

Justice Dept. Launches Major Probe Of Alleged CAP Registration Fraud

By A. W. MALDONADO

The Department of Justice revealed yesterday that it has launched a full-fledged investigation of alleged fraud by the Christian Action Party in its drive this summer to register the party.

A team of district attorneys will be sent to Adjuntas next week to investigate claims of about 150 people in that town that their names appeared on CAP petitions without their having signed them. These people have filed their claims with Ad-

juntas District Judge Carlos Ruiz.

The Justice Department, a spokesman said, will investigate a total of about 1,000 CAP petitions. Copies of most of these petitions have been sent to the Justice Department by Sen. Yldefonso Sola Morales, Secretary Popular Party, who was charged that they were improperly signed.

The Justice Department, the spokesman said, is investigating the following three types of alleged fraud:

1. Petitions with signatures

of people who claim they never signed them.

2. Petitions signed with names of people who were dead when the signing took place.

3. Petitions signed with names of witnesses who were supposedly dead.

In charge of the investigation is District Attorney Jose C. Aponte Garcia, director of the investigation and criminal affairs division. The department spokesman said that the investigation is expected to take "a long time."

The investigation started af-

ter Sola Morales publicly accused the CAP of fraud in its attempt to register the party. Secretary of Justice Hiram Cancio asked the senator to substantiate this charge by turning over to his Department all evidence connected with his allegation.

The CAP filed 82,000 petitions, of which 71,000 were eventually accepted as valid by the Commonwealth Department of State. The party received about 51,000 votes in the Nov. 8 elections.