

The original documents are located in Box 28, folder “Puerto Rico (9)” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Intercept

December 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

STEVE McCONAHEY

Kelly Conneran for:

SUBJECT:

Puerto Rico's Gubernatorial Results

The following figures are the total number of votes and percentage of votes in the recent gubernatorial race in Puerto Rico.

Carlos Romero-Barcelo (New Progressive Party)

697,131

48.29%

Rafael Hernandez-Colon (Popular Democratic Party)

654,630

45.35%

Ruben Berrios (Independent)

80,530

5.58%

Juan Mari-Bras (Socialist)

11,217

.78%

120707

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PUERTO RICAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

for statehood: Carlos Romero Barcelo
48.29%

for independence Reuben Berrios
5.58%

Juan Mari-Baras
.78%

for compact Rafael Hernandez-Colon
45.35%

48.3%

5.6%

45.4%



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 21, 1976 AM 8 04

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: DICK PARSONS
SUBJECT: Puerto Rico

This memorandum follows up our recent discussions concerning the procedure by which Puerto Rico could attain statehood.

The normal process by which a territory becomes a state is, as follows:

- (1) Congress *enacts legislation to* ~~(by legislative enactment)~~ extend the U.S. Constitution to the territory;
- (2) the territorial government conducts a constitutional convention for the adoption of a proposed state constitution;
- (3) Congress enacts enabling legislation (i.e. a Statehood Act), conditionally declaring the territory to be a State of the Union upon, among other things, an affirmative vote by a majority of the residents of the territory on the questions of statehood; and
- (4) the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation certifying that all of the conditions set forth in the enabling legislation have been met and that the territory is now a state.

Puerto Rico presents a slightly different problem, however,

* (In some instances, steps 2 and 3 have been accomplished in reverse order.)



Historically, our relationship with Puerto Rico has been based on mutual consent. For example, the current Commonwealth relationship between the U.S. and Puerto Rico was established through bilateral agreement between the Congress and the people of Puerto Rico (who ratified the agreement at a referendum). As a practical (though not necessarily legal) matter, any change in the relationship between the two countries would have to be conditioned on the approval of both the Congress and the people of Puerto Rico.

Therefore, I would suggest something along the following lines:

- (1) The President could state his belief that Puerto Rico ought to be made a State and call upon the Congress to enact legislation which would both (a) extend the U.S. Constitution to Puerto Rico, subject to approval by a majority of the people of Puerto Rico, and (b) upon such approval, constitute a statehood act.
- (2) Thereafter, Puerto Rico could hold its constitutional convention and satisfy the other conditions precedent, and the President could proclaim Puerto Rico to be a State.

On the assumption that you would like to see what a Presidential statement concerning step 1 might look like, I have attached a draft work-up.

While the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, which currently governs U.S. - Puerto Rico relations, speaks of being "in the nature of a compact" between two sovereign nations, as a matter of law Puerto Rico remains a territory of the U.S.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON 

SUBJECT: Puerto Rico

THE ISSUE

Should the President propose statehood for Puerto Rico.

BACKGROUND

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Puerto Rico proposed on October 9, 1975, a compact that Puerto Rico cease to be a commonwealth and become a "free associated state."

In brief, the proposed compact would give Puerto Rico most of the advantages of statehood but few of the responsibilities.

Fourteen months of analysis and review of this proposal by the staff of OMB and the Domestic Council bring us to the conclusion that acceptance of the compact would benefit neither the U.S. nor Puerto Rico.

To those of us who have worked with this, it seems clear that the realistic choices for Puerto Rico are either statehood or independence.

A referendum, of a kind, on this issue was held on November 2, 1976. The candidate proposing statehood won by 48.3%. The candidate supporting the compact received 45.4%, and the candidate favoring independence received 5.6%.

PROCEDURES FOR STATEHOOD

The normal process by which a territory becomes a state is:

1. Congress enacts legislation to extend the U.S. Constitution to the territory;

2. The territorial government conducts a constitutional convention for the adoption of a proposed state constitution;
3. Congress enacts enabling legislation (i.e. a Statehood Act), conditionally declaring the territory to be a State of the Union upon, among other things, an affirmative vote by a majority of the residents of the territory on the questions of statehood; and
4. The issuance of a Presidential Proclamation certifying that all of the conditions set forth in the enabling legislation have been met and that the territory is now a state. (In some instances steps 2 and 3 have been accomplished in reverse order.)

Historically, our relationship with Puerto Rico has been based on a mutual consent. For example, the current Commonwealth relationship between the U.S. and Puerto Rico was established through bilateral agreement between the Congress and the people of Puerto Rico (who ratified the agreement at a referendum).

As a practical (though not necessarily legal) matter, any change in the relationship between the two countries would have to be conditioned on the approval of both the Congress and the people of Puerto Rico. While the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, which currently governs U.S. -- Puerto Rico relations, speaks of being "in the nature of a compact" between two sovereign nations, as a matter of law Puerto Rico remains a territory of the U.S.

Therefore, I would suggest something along the following lines:

1. The President could state his belief that Puerto Rico ought to be made a State and call upon the Congress to enact legislation which would both (a) extend the U.S. Constitution to Puerto Rico subject to approval by a majority of the people of Puerto Rico, and (b) upon such approval, constitute a statehood act.
2. Thereafter, Puerto Rico could hold its constitutional convention and satisfy the other conditions precedent, and the President could proclaim Puerto Rico to be a State.

RECOMMENDATION

That you propose statehood for Puerto Rico.

The Vice President enthusiastically concurs and believes this to be a major act of statesmanship on your part.

Jack Marsh, Dick Cheney, Brent Scowcroft, Jim Lynn, and Paul O'Neill also concur.

Attached is a draft Presidential statement proposing statehood for Puerto Rico.

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO

In October, 1975, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Puerto Rico, appointed jointly by the President of the U.S. and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, recommended a new Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the United States, to ~~maximum~~ **PROVIDE** self-government and self-determination for Puerto Rico.

The proposed Compact would institute fundamental and far-reaching changes in the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, and its provisions would affect a wide array of Federal programs and interests.

Members of my Cabinet have thoroughly analyzed the proposed Compact and made recommendations to me.

After studying their commentaries and recommendations, and after having given deep thought to this important proposal, I have concluded that the proposed Compact, significant and important though it is, does not go far enough in advancing greater freedom and opportunity for the people of Puerto Rico.

I believe that the appropriate status for Puerto Rico is statehood.

I propose, therefore, that the people of Puerto Rico and the Congress of the U.S. begin now to take those steps which will result in statehood for Puerto Rico.

I will recommend to the 95th Congress the enactment of legislation extending the Constitution of the United States to Puerto Rico and establishing the conditions upon which Puerto Rico shall be admitted as a State of the Union.

In the New Year, I will request the Governor of Puerto Rico to provide for holding a Constitutional Convention to adopt a proposed state constitution and to take such other actions ~~are~~^{AS} appropriate for statehood.

The common bonds of friendship, tradition, dignity, and individual freedom have joined the people of the United States and the people of Puerto Rico. It is now time to make these bonds permanent through statehood, in accordance with the concept of mutual acceptance which has historically governed the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.

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FROM: JIM CANNON
TO: PRESIDENT FORD

INFO:

RELEASED BY: GD

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TOR: 220158Z

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

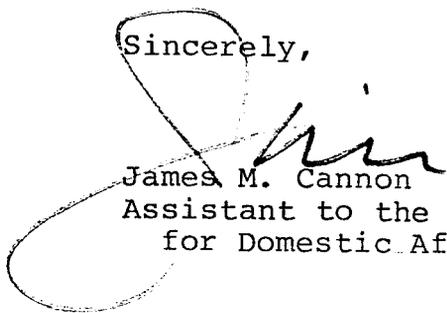
December 29, 1976

Dear Ted:

Your Christmas package arrived last week,
and I want to thank you for the dates.

Hope that you have a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



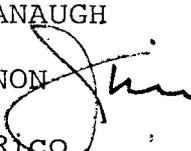
James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Mr. Ted Braun
3055 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: JIM CANNON 
SUBJECT: Puerto Rico

I have reviewed this statement with Hartmann, O'Neill and Schmulds.

This statement has their approval.

Secretary Kleppe (who is in Tennessee) has designated his Counsel and Acting Secretary, Greg Austin, to respond to any questions on behalf of the Interior Department when the announcement is made.

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO

In October, 1975, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Puerto Rico, appointed jointly by the President of the United States and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, recommended a new Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the United States, to provide maximum self-government and self-determination for Puerto Rico.

The proposed Compact would institute fundamental and far-reaching changes in the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, and its provisions would affect a wide array of Federal programs and interests.

Members of my Cabinet have thoroughly analyzed the proposed Compact and made recommendations to me.

After studying their comments and recommendations, and giving deep thought to this important proposal, I have concluded that the proposed Compact, significant and important though it is, does not go far enough in advancing greater freedom and opportunity for the American citizens of Puerto Rico.

I believe that the appropriate status for Puerto Rico is statehood.

I propose, therefore, that the people of Puerto Rico and the Congress of the U.S. begin now to take those steps which will result in statehood for Puerto Rico.

I will recommend to the 95th Congress the enactment of legislation providing for the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

The common bonds of friendship, tradition, dignity, and individual freedom have joined the people of the United States and the people of Puerto Rico. It is now time to make these bonds permanent through statehood, in accordance with the concept of mutual acceptance which has historically governed the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.

[ca. 12/30/76]

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO

In October, 1975, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Puerto Rico, appointed jointly by the President of the United States and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, recommended a new Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the United States, to provide maximum self-government and self-determination for Puerto Rico.

The proposed Compact would institute fundamental and far-reaching changes in the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, and its provisions would affect a wide array of Federal programs and interests.

Members of my Cabinet have thoroughly analyzed the proposed Compact and made recommendations to me.

After studying their comments and recommendations, and giving deep thought to this important proposal, I have concluded that the proposed Compact, significant and important though it is, does not advance as rapidly as it might freedom and opportunity for the American citizens of Puerto Rico.

I believe that the appropriate status for Puerto Rico is statehood.

I propose, therefore, that the people of Puerto Rico and the Congress of the U.S. begin now to take those steps which will result in statehood for Puerto Rico.

I will recommend to the 95th Congress the enactment of legislation providing for the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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722-4111

home:

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*General
Posilla
723-4086*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1976

*Puerto Rico
AGX -
is partisan -*

Mr. Marsh:

Lawrence DUFFEY with the Inaugural Committee in Puerto Rico called about a minor crisis which is turning into a major crisis by the minute (as far as he is concerned).

It involves the President of the Dominion Republic. He will be coming to Puerto Rico for the inauguration of the new President on Sunday. Any time the President of the Dominion Republic visits Puerto Rico it is customary to take him by helicopter from the airport to the President's fortress.

However, when Duffey called the National Guard duty officer this routine request was turned down. He is having a great deal of trouble with the President of the Dominion Republic's Chief of Protocol and he said they don't receive permission soon for the use of the helicopter, they will have real problems.

He would appreciate your immediate assistance.

He can be reached - *see tab.*



*People to notify
of Puerto Rico statement*

Dec. 30, 2012

C Carlos Romero Barcelo
C Governor Scranton

House

C Speaker O'Neill

C John Rhodes

C Jim Wright

C Bob Michel

M John Brademas

M Doc Morgan

M Clem Zablocki

M Bill Broomfield

C Phil Burton

M Tom Foley

M Don Clausen

Senate

C Mike Mansfield

C Hugh Scott

C Jackson

M Bob Byrd

M Bob Griffin

M John Spackman

M Cliff Case

M Hubert Humphrey

Staff

C Ray Maduro

*DA Com
Jan*

Determined to be Administered by THE WHITE HOUSE
Date 4/19/81 By JWA WASHINGTON
December 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: JIM CANNON *J Cannon*
SUBJECT: Puerto Rico

I have reviewed this statement with Hartmann, O'Neill and Schmults.

This statement has their approval.

Secretary Kleppe (who is in Tennessee) has designated his Counsel and Acting Secretary, Greg Austin, to respond to any questions on behalf of the Interior Department when the announcement is made.

Before any announcement is made, I recommend that the President notify Governor Carter that he is going to propose statehood for Puerto Rico.

I also suggest that we (I will be in the office here) pre-notify Governor-elect Romero-Barcelo and the key Congressional leadership.

*Greater O'Neil
Rieder -
Wright*

*Murphy
Scott
Byrd
Gibson
Spurman C
Cox*

*Bradwell
Bob Mitchell
Don Wozan
Zoblocki
B. nonfield*



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Date 4/19/81 By 60944

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 31, 1976

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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON
SUBJECT: Comments by Jim Wright

Representative Jim Wright mentioned, after I notified him today of your Puerto Rico announcement, that he would like to convey this message to you:

- I. He talked with Governor Carter on Wednesday night about the Peterson Commission Report on pay increases. Carter said he believed that some increase was appropriate but he had not studied the report in detail. In addition, Carter said that he felt that any increase of more than 40 percent would be perceived by the public as excessive and would make it difficult for the new administration to hold the line against inflationary increases in government and the private sector.
- II. Governor Carter also said that he was not going to say or do anything to "sandbag President Ford" on his proposals. Wright quoted Carter as saying: "The President has been too nice to me for me to do anything like that."
- III. Representative David Obey and Lee Hamilton have promised Wright that they will have substantive recommendations to reform and strengthen Congressional ethical standards by February 10.
- IV. Wright has talked with his colleagues in the House and concluded that if the pay issue does come to a vote on the floor of the House, it would be rejected.

