

Debate is about to be reopened before the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, on the case of the political status of Puerto Rico. The purpose contemplated is that the international organization repeal the resolution whereby the Washington government was excused from continuing to give annual reports to the General Assembly of the UN on the American colonial administration of the Island.

Unless the intention is to continue falsifying historical facts, the way to success is easy for this enterprising proposal. It will be enough to reexamine in the light of recent events, the allegations made by the United States delegation in order to obtain approval of the resolution in question.

At that time it was said that "Puerto Rico had already achieved a new constitutional status". That's a lie! Different departments of the Washington Administration have repeatedly objected to such claims by local government agents and have likewise expressed their complete disagreement as to attributing to the fictitious "Commonwealth" a juridical status existing only in the minds of its eulogists.

It was also claimed that, with the establishment of the Commonwealth, the Puerto Rican people had "exercised their right to self-determination". That's a lie! If the leaders of the Congress in Washington do persist in anything, it is in reasserting, together with the Puerto Rican groups repudiating such a fiction, that an abusive "referendum" imposed on the basis of choosing between a status quo and nominal reforms to the regime, without any consultation whatever as to a status of sovereignty, cannot be considered the self-determination of a people.

It was then asserted that the relationship of the Commonwealth with the United States constituted "a mutually agreed association". That's a lie! The inevitable failure of the legislation proposed to retouch the present status is due, precisely, to the emphatic rejection by Federal authorities of the illusory proposition that the Congress of the United States cannot alter such relations without the express consent of Puerto Rico.

This whole situation is as undeniable now as it was when the Washington government was barely able to present a picture that is different from the political reality of Puerto Rico, after long debating in the General Assembly of the UN and by a very short voting margin. But that distortion of truth has become more apparent with the congressional hearings recently held on the Island. The hearings provide abundant testimony of the continuing overall power that the Federal Congress exercises over the most essential attributes of Puerto Rican life.

The statement made by the spokesman for the delegation of India against the deceitful resolution was a memorable one: "Time will show that the pretended political sovereignty of Puerto Rico is clearly a fallacy."

This prophecy has been fulfilled only too well. It would be absurd to suppose that the UN will ignore it.