



MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE GOVERNOR
HON. RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONIES
ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO. AUGUST 23, 1975

Rear Admiral James D. Ramage, out-going commander Naval Forces Caribbean, Rear Admiral William R. Flannagan, in-coming commander, Rear Admiral Frederick H. Michaelis, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is both an honor and a pleasure for me to be here today as Admiral Ramage steps down from command here at Roosevelt Roads into a well-deserved retirement after a long career in service of his country. During the slightly more than two years of Admiral Ramage's tenure in Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth and the Navy have achieved satisfactory solutions to the very difficult question of Culebra, and cooperated in the provision of relief of drought in Culebra, Vieques, and Naguabo, as well as other areas of mutual concern. I believe that both the Commonwealth and the Navy have developed a mutual respect for one another and an increased understanding of the need for continued cooperation. Much of this achievement can be attributed to the steady hand of Admiral Ramage.

I should also like to take this opportunity to extend to you, Admiral Ramage, some well-deserved praise for your interest in and work with our local Sea Cadets program represented here today by the group of cadets from

San Juan. Under your guidance the Sea Cadet program has been greatly expanded and improved.

Admiral Ramage, you have my very best personal wishes, and those of the people of Puerto Rico, for continued success as you leave the Navy and return to civilian life. To the new commander, Admiral Flannagan, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to Puerto Rico and to assure you of the Commonwealth's fullest cooperation. I am certain that your tour of duty here will be both enjoyable and productive, and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you.