



REMARKS OF THE GOVERNOR
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
HONORABLE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON
UPON WELCOMING THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR
TO THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7 1989

On behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, I am truly honored to give our warmest welcome to the British Ambassador and Lady Acland.

Britain has always been esteemed by those who are fond of history, culture, and beautiful landscapes. Furthermore, it has been long admired for its economic achievements and, above all, for its deep commitment to democracy and freedom.

In the Caribbean, the role of the Island Nation has always been paramount. Great Britain's presence among us --past and present-- has indelibly marked the character and essence of this part of the world. British institutions, British traditions, and the beautiful English language are not foreign to the Caribbean, they are today an integral part of the region.

History has joined the destinies of our countries in several occasions and yet, for Puerto Rico and for Britain, this relationship has just begun to acquire new meaning.

In 1985, when I began my first term as Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I strongly believed that the future economic growth of our Island was linked to our capacity of bringing new investment from Europe and the Far East.

In the past five years more than half of all our foreign promotions have been British. In fact, Britain has taken the lead as the principal foreign investor in Puerto Rico. Efforts in which our dearest friend, Dr. Ian Court, has made an outstanding contribution.

Presently, we have 25 manufacturing and service establishments in the Island, which represent three thousand jobs.

As a leading financial center we consider Britain as a gateway to Europe, as much as Puerto Rico is a gateway to the Caribbean.

I have an abiding faith in the that the future of our relationships will lead to closer and most fruitful ties.

Let us pledge our minds to the promise future brings to our countries. Let progress and common endeavors be our goals. Let us place no ceilings on the achievements we can jointly accomplish. And may the friendship between United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico endure long into the days to come.

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