

*Lodge, Decl.*

*Monica Lanning*

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Statement by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., in Plenary Session concerning Cessation of the Transmission of Information Under Article 73 e of the Charter: Report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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Madame President,

The United States is proud of its new relationship with Puerto Rico and of the joint contribution to political progress which our two peoples have made. While, of course, I strongly favor the new status of Puerto Rico as a self-governing commonwealth associated with the United States, I am not here to review the facts which my colleagues, Mrs. Bolton and Dr. Fernos, have already explained fully to the Fourth Committee.

My purpose in seeking recognition is to bring to the Assembly the following important message from the President of the United States.

I am authorized to say on behalf of the President that if at any time the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico adopts a resolution in favor of more complete or even absolute independence, he will immediately thereafter recommend to Congress that such independence be granted. The President also wishes me to say that in this event he would welcome Puerto Rico's adherence to the Rio Pact and the United Nations Charter.

The President's statement is an expression of the traditional interest which the United States has always had in encouraging and promoting political freedom for all people in all parts of the world whenever conditions are such that their freedom will not be jeopardized by internal or external pressures.

Thank you, Madame President.

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