were stopped by the police. As a leader of the underground, the elder Mora was a much sought after figure. The son grappled with police and allowed his father and the other men to escape.

## Eventually Granted Exile

When the assault on the palace took place, young Mora was in jail. Refusing to admit that he had any knowledge of the raid on the palace, Mora eventually won freedom on a "provisional liberty" basis, which meant exile.

Although Aleman refused to confirm it, there are persistent reports that at least five of the men who stormed the palace and escaped with their lives are in Miami now.

At least two of the men are believed to have received the direct protection of the United States government in fleeing Cuba.

Although Aleman and Fidel Castro, the man who defies Batista with a revolutionary force inside Cuba, are not members of the same organization, Aleman has great respect for the things Castro has accomplished.

Pointing out that Castro's fight has publicized the plight of the anti-Batista forces, Aleman said efforts are being made to unite all the various anti-Batista factions.

## Free Elections Needed

"That is as it should be," said Aleman. "Once free elections are established in Cuba it will be time enough for each to go his own way."

Aleman pointed out, however, that Americans are beginning to take a keen interest in Cuban affairs.

"People stop me on the streets and ask what's going on in Cuba," said Aleman.

"I find myself talking to perfect strangers, telling them about the death and torture Batista has inflicted on my people.

"American army veterans approach me often saying they want to fight for Cuba's liberation."

Armando Perez, a veteran of the underground movement in Cuba now living in Miami, backed up Aleman's story of torture inflicted by Cuban police.

Once closely allied with Sen. Mora, Perez was captured by the police and questioned about Mora's whereabouts.

## Denied Food And Water

Perez said he was left for days without food or water, his hands chained behind his back. Guards beat him with whips trying to get him to tell where Mora was hiding, Perez claimed.

The belief held by Aleman and other members of the Directorio that getting rid of Batista is the solution is not shared by other anti-Batista Cubans.

"I could not forget that army leaders killed my friends and brothers," said one exile active in underground work here in Miami. "They must all pay. So how could you say that getting rid of Batista would solve anything? Someone else in Batista's group would have to take over the reins of government so that the Batista men could stay in office."

The bitterness of civil strife is already wrapped around Cuba's neck like a shroud.

**Tomorrow: Fulgencio Batista: Communist fighter or Communist sympathizer?**



ALBERTO MORA  
Plotted Raid