

Batista Rejects Call to Head Cuban Political Party in Exile

By ISAAC M. FLORES

MIAMI (AP)—Former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista has turned down the opportunity to head a reorganized political party coalition in exile which would be based in Miami, but says he will give advice when needed.

The political movement would be similar to the Progressive Democratic Coalition, a grouping of parties which responded to Batista's leadership in Cuba from 1952 until Fidel Castro led his revolutionary band into Havana in January, 1959.

While turning down the offer to serve as a rallying figure for his former supporters now in exile, Batista wrote from his home in Estoril, Portugal, that he would not discourage the formation of any such movement or organization.

THE 70-YEAR-OLD Batista's comments were in letters written to Andres Rivero Aguero, who was elected to the Cuban presidency with



FULGENCIO BATISTA

Batista's support in 1958. Rivero Aguero was prevented from taking office in 1959 by the Castro takeover. The letters were published in Miami yesterday by the Cuban exile newspaper Patria.

Acknowledging that he had a duty to help in any exile ef-

forts to prepare for a return to their homeland, the former dictator said he should not be the one to lead reorganization attempts of the political coalition. Rivero Aguero had written Batista asking him to state his position.

"IF MY ACTION WERE still indispensable, my counsel would not be lacking, but I am convinced that my physical presence at the present time . . . would remedy very little if by good fortune it would help in anything," Batista wrote.

Batista also expressed misgivings about a recently formed exile movement which says it plans a Cuban invasion by the end of the year.

Batista, who has long blamed the U.S. State Department as primarily responsible for his downfall, urged his followers to seek the aid of the United States in attempts to return to the island. This is indispensable to their cause, he said.