



TRUJILLO

PATRON OF

Sports

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Comisión del Proyecto Cultural de la Nación



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Speech delivered by the Secretary of Education of the Dominican Republic at the formal opening of the Oriental Baseball Stadium in San Pedro de Macoris, October 24, 1959.



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Gentlemen:

A year has now passed since we inaugurated the Leonidas Rhadames Stadium, to the great delight of the people of the Cibao. That great event constituted an unprecedented act of homage paid by the Cibao population to the Nation's Hero. Today, to the joyful clamor of the people united here and honored by the presence of their Excellencies, the Benefactor of the Nation and the President of the Republic, we are inaugurating the Oriental Stadium. People from the Eastern Provinces, all of them descendants of the brave defenders of the Republic in those difficult times when we were battling for our national independence, have come to San Pedro de Macoris to revive the flame of their patriotism and faith in the triumph of democracy alongside the glorious leader whose civil exploits have been crowned with victory.

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The conquests achieved in the Era of Trujillo need our intelligence and our arms to defend them. These conquests are all the more valuable and worthy of preserving since they were wrested from the adversity in which the Republic had lived ever since its inception. They are the singular achievement of a man who has dedicated his work and his genius to organizing, civilizing and exalting our Nation with such a high sense of sacrifice that, to find its equal, one must search among the great liberators and civilizers whom history has raised to unforgettable heights of glory.

These exceptional circumstances, which for years have kept the Benefactor of the Nation on a privileged and undeniable plane of leadership, are what have kindled in our people their affection and backing for the exalted statesman to whom all Dominicans look in the assurance and faith that our historic destinies will be fulfilled, no matter what obstacles may arise along the way.

This gigantic task of civilization and culture, quite enough to immortalize its performer, is what those abroad who plot against the regime of the government, which has made the Republic more brilliant than the stars in the night, endeavour to ignore. Their vengeful fury, the malign expression of their failures, makes them

stir up foreign opinion against us, scheme warlike invasions against our soil, slander us in order to enlist followers for their cause and do everything they can possibly think of to kindle the subversion which would disturb that peace and order which our people have enjoyed for the past thirty years, thanks to the miracles which, in a small and underdeveloped country, thinly populated and suffering from the unfortunate effects of party struggles, the powerful determination of Trujillo, placed unreservedly at the service of the Republic, has brought about to the amazement of all

It is hardly surprising that such things should have happened and that efforts are being made for them to happen again. The enemies of our Government, the enemies of Dominican peace and progress, are the same as those who are keeping the world under a threat of a catastrophic war. They are the instigators of that general conspiracy which is sowing confusion throughout our Continent and which looks to violence and chaos by which to impose their minority will on the majorities who love peace and order and whose freedoms are morally and juridically based on twenty centuries of Christianity.

However, our people, giving evident proof of having reached the maturity of the intelligent adult, have known how to choose between good and bad, between what is suitable and what should be rejected. Incitement to disorder, insidious propaganda, armed aggression, none of these have made any mark on their reasoning or their consciences. The invasions on which the long-distance fighters built their hopes, were like water on a duck's back. The Armed Forces, unanimously backed by our people, undertook the task of restoring normality to those regions in the North of the country which had been affected, and the Government, led by His Excellency, Generalissimo Hector Bienvenido Trujillo Molina, which takes as its inspiration the good works of the victorious leader who has given his name to this era of our history, continues to perform its constructive task of providing the country with everything necessary for its welfare and happiness.

One of those necessities which has always been the object of special care on the part of the government, is the shaping of future generations of Dominicans through integral education. Such education includes both the mind and the body, which is equivalent to saying, the transmission of knowledge and bodily development

through various forms of physical activities, among which, sport occupies a highly important position.

Calysthenics had always been included in our school programs. Even before 1944, thanks to the then President Trujillo, we had already established a National School of Physical Culture in Ciudad Trujillo, with branches throughout the country in charge of specially trained teachers. Likewise, a love of sport was developed by groups of private people that staged annual competitions. However, it was not until the 1st. January, 1944 that, through the establishment of the Directorate General of Sports, this important aspect of national education achieved its inclusion in the Law of Public Expenditure as a State Service. From that date until now, the Government has contributed millions in fostering sports and in physical education in schools. For the public's knowledge and as a demonstration of how his generosity has reached out to every part of the country, I would like to cite figures to show the creative influence of the Father of the New Nation, in this connection. The upkeep of the Directorate General of Sports and of physical education in the schools has cost the Government in salaries and expenses, from 1944

until to-day, the sum of RD\$1,763,696.00 RD\$6,350,000.00 have been invested in the construction of the Stadiums in Ciudad Trujillo, Santiago and San Pedro de Macoris; RD\$380,000.00 in sending teams to participate in 12 international tournaments; RD\$600,000.00 in annual contributions to the baseball championship; more than one million in the construction of the Ciudad Trujillo, Santiago, Puerto Plata, La Vega, Moca, San Pedro de Macoris and La Romana race-tracks, and more than 6 millions in subsidizing the Perla Antillana race-track. And if we add to this the fact that the Government has waived in behalf of the professional baseball clubs, all fiscal and radio, television, publicity, canteen and other rights in their Stadiums, and also the fact that the Generalissimo's son, Lieutenant Leonidas Rhadames, in an incomparable gesture of collaboration in the development of horse-racing, has founded the Hara Rhadames at a cost of more than 2 million dollars, it can be truly and justly stated that the Benefactor of the Nation has achieved an unprecedented goal in the history of Dominican sport, and that the latter owes an enormous debt of gratitude to him for his liberality.

Generalissimo Trujillo has given us abundance, prosperity and wealth. During his long and

fertile public life, the sovereignty of the Republic has risen from the dust to parade its triumphant flag in every part of the globe. We now have well-defined boundaries, an increasing population, a country in continual development and stable democratic institutions. All this has been achieved without outside aid, in that atmosphere of peace created by the illustrious leader without our national decorum having to be humiliated by asking for burdensome loans from foreign cupidity.

These are the heroic achievements we must maintain and defend. The preservation of our rights through organized force in the public service is what constitutes our national defense. This defense is the elemental duty of every government since it is what protects the inhabitants of the country and their honest achievements in the field of human activities.

This defense has made it necessary for the government to proclaim a period of limited austerity as a necessary step to protecting the overall interests of the Nation. The Generalissimo has called on the Nation to trust in the measures being taken to remedy the present situation, brought about by events which the peaceful attitude of our people has hastened

to condemn.

Loyalty is indivisible. Only unfaithfulness is two-faced. Our's is a single duty: to follow Trujillo to the end. To follow Trujillo to the last man.

Gentlemen: On behalf of His Excellency, Generalissimo Hector Bienvenido Trujillo Molina, President of the Republic, I now declare this Oriental Stadium open.

Victor Garrido.
Secretary of Education
of the Dominican Republic.



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