

**PUERTO RICO STATUS**

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**FIELD HEARING**  
BEFORE THE  
**COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 856**

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SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, APRIL 19, 1997

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**Serial No. 105-28**

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Printed for the use of the Committee on Resources



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1997

43-194 CC

APPENDIX A

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1997

The Honorable José E. Aponte  
Mayor of Carolina  
c/o The Popular Democratic Party  
of Puerto Rico  
Post Office Box 9065788  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906-5799

Dear José:

Thank you for sending me copies of the Popular Democratic Party General Council's recent resolutions regarding Puerto Rico's future political status.

As you know, I have placed a high priority on establishing a process that would enable this fundamental issue to be resolved finally. To achieve this, I am fully committed to working with the Commonwealth's elected leaders, the Congress, and all others concerned, and I hope that the necessary procedures will be underway by next year.

I have made it clear that the federal government should offer the people of Puerto Rico serious and fair options that are responsive to their diverse aspirations for their islands, so that the option authorized by a majority of votes can be implemented. I will continue to keep the views of supporters of the Commonwealth arrangement in mind as we carry out this process.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*