The granting of a merit award or an honorary degree to a public leader should always be a cause of pride and honor to his countrymen, especially when such an honor is bestowed upon him for distinguished achievements in the struggle for human rights.

Could we, after thoroughly examining the political career of Luis Munoz Marin, accept that he deserves the Freedom Award? **NEVER!**

He is the best exponent of colonialism, establishing himself as a sort of benevolent dictator. Mr. Munoz Marin has set up a regime of intimidation in the form of a Gestapo that persecutes anybody who believes in and speaks for Independence.

We members of the Puerto Rican Independence Party in New York honestly believe that he is not a true exponent of the principles of Freedom and Democracy for which this award is conferred upon him. We believe that awarding a trophy to Munoz Marin is an insult to the intelligence and a mockery to the moral integrity of free men in America and the World.