

Discussion of War Taboo In the Dominican Republic

Trujillo Calls the Tune and He Doesn't Like a Discord; Prefers the Kind of Peace U. S. Has to Offer.

By THOMAS J. B. WENNER

Times Special Writer
CIUDAD TRUJILLO, Dominican Republic, Aug. 30—Citizens of the Dominican Republic incur the displeasure of their 10-year benefactor and virtual dictator, Generalissimo Dr. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, if they even discuss the European war.

This surprising decree has been issued in Ciudad Trujillo, capital of this Caribbean doorstep neighbor of Uncle Sam. It applies to members of the Generalissimo's party, the only legal political group in the nation, enrolling 374,000 of the 400,000 eligible voters.

I asked party director Paine Pichardo for an explanation of this. He replied:

"My immediate chief and our great benefactor, the Generalissimo, is an ardent advocate of Pan-Americanism and a friend of the United States. He does not wish to have his job made more difficult at this time by those who hold sentiments at variance with the declared policy and interests of the country. The Dominican Republic will follow the lead of Washington in its foreign policy."

"It is not true that a law has been passed forbidding everybody to discuss the war, but an agreement has been reached by the party to this effect."

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ital from Santo Domingo to Ciudad Trujillo in his honor.

He was re-elected in 1934 and still boss. A hard worker and an able administrator, he believes in suppressing opposition severely.

Like certain other modern dictators, he prides himself on eating and drinking sparingly. He does not smoke. He describes himself as a soldier by profession, a farmer by preference and a breeder of fine cattle by avocation.

A lover of peace, the Generalissimo nevertheless believes in the virtues of a military discipline for youth and the wisdom of long range preparedness.

The Dominican Republic has a standing army of about 4000 men, reasonably well equipped and modernized since its organization in 1930.

The navy is made up of one military transport of 2600 tons and several coast guard vessels with anti-aircraft equipment.

The air force comprises about 25 planes—training and pursuit ships, together with several Curtiss and Douglas transports.

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