



REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
HONORABLE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON  
DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF THE  
PUERTO RICO OPERATION CENTER (PROC),  
PUNTA SALINAS RADAR SITE

JULY 14, 1992

On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I am very proud to welcome you to the Puerto Rico Operations Center and the Drug Interdiction Operations Center.

Historically, the people of Puerto Rico, through our political relationship with the United States of America, have made significant contributions to the defense and welfare of the Nation.

Since our geographical location has made the island a coveted transshipping point for drug trafficking between South American countries and the Continental United States, our society has suffered its destructive effect. As you know, a significant portion of the drugs stay in Puerto Rico, affecting our population, specially our young.

In 1986 we created FURA to combine the efforts of Commonwealth and federal agencies in eradicating, drug trafficking from our area and from the shores of the east and gulf coasts of the Continental United States.

This innovative approach was meant to shield Puerto Rico by air, by sea and through land operations. As a part of FURA, a radar network was established. Today, our joint efforts are crowned with the establishment of the Puerto Rico Operations Center and the Drug Interdiction Operation Center.

By designing the Puerto Rico Operation Center with counter drug operations in mind, the Federal and Commonwealth governments, in close coordination, will provide their respective law enforcement agencies with a command and control center where all assets are being used to the fullest capacity, affecting neither the Puerto Rico Air National Guard, nor the Air Force Military missions.

At the Drug Interdiction Operations Center, personnel from the military, the U.S. Customs Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency and personnel from "Fuerzas Unidas de Rápida Acción" (FURA), now

work together, as a team, to accomplish one objective: drug interdiction operations.

Again, we are proud to inaugurate these facilities that will enhance air space surveillance in the Caribbean Area, together with the joint counter narcotics operations, as a result of the combined efforts of local and federal agencies committed to drug interdiction.

I also wish to thank the Department of defense for making this project a concrete reality by providing the required funding and the technical resources.

Bienvenidos.