CONFIDENTIAL

August 10, 1956

TO: GUSTAVO AGRAIT

The Freedom House Award for Governor Muñoz must be only the first step in an effort to gain international recognition for him, or, more accurately stated, for Puerto Rico through him.

The climax, the goal toward which we are working, is the Nobel Prize.

I am convinced that that is attainable. Each additional recognition that comes to him is a step toward the goal. On our part this should begin with the encouragement at every opportunity of pronouncements of international scope. While his original sphere of interest, Latin America, need not be overlooked, the horizon must be broadened.

As part of a plan under discussion for some months, much of it developed by Len Robinson, we are making a study of suitable awards to follow this one and we will work, subtly and through friends, to have the Governor’s name considered for these awards.

In none of this can we depend on the cooperation of the Governor himself, except as his general conduct and personal achievements supply the basis for the effort. But he himself is embarrassed and even angered by the most passing references to it. He was tormented by doubts about what he might have done “this year” to deserve the Freedom House Award.

But the value of these honors, to Puerto Rico, hardly needs stating. Psychologically they are hypodermic. In public relations aspects, they are worth quite a few Commonwealth Campaign ads or stories. They command their own publicity. And they command more attention for this land than any other tool we can lay hand to.

Horton Sontheimer

cc: JB, SFK, FW, NM, TM, AMG, Robinson