

REMARKS OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,
THE HONORABLE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON,
WELCOMING HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

MAY 25, 1976

Your Majesty;

Your Royal Highness;

Mister Ambassador;

Mister Consul;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a very happy occasion indeed to be able to welcome Your Majesty to Puerto Rico in your too brief stay in our island.

The relationship between our two people is indeed an old and fruitful one. The danish possessions in the Caribbean were for centuries an important market for our agricultural products, as well as a transshipment point for many of our European imports during that period.

During the Nineteenth Century many of my people fled the island for political reasons and found under the Danish flag political freedom, and among the population of the islands, support and encouragement for their liberal causes. Recent studies have shown a continuous and broad social intercourse between the islands and Puerto Rico.

At the present time our relations are strengthened by a small but active and vigorous group of Danish citizens in

our midst who are making important contributions to our general development and welfare.

May I add, Your Majesty, that the Danish people are indeed fortunate to have as their Sovereign an individual who, in her intellectual pursuits, personal likings and disposition so well represents and symbolizes the vibrant and youthful spirit of Denmark, that charming and altogether admirable country.

Once again, may I express our happiness at having the Queen of Denmark with us. And may I express our desires for a prompt return and, hopefully, for a longer stay.

Thank you.

