

C O P I A

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

February 23, 1956

Dear Arturo:

I suppose that you are beginning to get a breathing spell from your duties in connection with the state visit of Figueres. I have heard from Muna some of your problems.

The paper, which is essentially your paper, was finally approved after some unexpected opposition which Mr. McIlvaine valiantly withstood. We handed the notes to the British Minister, the French Minister and the First Secretary of the Netherlands Embassies on Monday, February 20. Mr. Wilcox and Mr. McIlvaine presented the US position and the notes were unclassified--a fact which the British commented upon immediately for they had sent their note to us "confidential." They asked, and we agreed, that no publicity would be given to the US position until the other governments had had an opportunity to reply. We suggested to them a time-table along the following lines--(1) a preliminary meeting of the four Member Governments in late March in order to work out the arrangements for the calling of the special session of the West Indian Conference, (2) convening the WIC (special session) some time this fall in order that it might serve as a fitting celebration of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Caribbean Commission. The other Members protested that we had taken 15 months to answer the British note and that they couldn't be expected to answer ours in four weeks. One thing is certain, they will take their time to study our proposal. We cannot expect to have a preliminary meeting in late March, but Mr. McIlvaine insisted that some such meeting must be held before the 22nd meeting of the Commission in French Guiana, and mentioned the great difficulties in Aruba in arriving at decisions because of the uncertainty of the future of the CC. He will keep this idea warm, and I believe will insist upon something so that a report can be available at the 22nd meeting to guide us on such problems as the 10th anniversary. I'll keep you informed.

Mr. Phleger was entranced with Puerto Rico. He speaks of his visit with great enthusiasm for the charm of the people, their culture, their vitality, their enthusiasm--and their great strides particularly in housing. He said that he had not expected to be received with such cordiality because of

the stand he had previously taken on matters affecting Puerto Rico, but said that to the officials, who were all gracious and hospitable, this didn't seem to make any difference. Clever people, I say, these Puerto Ricans!! I shall give you other highlights when I see you, but I am told that he returned in a most jovial mood and that he has become a champion for Puerto Rico!!!

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
DEPARTAMENTO DE ESTADO
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Gobernador
30-11

15 de marzo de 1956

MEMORANDUM

Al: Gobernador
Secretario de Estado

De: Arturo Morales Carrión *ame*

Les envío copia de una carta personal que me ha remitido Frances McReynolds Smith con interesantes noticias sobre la revisión del Convenio de la Comisión del Caribe y la reacción de Phleger a su visita a Puerto Rico.

Anexo

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LA FORTALEZA
PUERTO RICO

MEMORANDUM

16 mar 56.

Resolución a
Archivos

Visto por el Prof.
Mora