

Flores: CAP Is Not Clerical

By HAROLD J. LIDIN

A prime goal of the Christian Action Party (CAP) is to convince the public that it is a "political party—not a clerical movement," said CAP secretary Eduardo Flores yesterday.

The forthcoming legislative session will demonstrate that the CAP is "not an arm of the Catholic Church," Flores predicted.

He blamed opposition political parties, and the press, for "misleading" the public on the true nature of the CAP.

Group Is Independent

Flores described the controversial organization as "international" in its program but strictly independent in its organization.

"We oppose capitalistic democracy and defend the same principles of Christian democracy as do other Catholic parties in Europe and South America," Flores added.

He claimed that only Christian democracy has the necessary "mystique" to block Communism in Latin America.

"Capitalistic democracy can only fight communism with force," Flores added.

Christian Parties Proven

The CAP secretary cited Cuba as an example of a Latin land that turned to Russia once the

"repressive" regime of Batista was toppled.

He also claimed that Christian parties have already proven their merit in Latin America notably in Venezuela.

In Venezuela the administration of Romulo Betancourt would have failed long ago without the backing of COPEI, Flores stated.

COPEI is a Venezuelan Christian action party, and is one of the three major parties that form the coalition now in power.

Flores noted that Betancourt and Governor Muñoz both come from the "school of secular democracy," but that the Venezuelan leader has not shied from the support and cooperation of COPEI.

Formation of the Puerto Rican Christian Action Party was strongly opposed by Governor Muñoz, he noted.