My dear Governor Muñoz:

The Department has under active consideration the composition of the United States Delegation to the 1953 session of the General Assembly's Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories which is scheduled to convene in New York on August 18 for approximately three weeks. A principal item on the agenda of the Committee is the question of the United States decision to cease transmitting information to the United Nations on Puerto Rico. In accordance with the procedure established by General Assembly Resolution 448(V) the Committee will examine the documents submitted by this Government in connection with its decision and will report thereon to the Eighth General Assembly. Since the Committee's report will provide the basis for the General Assembly's discussion of the Puerto Rican question this fall, it is of great importance that the presentation of the case in the Committee be as full and effective as possible.

With this in mind we are giving careful consideration to the idea of attaching as a special adviser to the United States Delegation to the Committee an appropriate official of the Puerto Rican Government. The principal functions of this special adviser would be to make a full statement in the Committee on the attainment of self-government by the people of Puerto Rico and to answer, as appropriate, questions which might be put to him by members of other Delegations both in formal meetings and in informal conversations. Such an official should be someone who could be regarded as representing the views of the Commonwealth Government and who is thoroughly conversant with the details of the process by which the Commonwealth was established and with its present constitutional position within

The Honorable
Luis Muñoz Marin,
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Puerto Rico,
La Fortaleza,
San Juan, Puerto Rico.
the Federal Union. As you will note, this proposal is along the lines of the suggestion for Puerto Rican participation in the presentation of the Puerto Rican case to the United Nations General Assembly which you made during our conversation here last month.

An obvious choice for such an assignment would appear to be the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Dr. Antonio Fernos-Isern, who in addition to his eminent qualifications has the advantage of being in Washington and thus available for continuous consultation. On the other hand you might wish to make some other recommendation. We would therefore appreciate your informing us as soon as possible whether you would wish to have Dr. Fernos designated, in the event that circumstances permit the Department to include a Puerto Rican official in the United States Delegation, or whether you would prefer to suggest someone else.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John D. Hickerson
Assistant Secretary