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Dr. Jose Miro Cardona, 71, who served as Fidel Castro's first prime minister, then fled Cuba to head the coalition of exile groups at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, died of a heart attack yesterday in San Juan Puerto Rico.

Dr. Miro Cardona, formerly one of Cuba's most prominent lawyers and president of Cuba's bar association, was a professor at the University of Puerto Rico at the time of his death.

In April, 1963, two years after the failure at the Bay of Pigs, Dr. Miro Cardona provoked new controversy by charging that President Kennedy had reneged on a promise to support a second invasion of Cuba.

At the same time, he resigned his position as head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, the coalition of U.S.-based exile groups. Seven other members also quit.

The moves were seen as the crystallization of growing discontent on the part of many exiles with American policy in the months after the ill-fated 1961 invasion.

The State Department issued quick and indignant denials that plans for a second invasion had been abandoned to pursue "peaceful coexistence" with Castro. President Kennedy also issued a personal denial.

Shortly afterward, it was announced that Dr. Miro Cardona would join the law faculty at the University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Miro Cardona was born in Havana, the son of a general who had fought to liberate Cuba from Spain. After graduating from the University of Havana law school, he set up a practice in Havana in 1938 and while rising to prominence in his profession, remained generally aloof from partisan politics for many years.

However, in 1958, after the regime of Fulgencio Batista revoked all civil rights in an effort to combat Castro's revolutionary movement, Dr. Miro Cardona sought to rally lawyers to the opposition.

"It is the destiny of our profession to fight dictatorships without any weapons other than those of reason," he wrote in an appeal to his fellow attorneys, adding that "dangerous dignity is always preferable to a useless life . . ."

Batista ordered him arrested, and he hid for a time in a church, disguised as a priest, then found asylum in the Argentine embassy, and finally fled to Miami where he joined forces with Castro, who reportedly had once been a law student under Dr. Miro Cardona in Havana.

On Jan. 6, 1959, after the overthrow by Castro of the Batista regime, Dr. Miro Cardona was named prime minister. He set to work to restore democratic and constitutional government, to reform the courts and reorganize government departments to weed out inefficiency and corruption.

It was not long, however, before he encountered difficulties in working with Castro, who he said, as commander in chief of the armed forces "was going to have his own way about everything."

On Feb. 13, 1959, only 39 days after taking office, he and his cabinet resigned, in opposition to Castro's decision to reopen Havana's gambling casinos.

After a growing ideological estrangement from Castro, whose Communist tendencies he deplored, he arrived here in October, 1960, and six months later, he became head of the U.S.-backed Cuban Revolutionary Council, embracing some 187 separate exile groups.

Although it was said that Dr. Miro Cardona had been picked for the post by U.S. officials, and was to go to Cuba and proclaim a free government once the Bay of Pigs invasion troops had won a beachhead, he never got there. Instead, he was reported to have been kept incommunicado during the invasion by a CIA team in a house in the Miami area.

One of his two sons was captured during the invasion and was later among those ransomed.

**Dr. Jose Miro Cardona,  
Castro Prime Minister**