

DOMINICAN ARMORY DEVELOPS CARBINE

European Refugees to Put Out 30-Caliber Machine Rifle of New Automatic Type

By MILTON LEVENSON

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES. 50

SAN CRISTOBAL, Dominican Republic, July 3—The light-machine-gun manufacturing plant set up here two years ago with the aid of European refugees from communism has just started to turn out its first quantity of a new-type automatic weapon for the Dominican Army.

The first 500 of a 30-caliber machine carbine are in production. This weapon utilizes a barrel that is interchangeable with a heavier, self-loading rifle that fires a 351 "full patch" cartridge. After six months of experimentation, it will go into production next month.

Both these weapons are said to need no oil or grease for regular use and can be fired effectively from a mud-cluttered barrel.

Technicians are now experimenting with a super-light machine gun that weighs five and a half pounds and fires a 30-caliber or a short Mauser cartridge. Tests have shown this weapon to be effective up to 700 yards. The last required step is the development of a short cartridge that will be most efficient with the new light arm.

While experimenting with the new weapons, technicians at the sixty-acre plant have been engaged in repairing old Army weapons and fixing agricultural machinery, officials of the plant said. This repair work began at the end of 1947 and is still continuing.

Arsenal Has 10 Buildings

Built at an estimated cost of \$7,000,000, the arsenal has ten buildings, including a new steel mill that is now being finished, and an ammunition production unit with 134 modern machines.

Since the machine-gun plant was first established in August, 1948, under Alexander Kovacs, a 61-year-old former Hungarian tool manufacturer, a steady stream of ultra-modern machinery has been brought in from all parts of Europe.

Mr. Kovacs came to stay in the Dominican Republic after the Communists took over his homeland. He had been serving as a technical adviser to the British-Indian Government in Calcutta during the war. He has brought with him thus far eighty-nine experienced arms technicians from Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy and other countries.

These men have been working alongside 411 Dominican natives. Within twelve weeks 100 more technicians are expected from refugee camps in Belgium, France and Germany.

Recent statements made in Cuba by a Hungarian expelled from the Dominican Republic arsenal on the ground he was a Communist were derided here by many of the technicians. They displayed the comfortable bungalow-type homes built for them, in-

duced their wives, and described as idiotic statements that they were being held as prisoners.

Their monthly pay is said to range from \$175, plus \$25 rent allowance, to \$700 for top-skilled jobs. Dominican workers, according to Mr. Kovacs, receive wage rates in keeping with pay scales general throughout the country.

Production for U. S. Available

Mr. Kovacs expects about 1,000 persons to be employed in the arms plant by the end of the summer. While the Government is now subsidizing the plant, the director declares that repair work on small cultivators and plows and the production of coffee pulping machines, samples of which can be seen, will continue to keep the arsenal financially solvent.

Contrary to early reports, there is no equipment here to turn out airplane motors. Mr. Kovacs noted that light motors could be repaired with the modern machine tools on hand. There are also available types of equipment that could stamp out light armor for tank turrets or armored cars.

Under ordinary circumstances, the director estimates, 10,000 automatic weapons could be produced annually. "But if the United States asked us to do it, we could turn out 50,000 or even 100,000 of these weapons a year," he said during a tour of the plant.

His reports suggest that the 30-calibre carbine, known as the Kiraly-Cristobal, after this community and the inventor, Paul D. Kiraly, who works here now, has an effective range of 600 yards. Mr. Kiraly was described as among

the best arms inventors alive.

The rifle fires twenty to forty shots, according to the magazine used. Mr. Kovacs thinks this and the heavier rifle, which stands on a tripod similar to the Browning-type rapid-fire gun, is better than any United States weapon of its size that he knows about.