PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED
for Separation of Church and State

October 28, 1960

The Honorable Christian A. Herter
Secretary of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We most respectfully call your attention to the recent effort of the Roman Catholic bishops assigned to Puerto Rico, supported by the Vatican, to interfere directly in the forthcoming Puerto Rican election. We believe that recent actions of these bishops, consisting of the formation of a clerical political party and their giving of voting orders to the Catholic population constitute interference with the conduct of the foreign policy of the United States.

We believe that the orders given by the bishops to vote against Munoz Marin, the popular leader of Puerto Rico, represent a reprehensible attempt to destroy the career of a man who has importantly symbolized the hopes of the free world. We have long noted your endeavors and those of the Department to contrast the wide social and economic progress of Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States, with the plight of many Latin American nations under repressive dictatorships. We recognize that these endeavors have borne fruit. There has been a steady decline in the number of Latin American dictators and representative government has been restored in a number of instances.

We are mindful, too, that in contrast with some Latin American countries, communism has little or no following in Puerto Rico. Many
observers feel this is due to the successful administration of Munoz
Marin, who has long been supported by a large majority of liberty-loving
Puerto Ricans.

In consideration of these facts, we respectfully suggest
that you request the United States Ambassador to Italy to protest to the
Vatican its clerical interference in:

(1) The foreign policy of the United States government, which
has taken pride in the social and economic achievements of the present
Puerto Rican administration.

(2) The current Puerto Rican election, since Puerto Rico has
commonwealth status as a part of the United States and voting orders
by bishops violate its freedom.

(3) The successful fight against communism waged by the adminis-
tration in Puerto Rico and its salutary effect upon the entire effort
of the United States government against the spread of communism in
Latin America.

If you should adopt our suggestion, we believe you will have
the approval and support of millions of American citizens, many of them of
Roman Catholic faith, who strongly resent this appearance of clericalism on
American soil.

Respectfully yours,

C. Stanley Lowell
Associate Director

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Washington 6, D. C.

Have You Subscribed To
"Church and State"
For Your Pastor?

VIA AIR MAIL

Dr. Arturo Morales Carrion
Assistant Secretary of State
Administration of Munoz Marin
San Juan, Puerto Rico