

MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SANTO DOMINGO.

Executive Order No. 573.

DEFAMATION LAW.

By virtue of the powers vested in the Military Government of Santo Domingo, the following Order is hereby promulgated:

ARTICLE 1. "Defamation" and "insult", as herein defined and penalized, are hereby declared to be **delitos**.

ARTICLE 2. The penalty for publicly defaming or insulting the Government of the United States of America or any officer thereof, or the Military Government of Santo Domingo or any officer thereof, shall be correctional imprisonment of not more than two years, or fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or both such fine and imprisonment.

ARTICLE 3. Defamation is the allegation or imputation of an act, the commission of which would bring dishonor or ill-repute upon some person or entity. An insult is any insolent remark, invective or contemptuous expression that does not convey an imputation that a certain act has been committed.

ARTICLE 4. Defamation of any other representative, agent or employee of the Government of the United States or of the Military Government shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or by imprisonment of not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

ARTICLE 5. Imputations made concerning such officer, representative, agent or employee, when identified by name or otherwise, do not constitute defamation nor insult where such imputations are the expression of the truth. The burden of proving the truth thereof rests with the accused.

ARTICLE 6. In case of an insult or defamation of any such officer, representative, agent or employee, when not identified by name or otherwise, the offense shall be deemed as against the corresponding Government.

ARTICLE 7. Infractions of this Executive Order shall be tried and determined by tribunals of the Military Government of Santo Domingo.

ARTICLE 8. All Laws and parts of Laws in conflict with this Law are hereby repealed.

THOMAS SNOWDEN,
Rear-Admiral U. S. Navy
Military Governor of Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo City, D. R.,
Dec. 6, 1920.