

REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
HONORABLE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON
DURING THE CELEBRATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY

OCTOBER 23, 1974

It is a pleasure for me to join you tonight. And it is a particular honor to have with us the Honorable Bradford Morse, Under Secretary General for Political and General Assembly Affairs.

It is well-worth repeating that if there is a constant in our times it is the constancy of change. We can not understand our times unless we realize that we are experiencing an acceleration in the rate of change. The ever-quickenning change of events faces us with the constant challenge of having to adjust and readjust our concepts and our actions. We are faced with the continuing need to build new institutions and develop new tools to deal with a world that will not standstill, and in which the institutions of the past are unable to cope with the realities of the present.

The field of international relations is certainly no exception to the process that I have mentioned. When the United Nations was created twenty-nine years ago the security issues that were the foremost concern of the framers of the charter were by and large understood in military terms. Now it is becoming clear that the challenges that men face today no longer center on those to contain war. New, non-military monsters are rising to threaten our security in the broadest sense. These new monsters --

global pollution, dwindling food production, scarcity of formerly abundant natural resources, the gross inadequate distribution of the world's wealth -- must be seen and understood as threats to world security, world peace and world progress. Thus, the structures and institutions that were set up to deal with the old notions of peace and security must to be drastically over-hauled, indeed, in some cases, totally desmantled, if we are to work effectively and constructively on the basis of our new needs and perceptions.

The structures developed during decades of military bloc confrontation simply will not serve in an emerging era demanding global cooperation and interdependence. Interdependence in the modern world is not just a phrase nor is it an option. It is a reality; more than a reality, it is a world moral imperative. Already we are witnessing the creation of international organizations using functional rather than ideological or geographical criteria for participation. Indeed Puerto Rico's interdependent relationship with the United States is a forerunner of this new type of international cooperation.

The world is witnessing an urgent need to foster this type of multiple interdependence that cuts accross existing ideological blocs and by passes historical

rivalries. The goal should be a system where the intercourse between nations will be based on the constructive exchange of valued resources rather than on threats of physical violence.

An essential element in this new system must be a global redistribution of wealth whereby resources and technology may flow from the affluent and developed nations to the poor and developing countries. We must not allow the fading East-West confrontation to be substituted by a bitter North-South polarization.

The present international problems, if they are to be creatively solved, can no longer be dealt with in a unilateral or bilateral fashion, nor with attempts to promote blocs and balances of atomic terror. The stage is now set for a new era of multilateral diplomacy and negotiation; an era of creative international organization, exchange and cooperation; and era equal in scope to the one begun 29 years ago with the founding of the United Nations. Indeed, examples of new areas of international cooperation are already evident; the United Nations World Population Conference, the Law of the Seas Conference, and the up-coming World Food Conference. Whether these efforts will be fruitful depends on the degree of support received from all nations, and on our

ability to look above and beyond narrow national interests that divide us to perceive broader goals and aspirations that unite us.

Here we all can be guided by the unitary vision and wisdom of Maestro Pablo Casals. It is now a full year since don Pablo died, but it can truly said he died in flesh only. His spirit, his music, his will to heal and unite man's family grows with each passing memory. With men like Pablo Casals, mankind can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead. He can triumph over that which divides him to glory in that which unites him.

Muchas Gracias y buenas noches.

