

Puerto Rico Marks First Anniversary As Commonwealth

By the Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, July 25.—Greetings from President Eisenhower to the Puerto Ricans on the first anniversary of their Commonwealth status were read today at the climax of island-wide celebrations.

The message was read by Resident Commissioner Antonio Fernos Isern at San Juan's historic City Hall, where the city's celebration centered. The occasion coincided to the day with the 55th anniversary of the landing of United States troops on the island during the Spanish-American War.

Last July former President Truman signed a Congressional resolution approving Puerto Rico's new constitution giving the island the status of a free Commonwealth associated with the United States.

President Eisenhower said the United States shares the Puerto Ricans' pride in their achievements. He added he is certain the unity of the two governments will last.

Gov. Luis Munoz Marin, last speaker at the City Hall program, said the island's status "is definitely solved through the Commonwealth, although the new status is one which is continually growing."

About 5,000 Puerto Ricans gathered in the square facing the City Hall. There was a carnival spirit as the crowds sang on a program broadcast throughout the island. The celebration was notable for the absence of all military display.