

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,478

2
00:00:05,478 --> 00:00:08,466
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:08,466 --> 00:00:41,370

4
00:00:41,370 --> 00:00:44,520
The Dominican Republic, about
the size of Holland and Belgium

5
00:00:44,520 --> 00:00:47,100
with a population of
about 1 and 1/2 million,

6
00:00:47,100 --> 00:00:49,600
has opened its heart to the
homeless people of a troubled

7
00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:50,100
Europe.

8
00:00:50,100 --> 00:00:54,390

9
00:00:54,390 --> 00:00:56,460
Number one settlement
is at Sosua Bay

10
00:00:56,460 --> 00:00:59,190
on the estate of 26,000
acres contributed

11
00:00:59,190 --> 00:01:01,530
by Generalissimo Trujillo.

12
00:01:01,530 --> 00:01:04,319
The plan was promulgated before
the Intergovernmental Committee

13
00:01:04,319 --> 00:01:06,930
of 32 Nations at the
Evian Conference called

14
00:01:06,930 --> 00:01:09,932
by President Roosevelt in 1938.

15
00:01:09,932 --> 00:01:11,970
Forward looking
Generalissimo Trujillo,

16
00:01:11,970 --> 00:01:14,160
then president of the
Dominican Republic,

17
00:01:14,160 --> 00:01:15,930
recognized the
opportunity presented

18
00:01:15,930 --> 00:01:18,690
to his sparsely settled
country in giving welcome entry

19
00:01:18,690 --> 00:01:19,650
to European exiles.

20
00:01:19,650 --> 00:01:22,230

21
00:01:22,230 --> 00:01:24,750
Land was broken and
construction began at Sosua

22
00:01:24,750 --> 00:01:27,840
on the fertile green-swept
acres in the spring

23
00:01:27,840 --> 00:01:29,220
after the signing
of an agreement

24

00:01:29,220 --> 00:01:32,130
between the Dominican government
and the Dominican Republic

25
00:01:32,130 --> 00:01:33,990
Settlement Association.

26
00:01:33,990 --> 00:01:36,510
Sealed on the 30th
of January 1940,

27
00:01:36,510 --> 00:01:39,300
the pact was unique
in history, a covenant

28
00:01:39,300 --> 00:01:41,460
between the government and
the private humanitarian

29
00:01:41,460 --> 00:01:46,110
corporation providing for a
settlement of 100,000 refugees.

30
00:01:46,110 --> 00:01:48,720
500 families were to
comprise the first contingent

31
00:01:48,720 --> 00:01:49,350
to be admitted.

32
00:01:49,350 --> 00:02:01,280

33
00:02:01,280 --> 00:02:04,130
The United States offered
fullest cooperation.

34
00:02:04,130 --> 00:02:06,650
US transit visas made it
possible for the ships

35
00:02:06,650 --> 00:02:08,810
bearing the carefully

selected settlers to pass

36
00:02:08,810 --> 00:02:11,630
through American waters en
route to the tropic isle

37
00:02:11,630 --> 00:02:12,740
in the blue Caribbean.

38
00:02:12,740 --> 00:02:15,720

39
00:02:15,720 --> 00:02:18,120
Beautiful modern Trujillo
City is the capital

40
00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:19,740
of the Dominican Republic.

41
00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:21,990
Here representatives
from 32 nations

42
00:02:21,990 --> 00:02:23,990
met to witness the
signing of the contract

43
00:02:23,990 --> 00:02:25,530
and again a year
later to celebrate

44
00:02:25,530 --> 00:02:28,140
its first anniversary.

45
00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:30,150
From Generalissimo
Trujillo came offer

46
00:02:30,150 --> 00:02:33,300
of 50,000 additional acres.

47
00:02:33,300 --> 00:02:35,670

The assembly heard new
praise and endorsement

48
00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:38,880
for the humane project
from Senor Troncoso, now

49
00:02:38,880 --> 00:02:41,610
president of the republic.

50
00:02:41,610 --> 00:02:43,530
Archbishop Pittini
brought the message

51
00:02:43,530 --> 00:02:46,830
of the church, encouragement for
the success of the nonsectarian

52
00:02:46,830 --> 00:02:49,470
venture.

53
00:02:49,470 --> 00:02:51,330
Spokesmen for the
US State Department

54
00:02:51,330 --> 00:02:53,550
with the honorable
Robert T. Pell.

55
00:02:53,550 --> 00:02:55,860
The government of the
United States of America

56
00:02:55,860 --> 00:02:59,670
is proud to be associated
on this first anniversary

57
00:02:59,670 --> 00:03:02,790
of the signing of an agreement
between the Dominican

58
00:03:02,790 --> 00:03:05,130
government and the Dominican

Republic Settlement

59

00:03:05,130 --> 00:03:08,280

Association in a
tribute to President

60

00:03:08,280 --> 00:03:12,060

Troncoso to
Generalissimo Trujillo

61

00:03:12,060 --> 00:03:14,820

and to the high officials
of the Dominican government

62

00:03:14,820 --> 00:03:18,390

and Dominican people, whose
generous attitude has made

63

00:03:18,390 --> 00:03:22,770

possible the realization of
the project of settlement

64

00:03:22,770 --> 00:03:25,620

of many hundreds of
European refugees

65

00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:27,884

on this hospitable soil.

66

00:03:27,884 --> 00:03:30,728

[APPLAUSE]

67

00:03:30,728 --> 00:03:33,580

68

00:03:33,580 --> 00:03:35,890

And back at Sosua,
life and industry

69

00:03:35,890 --> 00:03:38,890

had been speeding on with
all the enthusiasm and ardor

70

00:03:38,890 --> 00:03:41,950
that typify a people
charting a new beginning.

71

00:03:41,950 --> 00:03:44,770
Hundreds of virgin acres were
cleared in the first months.

72

00:03:44,770 --> 00:03:47,260
The settlers were picked
for health and fitness,

73

00:03:47,260 --> 00:03:50,390
and sturdy pioneers
were not found wanting.

74

00:03:50,390 --> 00:03:52,580
Quickly mastering
the native machete,

75

00:03:52,580 --> 00:03:55,220
the knifed through the dense
growth by sweat and toil

76

00:03:55,220 --> 00:03:58,640
cleared a wilderness.

77

00:03:58,640 --> 00:04:01,580
Miles of roads were cut open
through the tropical country

78

00:04:01,580 --> 00:04:03,530
and rapidly showed the way.

79

00:04:03,530 --> 00:04:06,080
On an isle discovered and
loved by Christopher Columbus

80

00:04:06,080 --> 00:04:08,630
was a chance to find
New World freedom,

81

00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:12,480
and with smiling courage,
they bent to their tasks.

82
00:04:12,480 --> 00:04:14,850
And while these men
worked on tirelessly,

83
00:04:14,850 --> 00:04:16,529
others were
preparing their meals

84
00:04:16,529 --> 00:04:18,209
and attending to the
endless chores that

85
00:04:18,209 --> 00:04:21,570
keep a cooperative
job going full blast.

86
00:04:21,570 --> 00:04:23,370
Hard work alone could
give the project

87
00:04:23,370 --> 00:04:24,670
a fighting chance for success.

88
00:04:24,670 --> 00:04:27,470

89
00:04:27,470 --> 00:04:29,900
The richness of Sosua's
soil is its bounty

90
00:04:29,900 --> 00:04:31,670
for those who labor on it.

91
00:04:31,670 --> 00:04:33,740
So the crops that
awaited the pioneers

92
00:04:33,740 --> 00:04:36,240
were to repay for the long

hours of preparation that

93

00:04:36,240 --> 00:04:36,740
went before.

94

00:04:36,740 --> 00:04:39,720

95

00:04:39,720 --> 00:04:42,810
There was real joy and
Thanksgiving in the first feel

96

00:04:42,810 --> 00:04:43,860
of this good earth.

97

00:04:43,860 --> 00:04:47,450

98

00:04:47,450 --> 00:04:50,460
Modern machinery quickly
supplemented manual labor.

99

00:04:50,460 --> 00:04:52,250
This was natural, for
with mechanization

100

00:04:52,250 --> 00:04:54,980
of as many processes of the
settlers work as possible

101

00:04:54,980 --> 00:04:56,889
would come increased production.

102

00:04:56,889 --> 00:05:04,560

103

00:05:04,560 --> 00:05:07,290
So by a machine and
hand, hundreds of acres

104

00:05:07,290 --> 00:05:09,330
were rapidly put

under cultivation,

105
00:05:09,330 --> 00:05:11,177
and the agricultural
development of Sosua

106
00:05:11,177 --> 00:05:12,135
was becoming a reality.

107
00:05:12,135 --> 00:05:14,900

108
00:05:14,900 --> 00:05:17,030
Yes and out of these
fields may well

109
00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:19,400
come to project the
greatest achievements,

110
00:05:19,400 --> 00:05:21,890
for scientists are experimenting
with new industries

111
00:05:21,890 --> 00:05:24,350
based on Sosua's agriculture.

112
00:05:24,350 --> 00:05:27,830
By the summer of 1941,
more than 400 refugees

113
00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:29,270
had begun to prove
that they could

114
00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:32,760
subsist on this land that was
so generous with its responsive

115
00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:33,260
crops.

116

00:05:33,260 --> 00:05:36,870

117

00:05:36,870 --> 00:05:39,620

Livestock at Sosua
is of high quality.

118

00:05:39,620 --> 00:05:42,260

There were several horses
and mules as well as poultry

119

00:05:42,260 --> 00:05:45,785

by the time the colony was
little more than a year old.

120

00:05:45,785 --> 00:05:47,880

Cattle numbered
nearly 1,000 head.

121

00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:51,060

Expert veterinary care
was given from the outset.

122

00:05:51,060 --> 00:05:53,340

The first modern dairy
barn to be completed

123

00:05:53,340 --> 00:05:56,040

was capable of handling
150 cows daily.

124

00:05:56,040 --> 00:06:06,730

125

00:06:06,730 --> 00:06:10,030

Pride of the Sosua settlers
is their own cheese dairy.

126

00:06:10,030 --> 00:06:13,060

Up-to-date, sanitary,
and expertly operated,

127

00:06:13,060 --> 00:06:15,170

it sets a definite
career for the settler

128
00:06:15,170 --> 00:06:17,320
who has given his hand to it.

129
00:06:17,320 --> 00:06:19,990
Working in this manner
on a cooperative basis,

130
00:06:19,990 --> 00:06:22,240
the colony hopes one
day to provide not alone

131
00:06:22,240 --> 00:06:25,120
for its own needs but
to find outside markets

132
00:06:25,120 --> 00:06:26,890
for its surplus.

133
00:06:26,890 --> 00:06:29,440
Thus with cooperation
the keynote, Sosua's name

134
00:06:29,440 --> 00:06:31,330
is gradually to
increase its income

135
00:06:31,330 --> 00:06:33,760
through the use of better
tools and better methods

136
00:06:33,760 --> 00:06:37,030
than are within the reach of
the individual small farmer.

137
00:06:37,030 --> 00:06:39,160
And in the future
lies the possibility

138
00:06:39,160 --> 00:06:40,570
of exporting Sosua products.

139
00:06:40,570 --> 00:06:44,420

140
00:06:44,420 --> 00:06:46,770
Well-kept barracks
shelter the settlers.

141
00:06:46,770 --> 00:06:49,920
They remain here for the
preliminary training period.

142
00:06:49,920 --> 00:06:52,800
DORSA, the Dominican Republic
Settlement Association

143
00:06:52,800 --> 00:06:56,970
supported by American donations,
spends approximately \$2,000

144
00:06:56,970 --> 00:06:59,520
for the settlement of a family
and provides maintenance

145
00:06:59,520 --> 00:07:01,020
during training.

146
00:07:01,020 --> 00:07:03,690
Sosua's women folk
play a major role.

147
00:07:03,690 --> 00:07:06,510
Home, husband, and children
must receive their constant care

148
00:07:06,510 --> 00:07:09,030
and attention, and in
addition to housework,

149
00:07:09,030 --> 00:07:12,750
it is the women's task to
help conduct Sosua's schools.

150

00:07:12,750 --> 00:07:14,700

The entire family
must learn Spanish,

151

00:07:14,700 --> 00:07:16,380

for when they are
Dominican citizens,

152

00:07:16,380 --> 00:07:18,750

it will be their tongue.

153

00:07:18,750 --> 00:07:21,600

It can be easily seen that in
the encouragement of education

154

00:07:21,600 --> 00:07:24,090

and in all of Sosua's
endeavors, its women

155

00:07:24,090 --> 00:07:25,455

are writing heroic chapters.

156

00:07:25,455 --> 00:07:30,300

157

00:07:30,300 --> 00:07:33,390

For the settlers, diligent
effort in bringing its reward.

158

00:07:33,390 --> 00:07:36,550

Drawn as they are from
Europe's heterogeneous stocks,

159

00:07:36,550 --> 00:07:39,000

they have proved they can
perform a substantial amount

160

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:40,890

of work under
subtropical conditions

161

00:07:40,890 --> 00:07:42,945

and build the framework
of a fine future.

162
00:07:42,945 --> 00:07:47,680

163
00:07:47,680 --> 00:07:50,560
The village barber shop is
universally a popular gathering

164
00:07:50,560 --> 00:07:53,020
place, And Sosua
is no exception.

165
00:07:53,020 --> 00:07:55,220
Here, too, a craftsman
has established himself

166
00:07:55,220 --> 00:07:57,640
with what may well be his
life work on the island.

167
00:07:57,640 --> 00:08:04,300

168
00:08:04,300 --> 00:08:06,725
The medical department is
necessarily an important one

169
00:08:06,725 --> 00:08:08,350
in the colony where
an immigrant people

170
00:08:08,350 --> 00:08:11,050
are going through the
stages of acclimatization.

171
00:08:11,050 --> 00:08:13,000
Ails of all kinds
have been kept down

172
00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:15,820
to a minimum due to

special diets and specially

173
00:08:15,820 --> 00:08:16,825
scheduled work shifts.

174
00:08:16,825 --> 00:08:21,860

175
00:08:21,860 --> 00:08:23,990
Self-government is
practiced at Sosua.

176
00:08:23,990 --> 00:08:26,120
A settler's council
elected by the settlers

177
00:08:26,120 --> 00:08:28,010
help solve their problems.

178
00:08:28,010 --> 00:08:30,960
After two years comes
Dominican citizenship.

179
00:08:30,960 --> 00:08:33,289
Leisure hours are
valuable for solidifying

180
00:08:33,289 --> 00:08:35,390
newfound friendships
and rediscovering

181
00:08:35,390 --> 00:08:38,299
the joys and freedoms
that were snatched away.

182
00:08:38,299 --> 00:08:40,130
Athletics are an
important diversion,

183
00:08:40,130 --> 00:08:42,110
and it is the boast
of the Sosuans

184

00:08:42,110 --> 00:08:44,210

that their football
team trounced the best

185

00:08:44,210 --> 00:08:45,350

the island had to offer.

186

00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:48,470

187

00:08:48,470 --> 00:08:50,420

But through the months
of work and play,

188

00:08:50,420 --> 00:08:54,870

the Sosua settler strives toward
one goal, his own homestead.

189

00:08:54,870 --> 00:08:57,050

At the end of the
concentrated training period,

190

00:08:57,050 --> 00:09:00,560

it is the hope of each worker
to claim his own property.

191

00:09:00,560 --> 00:09:03,410

Settlers receive a homestead
on three acres of land,

192

00:09:03,410 --> 00:09:05,750

an additional three
acres of garden land,

193

00:09:05,750 --> 00:09:09,980

furniture, fixtures, livestock,
pastureland, and credit

194

00:09:09,980 --> 00:09:12,980

in a cooperative undertaking
for cash earnings.

195

00:09:12,980 --> 00:09:16,440
A period of years is given
to repay the association.

196
00:09:16,440 --> 00:09:19,260
With guaranteed freedom from
discrimination, full rights,

197
00:09:19,260 --> 00:09:23,760
and opportunities, the refugees
can here by their own hard work

198
00:09:23,760 --> 00:09:27,360
build a useful life.

199
00:09:27,360 --> 00:09:30,030
Were Christopher Columbus to
sail into Dominican waters

200
00:09:30,030 --> 00:09:33,810
today, he would be proud to
fund a dauntless people carving

201
00:09:33,810 --> 00:09:35,340
a new life out of
the tropical isle

202
00:09:35,340 --> 00:09:39,300
he first saw in 1492,
giving the mark of success

203
00:09:39,300 --> 00:09:41,160
to a great experiment.

204
00:09:41,160 --> 00:09:44,590
Sosua, new world
shelter for refugees.

205
00:09:44,590 --> 00:09:46,590
Sosua, haven in the Caribbean.

206
00:09:46,590 --> 00:09:49,640
[MUSIC PLAYING]

207

00:09:49,640 --> 00:10:01,000