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REQUEST FOR ORAL HEARING

Letter dated 29 September 1953 from Mr. Julio Pinto Gandia,
Delegate of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico in the
United States of America to the Chairman of the Fourth
Committee

NOTE: The text of the following request for hearing is circulated for information at the request of the Polish delegation at the Fourth Committee during its 334th meeting on 15 October 1953.

Your Excellency Santiago Pérez Pérez, Chairman
Fourth Commission General Assembly
United Nations
New York City, N.Y.

Your Excellency:

The undersigned, Delegate of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico in the United States of America, has taken note that under item 34 (b) of the provisional agenda of the Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the item of Puerto Rico is listed for discussion by this international body.

The item under consideration refers to the note by the United States of America informing the Secretary-General and this Fourth Commission of the decision of its Government to cease rendering information about the social, educational and economic conditions in Puerto Rico, pursuant to Article 73 e of the United Nations Charter.

The decision of the United States Government to cease rendering further annual reports on the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Puerto Rico is based on the assumption that Puerto Rico has reached a "full measure of self-government" after the approval and implementation of the so-called "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico".

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The pretension embodied in the petition of the Government of United States now to be considered by this Commission concerns "the paramount interests" of 2,300,000 people with a culture, tradition, religion and language different to that of the United States.

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico holds that the said "Commonwealth and Constitution of Puerto Rico" was not approved by the majority of the Puerto Rican electorate. At the time of its ratification only 373,594 voted in favor. The votes in ABSTENTION following the policy and practice of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico were 327,139 which added to the 82,877 votes registered against ratification totals 410,016. Thus, the ABSTENTION and votes against, defeated the votes for ratification.

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico holds that the information submitted by the United States Government in support of its pretension is full of misrepresentations. The "Commonwealth and Constitution of Puerto Rico" does not resist the least honest juridical analysis. This new status bestowed upon the nation of Puerto Rico is intended solely to mislead the international opinion and support for the cause of the independence of Puerto Rico...

...The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico believes that the item of Puerto Rico to be considered by this international body should not be considered unilaterally and on the sole basis of the exclusive information of the United States Government, lest a grave injustice be done to 2,300,000 people who since the 18th century have been struggling as they still are, for their right to freedom and independence.

In view of all these considerations, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico through its Delegate in the United States of America, respectfully requests, an oral hearing on this matter before the Fourth Commission of the General Assembly, affording thus an opportunity to produce ample information and arguments contesting the pretension of the Government of the United States of America.

In submitting this petition, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico has taken note and rejoiced at the established policy of the Fourth Commission to grant oral hearings to representatives of trust territories in many matters concerning their paramount interests. This petition is submitted on the basis of these precedents. That it may be denied is almost unthinkable.

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Trusting that this petition will receive the just consideration of this
Fourth Commission, I have the honor to be, Sir, your,

Obedient servant,

(Signed) JULIO PINTO GANDIA
Delegate of Nationalist
Party of Puerto Rico in
United States of America
