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Democracy Pays In Puerto Rico

By WILLIAM GIANDONI

Latin American Editor, The Copley News Service

Puerto Ricans are the kind of salesmen of U.S. democracy who want to be seen to be believed.

So convinced are they that the American way is the right way that already they are spending \$400,000 a year of their own money to show the world.



What is more the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. International Co-operation Administration have signed an agreement to expand the island's role as a world technical training center.

Up to now, more than 9,000 persons from 107 different countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America have trained there.

Instruction is provided in the fields of education, public administration, public health, housing, social welfare, industry and agriculture.

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Technical training offered is the best available, but, in itself, not too much out of the ordinary.

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What Puerto Rico gives also is a chance to observe American techniques and American-type representative government at work against a Latin American cultural background, complicated by extremes of the two toughest problems underdeveloped areas throughout the world face—overpopulation and lack of natural resources.

Puerto Rico's 2½ million persons make it one of the most densely populated places on the globe, outside of Europe, with 672 persons per square mile. Japan, for example has around 600; India, only 291, and Red China, a mere 125.

At the same time, Puerto Rico has almost none of the natural resources generally considered needed for industrial development. There are no mineral deposits of importance, no coal or oil, and limited farm lands.

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Yet, with U.S. encouragement and advice, Puerto Ricans are fast approaching Gov. Luis Munoz Marin's goals of an income of at least \$2,000 a year for each family and jobs for everyone.

How they are doing it, and how other less privileged nations could do it, is what Puerto Ricans want to show off.

In doing so, some of their glory rubs off on the mainland, because of Puerto Rico's unique relationship to the United States.

As a commonwealth, Puerto Ricans consider their island "a freely associated state of U.S. citizens—not a territory or possession."