

Estrictamente Confidencial



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1953

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My dear Dr. Morales Carrión:

In accordance with your request in your telephone conversation with Mr. Ross and me yesterday, I am enclosing several copies of the paper entitled "Questions and Answers Regarding the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" as it has finally emerged after clearances by the Department of State and the Department of the Interior. It embodies the changes as suggested by the Government of Puerto Rico as well as a few minor modifications and additions inserted in the belief that the Executive Branch of the United States Government should not endeavor to interpret what may be the will later on of the United States Congress and the decisions of the Courts in regard to the future status of Puerto Rico. Wherever possible, therefore, appropriate statements attributable to Congressional sources or to the Courts have been used in discussing the status of the Commonwealth. For example, excerpts from the recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit have been inserted on pages 14 and 21 of the document.

I also enclose a copy of the letter and accompanying memorandum which Mr. Gerig has received from Senator Concepción de Gracia, President of the Puerto Rico Independence Party. You will note that the Senator states that the memorandum is sent "for transmittal by the Government of the United States to members of the United Nations thru official channels, in compliance with the agreement reached in our meeting in the Capitol building of San Juan on June 23rd". This request, to which we are of course unable to agree, indicates an apparent misunderstanding of an informal suggestion which Mr. Gerig made during his conversation with Senator Concepción de Gracia and his colleagues in San Juan. Mr. Gerig's suggestion was in terms of the possibility of having the opposition viewpoint of the Puerto Rico Independence Party appropriately indicated in the oral presentation which the United States spokesmen will make in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and later in the General Assembly. In line with this suggestion, Mr. Gerig plans to recommend that the Senator's memorandum be made available to the

United States

The Honorable

Dr. Arturo Morales Carrión,

Under Secretary of State of Puerto Rico,

c/o Puerto Rican Development Administration,

600 Fifth Avenue,

New York, New York.

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United States Delegation for appropriate use in reflecting the views of minority groups in Puerto Rico in presentation of the Puerto Rican case.

Sincerely yours,

*William I. Cargo*

William I. Cargo  
Acting Director, Office of  
Dependent Area Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Letter with accompanying memorandum dated August 7, 1953, from Senator Concepción de Gracia.
2. Paper entitled "Questions and Answers Regarding the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (3 copies).

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