

P A R T V.

PUERTO RICO 30th September, 1956 - 6th October, 1956.

The constitutional status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is somewhat unique. Whilst ^{it is} no longer a colony, it is neither an independent nation nor a state assimilated within a larger union. The legal basis of this form of political association is a compact between the Congress of the United States and the people of Puerto Rico. It represents on the part of the Congress a voluntary surrender of power to the people of Puerto Rico with respect to the internal government of the island; it also implies the relations between Puerto Rico and the United States have ceased to be matters to be determined unilaterally by the U.S. and have become subject to consultation between Congress and Puerto Rico on a basis of mutual agreement and consent. The Puerto Rican Government maintains in Washington a Commissioner who may attend meetings of the Legislature, but has no vote. This enables Puerto Rico to enjoy economic benefits (including exemption from Federal taxes and customs tariffs), which both statehood and independence would deny.

2. Puerto Rico is the smallest and most eastern of the four islands known as Gt. Antilles. The capital, San Juan, is about 1,600 land miles south-east of New York, and approximately 6 hours flying distance therefrom. Roughly rectangular in shape, it is a mountain crest about 100 miles long

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