



MENSAJE DEL GOBERNADOR
DEL ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
HON. RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON
CON MOTIVO DE LOS INFORMES SOBRE LA
LABOR REALIZADA TRAS EL HURACAN HUGO

18 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1990

LA FORTALEZA

Es en nombre del pueblo de Puerto Rico que acepto la distinción que me otorga FEMA. En deferencia al Sr. Grant Peterson, Director Asociado de FEMA, quisiera dirigir unas palabras de agradecimiento en inglés.

Mr. Peterson, I wish to convey my deepest gratitude for this honor, which I consider a symbolic recognition of all the courage and will of the Puerto Rican people.

September 1989 will live forever in our memories as one of the saddest moments in Puerto Rican history. The enormous damage and the rehabilitation efforts that have been described in today's reports have made us remember the pain undergone by so many Puerto Rican families.

And yet, Hurricane Hugo had also an aftermath of human solidarity, of christian charity, of civil heroism. Federal and local governmental agencies, along with the press and the media, gave an unprecedented example of responsibility.

Hurricane Hugo is for us a reminder of the noblest sentiments and values that distinguish our people, specially in times of need and suffering.

To all those noble Puerto Ricans who left their own troubles at home to help the victims of Hurricane Hugo, and to all those Puerto Ricans --who living abroad helped in so many different ways-- I once again say "thank you."

To the families and friends of those who died in duty to them, I say that few men in the history of our people, are admired and cherished as these fine and brave men.

I hope that we never see such a disaster again, but if we were to live another episode such as Hurricane Hugo, I pray to God that the noble spirits that Hugo arose in us all shine again as they did. And that then, as we do now, we can say that our will and our hearts were, indeed, stronger and bigger than adversity.

Before ending my words I wish to acknowledge all those officials and employees of the federal

and local governments who went well beyond the call of duty, working tirelessly day and night to reestablish normality and rehabilitate Puerto Rico.

What we accomplished was possible thanks to the human and professional qualities of Mr. Grant C. Peterson, who understood the pain of the Puerto Rican people and the need to build strong cement houses for the future. The men and women of this country will always appreciate your help.

I also wish to express our people's eternal gratitude to Mr. José Bravo, FEMA's representative, who is working so hard, so that our aspirations for the wellbeing of our people after Hurricane Hugo can be a reality.

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