

BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES  
OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

Consistent with the present trend and ideology of this age of technical assistance nations are sharing their skills and techniques to assist less developed countries in their efforts to promote their social and economic development. Conscious of these responsibilities with other nations, the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is sharing its experience with other areas of the world and particularly with newly developing countries.

The philosophy of the program under which Puerto Rico shares its knowledge of new techniques for social and economic development is based on the need to improve throughout the world the conditions under which man lives. This philosophy includes not only the improvement of his economic status but man's cultural and intellectual development.

In order to implement the above philosophy the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico has approved legislation beginning in 1951 to promote and facilitate the development of a program of technical and cultural cooperation with other countries of the world. The fiscal overhead responsibilities for all these programs have been assumed by the Commonwealth Government. The friendly political association established between the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has produced outstanding results, and much good will for the United States can be generated after the visit to Puerto Rico of foreign visitors who are in a position of leadership in their respective countries. Many of these visitors came

to Puerto Rico as guests of the Commonwealth government under our Educational and Cultural Exchange Program.

During the past six years Puerto Rico has become a center of important international conferences and seminars. Among others mention may be made of the meeting of the West Indian Conference (6th Session), the Eighth Conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Fifteenth Pan-American Sanitary Conference, the Inter-American Exchange of Persons Conference, the Conference of Directors of United States Operations Missions to Latin America, the World Planning Congress, the Inter-American Economic Planning Seminar and the World Physical Planning Seminar. The technical cooperation program in Puerto Rico operating under agreements with ICA beginning in 1954 affords now the largest single training center of any one State of the Union.

In addition to offering training to participants from ICA, the United Nations, and its specialized agencies, the Organization of American States and its specialized agencies, <sup>are</sup> ~~and~~ those referred by individual governments. In addition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico invites yearly a number of distinguished persons from numerous governments, particularly from Latin America for a short period of time to conduct observations of the Puerto Rican operations.

In addition to the above activities the Commonwealth Government has sponsored and financed overhead expenses of permanent international organizations with their headquarters in Puerto Rico such as the Inter-American Planning Society and the Caribbean Commission.

Enclosures:

December 22, 1960