

P06

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901



RECEIVED

FEB 23 1989

WASHINGTON OFFICE

February 15, 1989

The Honorable William Lehman
United States Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lehman:

On January 17, 1989, the Presidents of Puerto Rico's three political parties -- the Popular Democratic Party, representing Commonwealth, the New Progressive Party, representing Statehood, and the Independence Party, representing Independence -- reached a historic agreement to jointly express to the President and the Congress of the United States that the People of Puerto Rico wish to be consulted as to their ultimate political status, and that the consultation should include the guarantee that the will of the People once expressed shall be implemented through an act of Congress.

We reached this momentous decision in Puerto Rican history confident of the commitment of the United States and the People of Puerto Rico to the principles of self-determination and government by the consent of the governed. We communicated this agreement to leaders in the Congress and to the President in a jointly subscribed letter, a copy of which I enclose. In that letter we requested a tripartite meeting with President Bush and with the leadership of the Congress in order to advance consideration of the appropriate act of Congress.

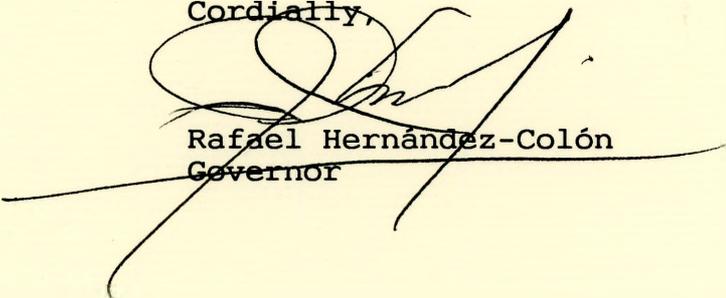
President Bush, in his Budget Speech to a Joint Session of Congress last week, brought to national attention his endorsement of the right of the people of Puerto Rico freely to decide their own political status. Although the President expressed his long-standing personal preference for Statehood, he nevertheless ratified the United State's established policy of respecting the people of Puerto Rico's "right to determine their own political future," and urged the Congress "to take the necessary steps to let the people decide in a referendum."

Our preliminary meetings with the Senate and House leadership have been fruitful and positive. I am confident that with bi-partisan support in the Congress behind Puerto Rico's three-party initiative, we will be able to go forward with legislation implementing the proposed consultation.

The people of Puerto Rico and I hope to count on your support in this matter. By assisting the People of Puerto Rico in their unified quest for a final solution to their political status situation, you will be acting in the best traditions of American participatory democracy and its dedication to the principles of self-determination.

I look forward to meeting with you on this matter, so that we may jointly advance this historic step of self-determination.

Cordially,



Rafael Hernández-Colón
Governor

Enclosure

January 17, 1989

The Honorable George Bush
President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In the past election held on November 8, 1988, all three political parties, which represent the three alternatives for the ultimate political status of the People of Puerto Rico, included the need for the resolution of the status issue in the platforms they presented to the electorate.

In accordance with the platform of the Popular Democratic Party, the Governor of Puerto Rico announced in his Inauguration the intention of the Government of Puerto Rico to pursue the resolution of the status question with the Government of the United States of America and convened a meeting of the leadership of the three political parties that represent the three formulas.

As a result of this meeting we, the Presidents --of the Popular Democratic Party, representing Commonwealth, the New Progressive Party, representing Statehood, and the Independence Party, representing Independence-- have agreed to express to the President and to the Congress of the United States of America, that the People of Puerto Rico wish to be consulted as to their preference with regards to their ultimate political status and the consultation should have the guarantee that the will of the People once expressed shall be implemented through an act of Congress which would establish the appropriate mechanisms and procedures to that effect.

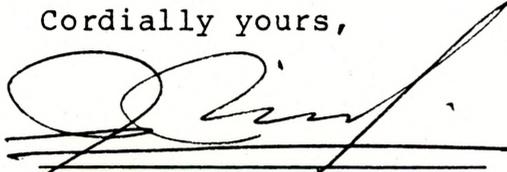
Towards the formulation of such an act of Congress and related policies, we request to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Conscious that since Puerto Rico came under the sovereignty of the United States of America through the Treaty of Paris in 1898, the People of Puerto Rico have not been formally consulted by the United States of America as to their choice of their ultimate political status, and in the understanding that we are taking a momentous decision in Puerto Rican history and confident of the commitment of the United States of America and of the People of Puerto Rico to the principles of self-determination and government by the consent of the governed, we remain,

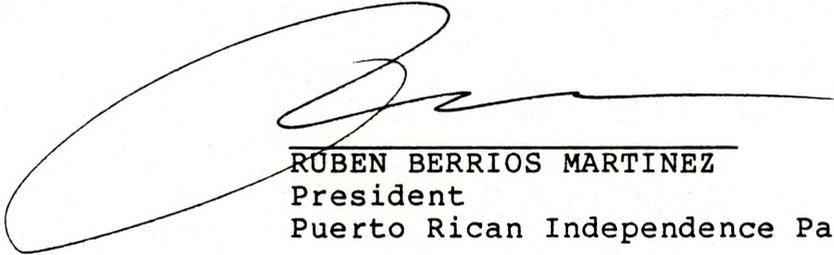
Cordially yours,



BALTASAR CORRADA DEL RIO
President
New Progressive Party



RAFAEL HERNÁNDEZ COLÓN
President
Popular Democratic Party



RUBEN BERRIOS MARTINEZ
President
Puerto Rican Independence Party