



GUSTAVO MARIN

# Abdala vows to make Cuba an issue

By HILDA INCLAN  
Miami News Reporter

Leaders of the militant anti-Castro youth organization Abdala today criticized the U.S. government's hands-off Cuba policy and vowed to make Cuba an issue in the 1972 presidential campaign.

Gustavo Marin, 24, Abdala national president, and Oscar Fernandez, 25 vice president, said several Cuban exile anti-Castro training camps in Latin America have been shut down under orders or

pressure from the United States government. He told the Abdala

The U.S. Coast Guard has also intercepted Cuban exile raid boats while in international waters, the youths said.

Marin and Fernandez visited Abdala's Miami chapter. The national organization is headquartered in New York, where Marin and Fernandez live.

"We hope United States policy will change to that of non-interference in the internal affairs of Cubans so that we may freely determine our own destiny as a nation," Marin said.

"We are not seeking help from the U.S., but simply non-interference with our plans — as long as we launch all our operations from places outside the territorial limits of the U.S.," he added.

As an example of interference, the youths cited their attempt to gain permission from Venezuela for a radio plant to transmit clandestinely to the people of Cuba.

A high Venezuelan government official visiting in the U.S. during a meeting of the Organization of American States told Marin and Fernandez in a private meeting that Venezuela could not allow such activities in its territory because of pressures from the U.S.

On hand for Democratic hopeful Sen. Hubert Humphrey's rally at Miami-Dade Junior College Monday, Abdala members got a "no interference" promise from the former U.S. vice president.

Asked if he would help the Cubans free Cuba, Humphrey said, "No, I don't want to get out of one war to get into another."

Asked if he would renew relations with Cuba, his answer was also in the nega-

members later that he would not interfere in any way, either to help the exiles or to contain them, as long as they used some other country as a base of operations.

The Abdala members say they don't plan to campaign for any given candidate.

"But we plan to make Cuba an issue and to press each candidate into a public position in the case of Cuba," Marin said.

The organization is opposed to New York Mayor John Lindsay because of his stand in favor of a "normalization of relations" with the government of Premier Fidel Castro.

"This stand shows a lack of understanding about the Cuban problem," Fernandez said. "We reject it totally."

"The freedom of a country is not negotiable," Marin added. "We repudiate those candidates or hopefuls that may use the suffering of an entire people to raise themselves to the presidency of this country."

Marin added that it was



OSCAR FERNANDEZ

impossible to normalize relations without first agreeing to curtail the activities of all anti-Castro revolutionary groups.

Marin left Cuba when he was 14 years old in August, 1961.

A social studies teacher in a New York high school, Marin will be finishing his masters degree in Spanish literature at Hunters College this June.

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