

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LA FORTALEZA, SAN JUAN



MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO,  
HON. RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE  
7TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF TESOL, CARIBE  
HILTON HOTEL, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO  
MAY 10, 1973

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Puerto Rico is proud to host the 7th Annual Convention of TESOL, not only because we are delighted to receive the many distinguished educators and scholars who participate in the activities sponsored by TESOL, but also because those of you who are visiting us for the first time will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with us as a people and to enjoy the traditional Puerto Rican hospitality.

We are indeed honored to have been selected as the site for this Convention. At the same time, beyond the special facilities and attractions we have to offer to gatherings of this type, I feel that there is a very special justification for the celebration of the TESOL Convention in Puerto Rico.

For us, the teaching and learning of a second language is a living concern. As a result of our special and unique relationship with the United States, embodied in the idea of Commonwealth or Free Associated State of Puerto Rico, we share the privilege of American citizenship

with our neighbors on the mainland, as well as a host of other ties, personal, economic and constitutional. Perhaps most important of all we share the same democratic values and ideals.

At the same time, Puerto Rico has developed over the centuries its own unique and valuable culture and way of life, which are expressed in a language different from that of the majority of our fellow-citizens in the United States.

On this basis, it is easy to understand the magnitude of the problem of teaching and learning English as a Second Language in Puerto Rico, and its importance for our community.

We take pride in the fact that Puerto Rico has always been in the vanguard of those who are working out on the practical level, and on a large scale, the application of scientific principles of second language teaching.

Thus, it is that we feel both honored and well-satisfied that the TESOL Convention is being held in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico this year. We trust that your deliberations will result in scholarly and practical value for all concerned.

And so, on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, I extend my congratulations and a very warm welcome to you all.

¡Felicidades y un caluroso Bienvenidos, a todos!