

**The original documents are located in Box 22, folder “Romero - Barcelo, Carlos” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Muri*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Charlie --

The Mayor of San Juan - Carlos Romero Barcelo -  
would like to meet with you on Wednesday or Thursday,  
preferably Thursday. He is the President of the  
National League of Cities.

He would prefer Thursday at 4 p.m. - 1/9/75

Neta  
1/7/75

Miss Haggerty - 293 - 7390



1-7-75

*Neta:*

*Thursday 4pm. is OK w/me.  
Do I need any background material?  
Do we have to notify Miss Haggerty?  
If so, please do this for me.*

*Char.*

*Status in Puerto Rico  
ad Hoc Commis. on Puerto Rico*

*Erlynn  
clearing*

~~1620 I St~~

3 pm -

218  
OEOR  
norm Ross

Puerto Rico - Ad Hoc Comte to Improve Status  
of Commonwealth of

Est. 9/27/73, pursuant to 1967 Plebiscite on Status

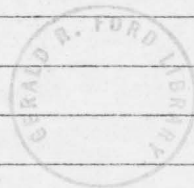
7 Mbrs appointed by President - 5 to be Mbrs of  
Congress, other 2 from private life

Congress - Sen. Cook <sup>(R-Ky)</sup> - co-chairman  
" Buckley (R-NY)  
Johnston (D-La)  
Cong Foley (D-Wash)  
" Don Claassen (R-Cal)

Private Life - Richard B. Ogilvie (Ill)  
Paul N. Howell (Tex)

Gov. Hernandez Colon (P.R.) designated -  
Luis Munoz Marin - co-chairman  
Victor M. Pons, Jr  
Jaime Benitez  
Juan Cancel Rios  
Luis Ernesto Ramos Jordan  
Justo Mendez  
Angel Rivera

To inquire into extent to which statutory  
laws and admin. regulations of U.S. should  
apply in Puerto Rico.



9-11

Mayor Romero-Barcelo forwarded  
to you today the enclosure to his  
letter to you of August 21.

G.



Five

September 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of August 21st regarding the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Unfortunately, there was no enclosure as you indicated.

I understand you met with Mr. James Cannon, Director of the Domestic Council and Mr. James Falk on this matter on Friday, August 29.

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Carlos Romero-Barcelo  
Mayor of San Juan  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905

CL:gcb





CITY OF SAN JUAN

CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO

Mayor

August 21, 1975

Mr. Charles Leppert  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
1611 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Leppert:

As we discussed on the phone the other day I enclose herein copy of letter which I have sent to President Ford regarding the Ad Hoc Advisory Group recommendations as to the Federal Relations Act for Puerto Rico.

A meeting with President Ford and top members of his staff is of the utmost importance.

The final draft to be submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group has never been submitted to the People of Puerto Rico for approval and is contrary to the mandate which the People of Puerto Rico gave in the plebiscite of 1967.

We must insist that this is a very urgent matter and that the President's personal attention to this matter is not only necessary but indispensable.

Your help in bringing this matter to the attention of the President and in helping us to coordinate a personal meeting with President Ford would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carlos Romero-Barceló

Encl.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1975

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Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Carlos Romero-Barcelo  
Mayor of San Juan  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905

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OFFICINA  
DEL ALCALDE

August 21, 1975

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Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
1611 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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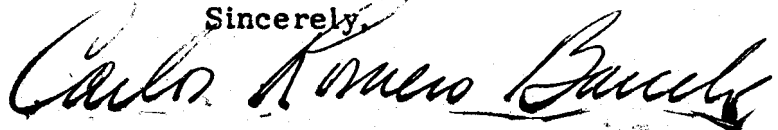
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Carlos Romero-Barceló". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carlos" being the most prominent.

Carlos Romero-Barceló

Encl.



August 4, 1975

The Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House

Dear President Ford:

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Puerto Rico, created in 1973 by President Richard Nixon and the Governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernández-Colón, has completed its deliberations. Its report, to be submitted to you and to the Governor, is now being prepared by the committee staff. The key feature of that report will be its recommended draft of a new Federal Relations Act for Puerto Rico.

Included among the seven committee members appointed by President Nixon was a bi-partisan delegation drawn from both the U.S. House Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The Governor's appointees, however, included not even one designated representative of Puerto Rico's New Progressive Party (which polled 44 per cent of the total vote in the island's 1972 elections) or Independence Party (which drew five per cent of the 1972 vote). To give the appearance of naming representatives of our New Progressive Party, as had been previously agreed, the Governor appointed to the Group the Hon. Justo A. Méndez, elected to the Commonwealth Senate on our party's ticket who, it was common knowledge had already disaffiliated himself from the party, and Mr. Angel Rivera, a former secretary of the Commonwealth Treasury who has never held a position of trust within the party hierarchy and who has clearly stated he no longer considers himself a party member. It should further be pointed out that the chairman of the bank of which Mr. Rivera is president is one of the island's most prominent Popular Democrats.

Following several pro-forma hearings in Puerto Rico at the outset of the Advisory Group's labors (at which time I, as president of the New Progressive Party, and other minority spokesmen presented testimony), the Puerto Rican members of the panel thereafter stopped working in close

**The Honorable Gerard Ford**

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**August 4, 1975**

cooperation with their mainland counterparts, choosing instead to meet separately (in direct violation of the Group's charter) and in secret (in direct violation of the federal statutes which govern Presidential advisory groups of this kind).

To the best of our knowledge, Presidential appointee Paul N. Howell was never present at any working session of the Advisory Group. A second Presidential appointee, Rep. Tom Foley, resigned from the Group shortly before it entered the final phase of its deliberations.

During the concluding round of Ad Hoc Advisory Group meetings held last week in Washington for the purpose of reaching agreement on the wording of the panel's final report, I formally petitioned the Group to call a new set of public hearings to solicit citizen reaction in Puerto Rico to the tentative proposals put forward in the final draft. My purpose in so doing was to make possible the submission of a document embraced not only by the supporters of commonwealth political status (the Popular Democratic Party and its 51 per cent of the 1972 electorate), but also by the followers of my own pro-statehood New Progressive Party. In hastening to complete its task, however, the Group failed to act on my request. Therefore, we who represent no less than 44 per cent of the voters as per the 1972 results, were denied representation and participation in the drafting of the proposed new Federal Relations Act.

I am confident that a new Federal Relations Act could be worded in such a way as to gain the endorsement of that 95 per cent of the Puerto Rican public which favors the maintenance of Puerto Rico's ties with the United States, whether through the continuation of the Commonwealth or by having the island admitted to the Union as a state.

For this reason, I hereby request the opportunity to meet with you and those members of your staff who are familiar with the Advisory Group's

The Honorable Gerard Ford

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August 4, 1975

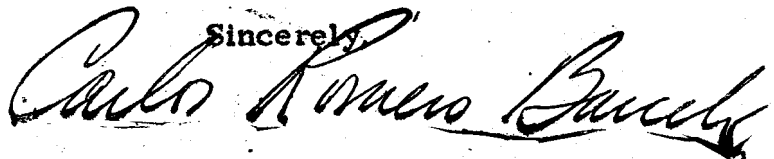
efforts. If you deem it advisable, Ambassador Patrick Moynihan could also be present. At such a meeting we could discuss the Group's report and the proposed contents of the new Federal Relations Act in an attempt to arrive at a final recommendation which your Administration could thereafter submit to the Congress as a proposal backed by an overwhelming majority of the Puerto Rican people.

To be perfectly candid, I am of the firm opinion that the Popular Democratic Party can be expected to do everything it can to get the report into your hands as soon as possible, and thence to the Congress for what it hopes will be quick action there. In view of the likelihood that we will be confronted with a "hurry-up" atmosphere, therefore, I would suggest that any meeting on the subject should probably be held sometime in the fairly near future.

Your understanding in this regard is much appreciated indeed.

With warmest personal greetings I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Carlos Romero-Barceló". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carlos" being the most prominent.

Carlos Romero-Barceló

matm



CITY OF SAN JUAN  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00905



**AIR MAIL**

Mr. Charles Leppert  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
1611 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20500

**AIR MAIL**

