

Puerto Rico



News Service

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For the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

March 21, 1960

Dofia Felisa Rincón de Gautier
Municipio
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Dear Dofia Felisa:

It wasn't the first time to my knowledge that you saved the day for the Government of Puerto Rico, but last Saturday night at the press conference for some 25 outstanding newspaper men from the United States in the Meson Madrid you yourself may not realize what an important part you played.

You know, of course, that stateside opinion of Puerto Rico depends to a great extent on what men such as those at the press conference write about our officials. In addition to yourself we had invited three quite important members of the government and they had agreed to be present. One of them was to answer questions of a political and international nature, the other two were authorities on the economic aspects of Puerto Rico's development. As time wore on at the conference the newspapermen kept asking for somebody to answer their questions. Nobody had appeared.

You cannot know with what relief our people greeted your arrival or how gratified they were at the manner in which you answered questions that were more in the field of the others than your own sphere of activity. The others didn't appear at all the whole evening. Had you not come, some very influential newspapermen would have gone back to the United States with a decidedly low opinion of the officials who administer the Commonwealth. In fact, the whole thing would have been a terrible fiasco.

Once again please let me express my deep appreciation for your conscientious and skillful handling of such an important

aspect of the administration's responsibility as public relations. I sincerely don't know what we -- or the government's good name -- would have done without you.

Sincerely,

MORTON SONTHEIMER

MS/f

cc: NYO

bc: GA,
G. Roca
A. Morales Carrión