

OIS

PRESS RELEASE

Martial law in the territory of Hawaii is terminated immediately General Robert C. Richardson Jr., commanding army forces in Pacific ocean areas announced at the office of internal security today.

General Richardson made the announcement as he made public a proclamation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt officially terminating martial law here. The proclamation was released simultaneously from the White House in Washington.

Also simultaneously released was a presidential executive order authorizing General Richardson to prescribe the territory of Hawaii as a military area and to issue security measures which he considers necessary.

Acting under this authority General Richardson designated Hawaii as a military area and issued security regulations all of which have been in force previous to the termination of martial law.

Today's action officially restored the writ of habeas corpus in Hawaii and automatically terminated all provost courts insofar as civilians are affected.

Under the security regulations issued by the general the 10 p.m. curfew remains in effect.

Hereafter any violations of any restrictions or orders of the military commander will be tried in the United States district courts. Persons found guilty of violations will be subject to a fine not

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exceeding \$5000 or one year's imprisonment, or both under act of Congress March 21, 1942.

Security measures now in effect under General Richardson's order are:

1. The 10 p.m. curfew remains unchanged.
2. Regulation of conduct by enemy aliens remain unchanged.
3. Regulations and instructions for civilian security during enemy air raids remain unchanged.
4. Regulations pertaining to entry to restricted areas and to the wearing of identification badges issued by the central identification bureau remain in effect.
5. Censorship and regulations of communications remain unchanged.
6. Cargo and passenger control in all ports and harbors of the territory remains under the office of internal security which will continue to administer all regulations.

One of the highlights of today's action is that under the executive order and General Richardson's subsequent orders any person considered dangerous to national defense may be ordered excluded from the territory and incident to such exclusion is subject to detention.

In a statement issued by General Richardson from the office of internal security he reviewed the steps he had taken to terminate martial law in the territory.

"Many months of study have been given by my staff and myself to eliminating martial law in the territory and the initiative was taken to procure from the President an executive order which would insure

the security of these islands during the war," said General Richardson.

"The provisions of this order confer powers which are to be exercised solely for that security.

"At the time of the restoration to the civil authorities of most of the powers which had been exercised under total martial law by the commanding general, the President expressed the hope that from time to time as the military situation improved there would be a gradual return of all the powers that properly belong to constituted civilian authority.

"Ever since I have been in office, first as military governor and now as commanding general administering internal security measures it has been the policy to conform to the President's directive and where possible to relinquish those powers which were not necessary for the security of these islands.

"At the time of the restoration in March 1943 only such powers were retained as were necessary for security and to insure that the highly essential activities of the army and navy were not impeded.

"It was for that reason that control of labor was placed in my hands, and I regarded this responsibility as a very sacred trust. It was my constant endeavor to administer labor with sympathy for their problems and with absolute justice and consideration to both individuals engaged in labor and to those employing them.

"As the studies conducted by my office progressed it was determined that it would be to the best interests of all concerned to integrate available labor then under military control with that

under civil control," said the General.

"The office of internal security took the initiative in establishing the priorities committee under the war manpower commission which was recently placed in effect.

"At my invitation the chairman of the war labor board in Washington came here to discuss possible establishment of an office of that board. Following these conferences and careful study, an office was set up. With the recent transfer to the war labor board of all jurisdiction over matters pertaining to wages and labor disputes, the relinquishment of all military control over labor here was virtually completed.

"Similarly," continued General Richardson, "I voluntarily relinquished the title of military governor which I had inherited, as the title had long since served any useful purpose and as all powers granted me in the discharge of my mission were inherent in my office of commanding general.

"The publicity which was given to the habeas corpus cases in the past year appears to me to have created an impression that there was continuous controversy in the territory between the civilian authorities and the military authorities over the powers exercised by the commanding general.

"I wish to emphasize that such was not the case and it is only fair to both civilian and military authorities that people of the mainland understand that fact.

"The differences were purely of legal conception and their discussion never descended into personalities or even strained relations. Solutions were sought in a judicial, and friendly atmosphere.

"As a matter of fact," said General Richardson, "ever since the return to civil authorities in March, 1943, of most of their powers the term 'martial law' has been a misnomer inasmuch as the only powers excepting control of labor that have been exercised by me as commanding general were measures for the security of the fleet when in port and for the internal security of the Hawaiian Islands.

"With these measures no patriotic Americans can disagree.

"Under the new system of administration of necessary security measures I am sure I will continue to find the same spirit of cooperation which the people of Hawaii have always displayed."