

A D D R E S S

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GENERALISSIMO

DOCTOR RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO MOLINA

ACCEPTING

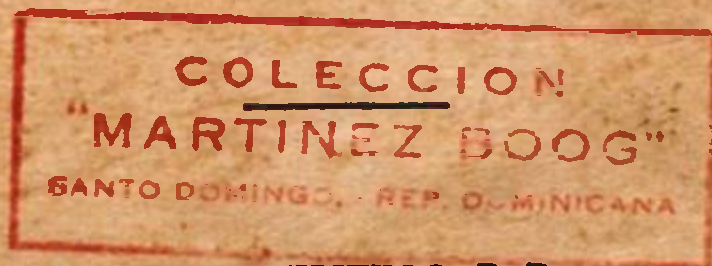
THE NOMINATION AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

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THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

for the

PERIOD 1942 - 1947



CIUDAD TRUJILLO, R. D.

February 27, 1942.



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The Executive Committee of the Dominican Party takes pleasure in presenting in this pamphlet the English version of Generalissimo Dr. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina's address to the Dominican people, upon accepting his nomination as candidate for the Presidency of the Republic for the period 1942 - 1947.

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7 abril 1972

COLECCION
"MARTINEZ BOOG"
SANTO DOMINGO, - REP. DOMINICANA

Fellow countrymen:
Men and women:
Greetings!

Greetings I say to all of you, with brotherly feeling, on this historic anniversary day of our Country.

Before expressing the thoughts which struggle for utterance in my mind, I desire to give you this salutation of greeting, which springs from the bottom of my grateful heart, because of the insistence which you have shown that I continue to lead you in the struggle for the advancement of our Nation, for the defense of its liberty and for the glory of its prestige in the world.

You are asking me this, it is your wish that I again undertake —during the next presidential term— the official direction of the State. To induce me to accept once more the office of Chief Executive, you show me with the solemn eloquence of imposing numbers and unanimous popular appeal that the elections of May 16th next can neither add to nor take any-

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thing away from, nor even exalt that decision, but simply formalize the determination which you, the people, have already formed and proclaimed to elect me, to continue to bind me to you ever more closely, forming, between us, a single energetic unit of co-ordinated effort, of organization, and of success.

*THE DARKEST PERIOD OF THE
HISTORY OF THE WORLD*

All this is asked of me and is stated to me in this, the darkest period of the history of the world; a period in which men, turning science into the diabolical instrument of insane creeds of extermination, kill each other by millions; in which powerful nations disappear like fragile structures, ruined by the devastation of war; in which economic systems and organizations tremble and fall; in which the most famous institutions and the greatest centers of civilization are threatened with destruction.

Through this period, as the result of the antagonistic forces which fill the world with peril, our Republic, peaceable and Christian, is called upon to submit to hard and difficult tests—different, surely, but no less distressing than those adversities which desolated our country twelve years ago, when I was called upon to direct our national destinies. How trying



those tests were, we already know. How efficiently we overcame them can never be forgotten. With that formidable struggle won, and as a reward of our patriotic zeal, we now have the great Republic of the present: restored on the fundamentals of its moral conscience and of its financial independence; made vigorous in its economic activities; made healthy in its administrative affairs; dignified in its policies; sure in its progress; justly confident in its future.

But now the mad tempest over all the peoples of the earth has also brought danger to the Republic which our effort saved and molded. The lords of evil, turning their backs on the saving principles of right, have proclaimed force as the only means of settling differences among nations. And small nations, such as our own, and like our own opposed to the domination of force, have in right the reason for their existence; and derive therefrom this supreme one: liberty.

RIGHTS AND LIBERTY IN THE WORLD

Throughout the years, there has been perhaps, too much talk concerning rights and liberty in the world. It is probable that these terms have been improperly used many times. But never have they been spoken with as much right as now, when the necessity



to defend their holy principles presses inexorably down upon us. We must remember that, during and after the last world war, these principles reached heights unknown until then.

It has often been said, with cheap levity, that that war was a useless slaughter, that it did not result in making Humanity happier and purer; that after it none of the objectives of peace, of disarmament, of democracy which the victorious nations proclaimed, were possible of realization. It is however an undeniable fact that, whatever may be the truth contained in such statements, the last world war served to raise the moral level of international relations, to facilitate an effective progress towards the consecration of the natural rights and social rights of men, and to assure to small nations a concept of equality with the other nations, no matter what their size or their power —something which had been unknown. During almost a quarter of a century, weak nations had, in the councils of the League of Nations, an equal seat with the powerful countries. Treaties came to be law among them, without the relative power of great and small nations being considered. International law began to have application based on justice. Tried to the utmost in such a vast undertaking, that organization necessarily had its defects; but it signified in itself a decisive step toward the consecration of right

as law, of justice as the rule, and of liberty as a fundamental statute.

Now, all this is menaced, threatened with destruction for ever. To defend those principles and prevent that destruction we have gone to war.

My voice had a decided and decisive influence in favor of this policy. No one hates war more than I; but the repulsion which it inspires in me has not prevented me from understanding that in this period, neutrality of nations guards them from nothing, nor do pacifist attitudes protect them from anything. I knew moreover that my people as well as I considered that there are higher purposes in life than security and selfish interest.

WE HAVE HONORED OUR WORD

For worthy nations, as for worthy men, there can be no compromise between good and evil, between pact and aggression, between honesty and deceit, between law and extortion. Besides we had entered into a policy of close neighbourliness, of responsible fraternity, of continental unity and common defense of the Nations of America. In the successive Pan American conferences of Montevideo, of Buenos Aires, of Lima, of Havana, of Panama, we had put our name to that pledge. Rather than repudiate it, we prefer to run all presumable risks. We have honored our word without



any consideration of our own interests, without looking for anything in exchange. And we are satisfied.

This attitude was, furthermore, something which should be expected from those, like the Dominican Republic, who have a clear tradition of action in favor of continental solidarity, and have been the inspiration of the creation of a permanent body, responsible and energetic, for this solidarity. It was we, the Dominicans, who first understood the inter - American sentiment, which was looking for a practical form of application of its ideals towards unification; and it was we who were first to propose that form. The honor fell to me to point it out seven years ago, when I proposed—in 1935—the creation of a League of American Nations for the purpose of concentrating therein the leadership of our great America, in order that its capacity, its invulnerability, its power and union may be utilized to the best advantage.

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN NATIONS

In February, 1936, answering the invitation sent by President Roosevelt to the conference to be held at Buenos Aires, I expressed once again, in a personal letter to the great North American leader, the fear that the process of effective coordination of the Americas was made difficult by the lack of a body which would represent in an effective manner the collective political interests of our Republics; and I again proposed the

formation of the League of American Nations. This is not a proper moment to criticize the different factors and tendencies which prevented that Dominican proposal from being favored, nor those which prevented its adoption in the Lima conference in 1938, in which it was also presented, this time under the joint and several sponsorship of the Governments of Colombia and of the Dominican Republic. The struggle to promote momentous ideas, the effort to obtain recognition of those from which nations will derive stability or well-being, which will create order among people and improve the world, have always been subjected, in their initial stages, to this lot of adversity, based on quibbling and confusing artifices, because of unimaginative incomprehension and because of interested combinations. In order to replace Dominican initiative, to disguise the adoption of its principles, there have been conceived, there have been proposed and adopted, in the continental conferences of recent years, complex resolutions, slow in effectiveness, which lead towards the same goal but which do not reach it except through imprecise measures and means. The present events and the experience in the recent conference in Rio de Janeiro, have served to demonstrate, obviously, that the Dominican initiative in attempting to obtain the establishment of the League of American Nations, was more than justified.

*HOW DIFFERENT THE POSITION OF THE
CONTINENT WOULD HAVE BEEN*

How different the position of the Continent would have been in these times, if a permanent executive organization of the twenty-one American Republics, like the one we have been proposing for years, had been formed and had held in its hands adequate powers and recourses and the right to act in order to avoid the hesitations and the lack of coordination which, in the economic field, in the military, in the political and even in the diplomatic, have been patent in the organization of continental solidarity. If an organization such as the one which I conceived had been functioning, America would not now be looking for a solution of the urgent problems of the conflict. One assurance may comfort us: that is the fact that long before the definite concept of continental sovereignty was put into contractual and legal life by the Havana pact, the Dominican people had already pointed out to the Continent its conception of how it should be organized. We were not, then, led, but were pioneers in the beginning of the policy of joint defense of America. And in such a position it was natural that — when the New World was attacked— the Dominican Republic should consider that it had been attacked. The declaration of war against those who brought

war to the Continent was the legal sanction of a situation already *de facto* existing. To have limited ourselves to breaking off relations with aggressors states would have been the mere fulfilment of a duty. We had to do more than that: obey the command of a call which was already traditional. We have complied with this command without hesitation and without reserve.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S

PAN - AMERICAN POLICY

The Dominican Republic's Pan-American policy reverts to origins so remote as to be sacred. It dates, one could say, from the primitive institutional organization of the Americas, which had its birthplace on our soil. Not only was it here that the first battle of the Conquest was fought, but also, following the Discovery, the first American government was established. Here was founded the first university of the New World. Here was erected the first temple and here was said the first mass. From here departed, then and afterwards, the Conquistadores, the glorious falcons sung of today by Heredia, and who extended the colonial system over all America; from here sprung heroic deeds and systems of magnificent enterprises and noble Christian foundations from which came the glorious and powerful America of the pres-

ent. In the soul of that America we consider there was dispersed and reconstructed our own ancestral soul, brave and generous. Thus the soul of America is our soul, its soil our soil, its law our law, its ideal our ideal; ours its greatness. Offenses committed against it are offenses committed against us.

The man who founded that America just four and a half centuries ago, he who, instead of finding a fast route to the Orient, found the road to the future of the world and the immortalization of his soul, sleeps in our soil, under the solemn columns of our Metropolitan Basilica, eternal and magnificent in his sleep of immortality. On this 450th anniversary of the voyage of the Discovery, his sepulchre will be offered to the reverent contemplation of the pilgrims of all the New World. Now that sepulchre is the conspicuous symbol of continental unity. That sepulchre demands union and solidarity of the Americas. We could then say, we should say, that the task undertaken by the Dominican Republic in the conflict now faced by the world is a Columbian task. A task of sincere unification, of community, of disregard for danger, or courage, of broad vision, and of faith.

*WE ARE, MOREOVER, AT
ATTENTION AND ON GUARD*

We are, moreover, at attention and on guard, with the thought put into words in the statement of President Roosevelt, and which we fully share, that America, which has learned well the glories of independence, should learn now, for its own good and for its salvation, the glorious doctrines of the interdependence of its members. We know, as the same illustrious leader also said in his speech referring to the Pearl Harbor attack, that oceans no longer are sufficient protection to the Hemisphere; that protection can no longer be measured on the basis of sea miles on the map. Natural barriers, extensive distances, are no longer sufficient defense for nations. America must defend itself, in its own way, with its own strength; and this strength depends upon the union of its people and the grouping in common of all resources of all kinds, that America may, once and for ever, assume the pre-eminent role which it has been assigned in the progress, the safety and the spiritual improvement of the world and of its institutions.



I ACCEPT THE NEW NOMINATION

In order to help strengthen this attitude of defense and in order to maintain a constant and irrevocable adhesion to the traditional Dominican concept, which considers America as a solid unity and as a unified power, opposed to all other powers or combinations of powers not American, this shall continue to be the primary objective of my international policy, in the event that the support which my compatriots offer me gives me once again the responsibilities of Government. I accept the new nomination which my people have offered me, and I declare that this reiteration of confidence is worth more to me than all the offerings which the devotion of my compatriots and the affections of my contemporaries have dedicated in marble and bronze. It is dearer to me than the titles with which legislatures have honored me and which I consider conferred in my person upon the people, of whose aspirations and desires I have only been the instrument of execution. Because, if I have had success as leader of that people, it has been because I have known how to be inspired by their virtues, as well as how to respond to the energies of their minds, nobly open to all beneficent purposes and all ideas of human progress. With loving dedication of all my powers in governing the people, I learned to govern

my own impulses in such a manner that nothing could prevent their being useful in service to my country. And now, when the feeling of danger, rapidly materializing, moves my people to call me to lead them through the world struggle, and causes them to ask me to assume again the leadership of their democratic institutions, and to maintain the liberty which is their highest heritage, the homage which such a call confers on me offers to me as a leader and patriot a definite recompense of transcendent value and more than eloquent significance. I am a man of action, and I am called upon to act. I love responsibility and I am called upon to answer for the integrity of the country of my heart, in the moment of greatest danger and menace which the small nations of the world have ever known. There is no greater homage, there is no greater tribute to the honor of a man, than to make such an appeal to him in such a moment. I give my compatriots sincere thanks for this proof, so great, of their appreciation.

YOU REMAIN UNITED

I do not need to ask of you that you remain united, that you give proof of your abnegation, of your calmness, of strength and of courage in the very grave hour we are now passing through. I know well that in the twelve years of the regime of recovery of which



I have been the guide and support, my people have succeeding in leaving far behind them the scarifying passions which affected the welfare of the nation, of lust and of the anarchistic influence of scandalous demagoguery — enemy of public peace and abettor of disorder.

On the other hand, I advance the hope, extremely reasonable, that the world conflict will not succeed in imposing privations of importance on the Dominican family. In twelve years of ceaseless work we have succeeded in binding together the national economy upon bases so sound and precise that I hope it will be able to resist and triumph over all the difficulties of the wartime crisis. During the Era to which my name was generously given, we have demonstrated that it is possible —and not only possible, but advantageous— to have government control, impeccably democratic, in the complicated gearing of production and the application and distribution of what is produced,— all this to obtain the maximum return, in the interest of the State, to recompense work and to assure the well-being of the population. All the hopes of rebuilding and of economic and social advance which appeared illusory before our Era, when the country was disrupted in fratricidal and useless disturbances, are now, due to our efforts, striking realities. We live in peace, confident in our destiny, sure of our accomplishments. When a problem comes up, a menace, the

threat of a crisis, we perceive in good time its existence, we examine its development carefully and we apply without delay, the necessary remedies.

We have built upon the substantial base of the character of the people, for the benefit of the people. And our peaceable revolution, carried out over a period of twelve fruitful years, has not only eliminated the oldest and gravest problems of the Nation, but has given it new direction; new forms have been given to the activities of the country, and these blessings have brought a new and healthy vitality to the patriotism of the people.

THEY CAN COUNT ON ME

There is no danger in following me, I said to the Dominican people when I prepared to fight for these advantages for them. The people heeded me, and the result has been splendid. Now, at the end of these years, the people call me again to help them protect the finished work, to defend the Nation, to contribute to the salvation of Humanity. And there is no danger in that it be I who follow the people now, I owe myself to them, and I have answered their call. *They can count on me.*

RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO

Trujillo City,
District of Santo Domingo.
February 28, 1942.

