

December 8, 1961

Dear Governor Munoz Marin:

On the advice of Dr. Arturo Morales Carrion I am writing to invite your attention and interest in connection with a contemplated visit of the twenty-two members of the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy to Puerto Rico for three to four days beginning Wednesday, January 17 for the purpose of studying at firsthand Puerto Rico's experience in the field of development as exemplified principally by Operation Bootstrap. The Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy is the most advanced course of training offered by the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State. A leaflet describing the purposes of the course and its curriculum is enclosed together with a biographic list of this year's members.

It has often been suggested that the members of the Senior Seminar would derive much benefit from a firsthand study of the unique achievements of your administration in the field of development in the broadest sense including, not only economic development, but also political and social development as well. Notably among those who have commented on the potential value to the group of such a study, I should like to cite Senator Fulbright who expressed himself in this sense to members of last year's class when they met with him just prior to his leaving for a luncheon engagement with you last spring.

I would not want this visit to be in any way a burden on you, although we would hope very much to have the opportunity at some point during our visit to have a session of perhaps an hour or so during which members of the group could ask you questions about what they had seen and hear your views on prospects for the future. If you perceive no objection to the group making a visit for the purposes mentioned between January 17 and January 21, I would be most grateful to you if you would give us the name of somebody connected with your government with whom we could correspond concerning the details of the visit. It has been suggested that you might wish to nominate Mr. Jorge Morales Yordan if he were available to advise us on the kind of program which would serve our purposes best. Tentatively, we expect to arrive in San Juan around midday on Wednesday, January 17 and would be departing sometime on Sunday, January 21. When I receive the name of the person whom we should deal with, I would furnish him with further details of what we had in mind and would seek his advice as to the most suitable program.

The Honorable

Luis Louis Munoz Marin,

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,  
San Juan

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The group consists of twenty-two persons -- thirteen from the upper ranks of the Foreign Service, Colonels from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, a Navy Captain and senior representatives from the Agency for International Development, the United States Information Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of the Treasury. All have been selected on the basis of excellence of performance and their potential to reach the top-most ranks of their respective services. Their average age will be in the mid-40's and the average length of service in the neighborhood of twenty years, as you will see from the enclosed biographic list.

The group will have completed a substantial number of readings describing the Puerto Rican experience before they make their visit. This past week while on a visit to New York to meet with members of the United Nations, the editorial staff of the New York Times, the officers of the New York Stock Exchange, and other groups, they spent a portion of an afternoon hearing Mr. Joseph Montserrat tell about Puerto Rican migration and the problems and achievements of the Puerto Rican colony in the United States. We hope also that the group will have had an opportunity before leaving Washington to discuss Puerto Rican problems with Dr. Morales Carrion and also with Ambassador Moscoso and hear from them about some of the things they will be seeing while in Puerto Rico.

Many of the group are likely in the future to be serving in some of the new less developed countries of the world, and it is felt it will be helpful to them to have studied the Puerto Rican experience for the many lessons it may teach them in conducting aid programs in such countries, always giving due regard to the necessary political climate for the utilization of aid, the human problems and the guidance to be derived both from failures as well as successes.

We recognize, of course, that the Puerto Rican experience cannot serve as a model in all respects for other countries because of Puerto Rico's special status and for other reasons, but there is no doubt in our minds that the opportunity to examine the programs which you have developed will provide many useful examples which can be followed in whole or in part elsewhere. Nearly all of us at one time or another have heard from foreign friends overseas who have been to Puerto Rico about the remarkable accomplishments of your administration. They are often surprised--and rightly so-- that representatives of the U. S. such as ourselves should be so ignorant about them.

Hoping that our proposal meets with your approval and that we may count on your support for our project, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Andrew V. Corry  
Coordinator  
Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy  
Foreign Service Institute

Enclosures:

1. Leaflet
2. Biographic List

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