

# VIEQUES LANDS TRANSFER ACT OF 1994

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**HEARING**  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS  
SECOND SESSION

ON

**H.R. 3831**

TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS ON  
THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO, TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
VIEQUES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC  
OCTOBER 4, 1994

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**Serial No. 103-114**

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**TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS ON  
THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO,  
TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES**

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1994**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC.***

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:20 p.m. in room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Ron de Lugo (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RON de LUGO**

Mr. DE LUGO. We will now commence the hearing on H.R. 3831, legislation that has been introduced by my good friend from Puerto Rico, former governor of Puerto Rico, at the present time the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico, Congressman Carlos Romero-Barceló.

[Text of the bill follows:]

103D CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3831

To authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 1994

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ (for himself, Mr. DE LUGO, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. FALCOMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vieques Lands Trans-  
5 fer Act of 1994”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c),  
8 the Secretary of Defense (hereinafter referred to as the  
9 “Secretary”) shall transfer by quitclaim deed and without

1 monetary consideration, all right, title, and interest of the  
2 United States in and to certain lands located in the west-  
3 ern region of the Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico,  
4 as described in section 3, to the Municipality of Vieques  
5 to be used for public purposes.

6 (b) REVERSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—If the  
7 lands conveyed by the United States pursuant to this Act  
8 cease to be operated by the Municipality of Vieques for  
9 public purposes, such lands shall revert to the United  
10 States.

11 (c) LAND USE PLAN.—The lands to be transferred  
12 under this Act shall be eligible for transfer after the Mu-  
13 nicipality of Vieques establishes a detailed plan for the  
14 public purposes for which the lands may be used (includ-  
15 ing, but not limited to, housing, schools, hospitals, librar-  
16 ies, child care centers, parks and recreation, economic de-  
17 velopment, public health, and public safety) and submits  
18 such plan to the Committee on Armed Services and the  
19 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
20 resentatives and the Committee on Armed Services and  
21 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the  
22 Senate.

23 **SEC. 3. LAND DESCRIPTION.**

24 The lands referred to in section . comprise approxi-  
25 mately 8,000 acres of Federal lands located within the

1 western part of the Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico,  
2 as generally depicted on the map entitled "Land Use Map,  
3 Vieques Island (Restrictive Use Areas)" and dated Feb-  
4 ruary 1, 1994.

Mr. DE LUGO. Today this subcommittee will receive testimony on this legislation to authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the municipality of Vieques and for other purposes. This bill was introduced by the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico February 9th of this year and I am very pleased to say that I am a cosponsor of this legislation.

Over the years, Congressman Romero and I have worked together on many issues affecting Puerto Rico, most notably the political status hearings which I chaired during the course of two years here in Washington and in Puerto Rico. I have always followed his career with great interest and now we are not only colleagues in the House, we serve on two committees together—on Natural Resources, which I always think of as the Interior Committee, and the Education and Labor Committee.

Let me tell you that whatever else Carlos' nickname may stand for, he is a workhorse for the people of Puerto Rico, and unrelenting in his pursuits of the goals that he so strongly believes in for the people of Puerto Rico.

I think that that description of Carlos Romero is a description that would be agreed to even by his opponents. They have to give him his due.

I have chaired this subcommittee for the past eight years. It has been a great honor for me and for my constituents, the people of the Virgin Islands. This could be the last time that I will be chairing this subcommittee. If it is, I just want to thank everyone that has been connected with the work of this subcommittee.

Today this subcommittee will receive testimony on Congressman Romero's proposal to transfer 8,000 acres of land on Vieques now being used as a naval ammunition facility. Now, in the 1940s, the Navy acquired by condemnation some 26,000 acres of land, or roughly three-quarters of the Island of Vieques.

Now, to put this in perspective, Vieques is an island just east of Puerto Rico which is 20 miles long by 4 miles wide at its widest point. It has a total land mass of 51 square miles. This makes Vieques nearly double the size of Saint Thomas, in my territory, which is just a little further east, with a total land mass of 28 square miles.

My constituents in the Virgin Islands take careful note of events in Culebra and Vieques, and over the years, I have written many times to the Navy about the impact of bombing practice on Vieques's in the Virgin Islands. I guess they are tired of hearing from me. Of course, that has stopped in Culebra now.

In 1974, when the Secretary of Defense ordered an end to operations on Culebra, the Senate Appropriations Committee included \$12 million in the Department of Defense budget for the Navy to relocate to an uninhabited island. There were two islands that were identified, they were the islands of Desecheo and Monito, off the western coast of Puerto Rico. This move, however, was never made. A joint Department of Defense and Commonwealth Commission charged with finding alternative sites apparently never did.

Somehow, and it is very unclear under what authority, if any, the Navy shifted operations to Vieques. In 1978, Governor Romero filed suit, charging the Navy had violated several acts of Congress. When the District Court judge ruled that continued use of Vieques

was in the national interest, Governor Romero appealed to the First Circuit.

In 1979 and in 1980, a special Armed Services Committee panel investigated and held hearings in Washington as well as on the Island of Vieques. Their findings flatly stated that the Navy should locate an alternative site. The report issued on February 3, and here we have a misprint, it is not 1994 but rather 1981, the report issued in 1981 by Congressman Ron Dellums, who is now the chairman of the Armed Services Committee stated, and I quote:

I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for the Navy and the Defense Department to proceed now, without delay, to locate alternatives to Vieques and in the interim, study and develop methods of alleviating as many of the more immediate concerns as possible.

The upshot was that the Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Puerto Rico in 1983. In that Memorandum of Understanding, the Navy made specific commitments on community assistance, these were commitments that were made, also on land uses, environmental protections and historic preservation. Since Vieques has an unemployment rate of 50 percent, we are informed, and a poverty rate of 70 percent, many questions will be asked on the record today about why these commitments have not been met.

I thank our witnesses, some of whom have traveled quite far, for appearing before this panel today. There are additional statements from other individuals and groups that will be made a part of the record at the appropriate time. But at this time, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Puerto Rico, the sponsor of this legislation, for any opening statement he would care to make.

[Prepared statement of Mr. de Lugo follows:]

#### STATEMENT OF HON. RON DE LUGO

##### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Today this subcommittee will receive testimony on H.R. 3831, to authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques, and for other purposes. This bill was introduced on February 9, 1994 by my colleague and friend, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero-Barcelo, and I am a co-sponsor of this legislation.

Over the years, Congressman Romero and I have worked together on many issues affecting Puerto Rico, most notably the political status hearings which I chaired during the course of two years here in Washington and in Puerto Rico. I have always followed his career with great interest and now we are not only colleagues in the House, we serve on two committees together—Natural Resources and Education and Labor. Let me tell you, whatever else his nickname may stand for, he is a workhorse for the people of Puerto Rico, and unrelenting in his pursuit of the goals he so strongly believes in for Puerto Rico.

I have chaired this subcommittee for the past eight years. It has been a great honor for me and for my constituents, the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Today this subcommittee will receive testimony on Congressman Romero's proposal to transfer 8000 acres of land on Vieques now being used as a naval ammunition facility. In the 1940's the Navy acquired by condemnation 26,000 acres of land . . . or roughly three quarters of the island. To put this in perspective, Vieques, an island just east of Puerto Rico, is 20 miles long by 4 miles at its widest point, with a total land mass of 51 square miles. This makes Vieques nearly double the size of St. Thomas, just a little further east, with a total land mass of 28 square miles.

My constituents in the Virgin Islands take careful note of events in Culebra and Vieques, and over the years I have written many times to the Navy about the impact of bombing practice on cisterns in the Virgin Islands.

In 1974 when the Secretary of Defense ordered an end to operations on Culebra, the Senate Appropriations Committee included \$12 million in the Department of

Defense budget for the Navy to relocate to the uninhabited islands of Desecheo and Monito off the western coast of Puerto Rico. This move was never made. A joint DOD and Commonwealth Commission charged with finding alternative sites apparently never did.

Somehow . . . and it is very unclear under what authority if any . . . the Navy shifted operations to Vieques. In 1978 Governor Romero filed suit, charging the Navy had violated several acts of Congress. When the District Court judge ruled that continued use of Vieques was in the national interest, Governor Romero appealed to the First Circuit.

In 1979 and 80, a special Armed Services Committee panel investigated and held hearings in Washington as well as Vieques. Their findings flatly stated that the Navy should locate an alternative site. The report issued on February 3, 1981 by Congressman Ron Dellums, now chairman of the Armed Services Committee stated, and I quote:

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The upshot was that the Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Puerto Rico in 1983.

In that M.O.U. the Navy made specific commitments on community assistance, land uses, environmental protections and historic preservation. Since Vieques has an unemployment rate of 50% and a poverty rate of 70% many questions will be asked on record today about why these commitments have not been met.

I thank our witnesses, some of whom have travelled quite far, for appearing before this panel today. There are additional statements from other individuals and groups that will be made a part of the record at the appropriate time.

### **STATEMENT OF HON. CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ**

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and fellow subcommittee members and distinguished guests. First of all, let me start by thanking you, Mr. Chairman, for holding the hearing today and for the support and interest that you have always shown in matters related to Puerto Rico.

I know that throughout your many years of service in this chamber and as chairman of this subcommittee you have always held Puerto Rico very close to your heart, and for that I thank you.

Today we have here also the Secretary of State from Puerto Rico, Baltasar Corrada who is also a member of the Congress for eight years and representing Puerto Rico as the Resident Commissioner. I want to welcome him officially to these hearings. And also the Mayor of Vieques, Santiago, who is also here with us to testify, and we also want to welcome her; and the Senator McClintock from the Senate of Puerto Rico is also here to testify on behalf of the Senate. And of course we have Admiral Christensen who is also here to testify on behalf of the Navy and we want to welcome you all.

I also want to thank my colleagues and good friends, Austin Murphy and Bob Underwood for being here today and for their support and all the fellow Representatives from both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored this legislation.

Further, I want to extend a recognition to all those thereafter worked together to bring this issue before us today. We have gathered here to discuss H.R. 3831, which is the Vieques Lands Transfer Act of 1994, a bill that I introduced in February of this year. This legislation would direct the Secretary of Defense to transfer approximately 8,000 acres of land on the western part of Vieques to the municipality to be used for public purposes.

My bill would make the lands eligible for transfer after the municipality submits to specified congressional committees a plan de-

tailoring the public purposes for which the lands may be used. For all Viequenses, no single issue is more critical and emotional than the resolution of the issues concerning the land. I believe that most of the testimony that we will hear today will be evidence of that fact.

Further, I strongly believe that the subject of today's hearing is not merely to discuss the return of some parcels of land and mangrove. It is the people of Vieques and their future that we will be discussing here today, and I would hope that this discussion can be guided by a very simple principle: The people of Vieques want to control their future and that future cannot be separated from their land.

As a matter of fact, Vieques is a Taino word which means "small land." "Isla Nena," as Vieques is also known, is indeed a small but yet a very, very beautiful island comprising only 33,000 acres.

There are more beautiful beaches and more beautiful spots in Vieques per square mile than on most islands throughout the Caribbean, and yet most of those beaches are, for all practical purposes, inaccessible to most people in Vieques and in Puerto Rico.

Sixty years ago, it was an idyllic spot, abundant in natural beauty, with thousands of acres of rolling grasslands for cattle grazing and agricultural products such as sugar cane. It was a peaceful community of farmers and fishermen. The sea and the land yielded more than enough to provide for an adequate living. Social structures were traditional and family ties were strong. Problems such as drug addiction, divorce, juvenile delinquency were not heard of.

During the Second World War, however, Puerto Rico was militarily important because a "wolf pack" of German submarines established base in the Caribbean region. During the early 1940s, the U.S. Navy arrived in Vieques and acquired title to most of its present holdings, 26,000 of the island's 33,000 acres. As a result of these possessions, civilians now occupy only about 8,000 acres bounded on both the east and the west by Navy property.

Despite the appeal of its gorgeous palm-lined beaches, being home to one of the world's few remaining and most extraordinary bioluminescent bays, the Mosquito Bay, and its vicinity to San Juan, Vieques remains off the beaten track. As a matter of fact, a little while ago, the chairman was referring to Saint Thomas, which is about half the size of Vieques. Well, Saint Thomas, there must be about 100,000 people in Saint Thomas, there are about 8,000 people in Vieques.

Vieques has nothing to—the beauty of Saint Thomas is comparable to the beauty of Vieques. Vieques has nothing to envy Saint Thomas so far as beauty is concerned, but it is much less developed and yet much closer to the larger island.

Seventy-eight percent of the territory of the island has suffered a prolonged and ever-increasing economic crisis, massive out-migration and an unemployment rate of close to 50 percent. It is 47.4 percent according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Lack of housing, medical and educational facilities, together with a fast growing crime rate are among the clearest manifestations of the critical economic and social situation on Vieques.

According to the 1990 Census, the per capita income on the island was \$2,997, and a Viequense family with an income below the

established poverty level reached 70 percent in 1989. The per capita income in the nation is above \$20,000.

Even though it would be unfair to lay all the blame on the Navy, and that is certainly not my intention today, it is fair to say that the current situation is due largely to the U.S. military whose occupation of two-thirds of the territory necessarily strangles the island's economic development.

In 1980, Congressman Ronald Dellums, now chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, directed a congressional review of the naval training activities on the Island of Vieques. And this panel concluded in its final report that the Navy, and I quote, "should locate an alternate site" and that "in the interim, the Navy should make every effort to work closely with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in implementing programs to alleviate the impact of its activities and in particular explore turning over additional land to the island for civilian use."

Three years later, in 1983, while Governor of Puerto Rico, I signed an agreement, a so-called Memorandum of Understanding, with the Department of the Navy, whereby the government of Puerto Rico agreed to drop all pending litigation in court against the military for ecological and economic damage on Vieques without prejudice in exchange for a Navy commitment to mitigate the ecological and economic impact of their activities and help with economic development. As part of this agreement, the Navy recognized its obligations to be a good neighbor to the people of Vieques and pledged to continue to strive to improve the welfare of the island's people.

Mr. Chairman, all the economic projects set up in Vieques with the assistance of the Navy closed down within one or two years after initiating operations. Lack of control of over two-thirds of the island by the local authorities is widely recognized as the principal cause of Vieques' economic and social woes.

Trying to find a solution to the current problems, the local planning board and municipal government have engaged in commencing implementation of a tourism strategy. The truth of the fact, however, is that the gloomy economic picture can only be improved if and when the municipal government acquires sufficient lands to develop the required infrastructure for the implementation of this strategy.

I want to make one thing clear. This legislation is not intended to represent in any way an anti-Navy stance. Puerto Rico has a long and proud role in supporting national defense. Thousands of Puerto Ricans have participated in every single armed conflict in which our Nation has been involved since the First World War, and have done so proudly with great dignity and valor.

Further, and as everybody in this room knows, I have supported statehood for Puerto Rico all my life. For this reason, many Puerto Ricans ask themselves, "Why have I become involved in this issue?"

First of all, I am involved because I strongly believe this is the right thing to do. An island as beautiful and with so much potential as Vieques was not meant to be used as an ammunition depot and as a target for bombing.

Secondly, I am convinced that if Puerto Rico were a State of the Union, with a congressional delegation of six to seven Congressmen

and two Senators and the right to vote in presidential elections, there is no way on earth that this would be happening in an island of the beauty of Vieques.

Just recently, May of 1994, Hawaiians celebrated the end of a long struggle to reclaim the island of Kahoolawe, a dusty, arid, uninhabited island which had been used for target practice, bombed and strafed for more than a generation by the U.S. military. This 45-square-mile island, the smallest and driest of the eight main Hawaiian islands, became a powerful symbol for the Hawaiian people.

Mr. Chairman, the people of Vieques want to have a say in their future, and I, as Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress, fully support them in their efforts. By giving them at least some of the land back, we will be doing just that.

In closing, I strongly believe that while not perfect, this bill provides a solution that will be mutually beneficial to both the people of Vieques and the Navy in the long run.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Romero-Barceló follows:]

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Carlos Romero-Barceló  
Opening Remarks  
Hearing on H.R. 3831, "The Vieques Lands Transfer Act"  
Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs  
October 4, 1994

**MR. CHAIRMAN, FELLOW SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:**

LET ME START BY THANKING YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING TODAY AND FOR THE SUPPORT AND INTEREST THAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN IN MATTERS RELATED TO PUERTO RICO.

I KNOW THAT THROUGHOUT YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THIS CHAMBER AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE YOU HAVE ALWAYS HELD PUERTO RICO VERY CLOSE TO YOUR HEART. FOR THAT I THANK YOU.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY SUBCOMMITTEE COLLEAGUES FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND ALL THE FELLOW REPRESENTATIVES, FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, WHO HAVE COSPONSORED THIS LEGISLATION.

FURTHER, I WANT TO EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE WITNESSES THAT HAVE TRAVELED BOTH FROM THE "MAIN ISLAND", PUERTO RICO, AND FROM THE "ISLA NENA", VIEQUES, TO SHARE WITH US THEIR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE.

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TO DISCUSS H.R. 3831, THE VIEQUES LANDS TRANSFER ACT OF 1994, A BILL THAT I INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO TRANSFER APPROXIMATELY 8,000 ACRES OF LAND IN THE WESTERN PART OF VIEQUES TO THE MUNICIPALITY TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

MY BILL WOULD MAKE THE LANDS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSFER AFTER THE MUNICIPALITY SUBMITS TO SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES A PLAN DETAILING THE PUBLIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE LANDS MAY BE USED.

FOR ALL VIEQUENSES, NO SINGLE ISSUE IS MORE CRITICAL AND EMOTIONAL THAN THE RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE LAND. I BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE TESTIMONY THAT WE WILL HEAR TODAY WILL BE EVIDENCE OF THAT FACT.

FURTHER, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE SUBJECT OF TODAY'S HEARING IS NOT MERELY TO DISCUSS THE RETURN OF SOME PARCELS OF LAND AND MANGROVE. IT IS THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES AND THEIR FUTURE THAT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING HERE TODAY, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS DISCUSSION CAN BE GUIDED BY A VERY SIMPLE PRINCIPLE: THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES WANT TO CONTROL THEIR FUTURE, AND THAT FUTURE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE LAND.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, VIEQUES IS A TAINO WORD WHICH MEANS "SMALL LAND". "ISLA NENA", AS VIEQUES IS ALSO KNOWN, IS INDEED A SMALL, YET VERY BEAUTIFUL ISLAND, COMPRISING ONLY 33,000 ACRES.

SIXTY YEARS AGO, IT WAS AN IDYLIC SPOT, ABUNDANT IN NATURAL BEAUTY, WITH THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF ROLLING GRASSLAND FOR CATTLE GRAZING AND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS SUGAR CANE. VIEQUES WAS A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN. THE SEA AND THE LAND YIELDED MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE LIVING. SOCIAL STRUCTURES WERE TRADITIONAL AND FAMILY TIES STRONG. PROBLEMS SUCH AS DRUG ADDICTION, DIVORCE AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY WERE UNHEARD OF.

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HOWEVER, PUERTO RICO WAS MILITARILY IMPORTANT BECAUSE A "WOLF PACK" OF GERMAN SUBMARINES ESTABLISHED BASE IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION. DURING THE EARLY 1940'S THE U.S. NAVY ARRIVED IN VIEQUES AND ACQUIRED TITLE TO MOST OF ITS PRESENT HOLDINGS -- 26,000 OF THE ISLAND'S 33,000 ACRES. AS A RESULT OF THESE ACQUISITIONS, CIVILIANS NOW OCCUPY ONLY ABOUT 8,000 ACRES, BOUNDED ON BOTH THE EAST AND WEST BY NAVY PROPERTY.

DESPITE THE APPEAL OF ITS GORGEOUS PALM-LINED BEACHES, BEING HOME TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S FEW REMAINING AND MOST EXTRAORDINARY BIOLUMINESCENT BAYS (MOSQUITO BAY), AND ITS PROXIMITY TO SAN JUAN, VIEQUES REMAINS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

SINCE THE NAVY'S OCCUPATION OF 78 PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY, THE ISLAND HAS SUFFERED A PROLONGED AND EVER INCREASING ECONOMIC CRISIS AND A MASSIVE OUT-MIGRATION. AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF CLOSE TO 50 PERCENT (47.4 PERCENT ACCORDING THE 1990 CENSUS), LACK OF HOUSING, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TOGETHER WITH A FAST-GROWING CRIME RATE ARE AMONG THE CLEAREST MANIFESTATIONS OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION ON VIEQUES. ACCORDING TO THE 1990 CENSUS, THE PER CAPITA INCOME IN THE ISLAND WAS \$2,997, AND THE VIEQUENSE FAMILIES WITH AN INCOME BELOW THE ESTABLISHED POVERTY LEVEL REACHED 70 PERCENT IN 1989.

EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO LAY ALL THE BLAME ON THE NAVY, AND THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT MY INTENTION TODAY, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IS DUE LARGELY TO THE U.S. MILITARY, WHOSE OCCUPATION OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE TERRITORY NECESSARILY STRANGLES THE ISLAND'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IN 1980, CONGRESSMAN RONALD DELLUMS, NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, DIRECTED A CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE NAVAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES. THIS PANEL CONCLUDED IN ITS FINAL REPORT THAT THE NAVY, AND I QUOTE, "SHOULD LOCATE AN ALTERNATE SITE" AND THAT "IN THE INTERIM, THE NAVY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND IN PARTICULAR EXPLORE TURNING OVER ADDITIONAL LAND TO THE ISLAND FOR CIVILIAN USE."

THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1983, WHILE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, I SIGNED AN AGREEMENT -- THE SO CALLED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING -- WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO AGREED TO DROP ALL PENDING LITIGATION IN COURT AGAINST THE MILITARY FOR ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE ON VIEQUES WITHOUT PREJUDICE, IN EXCHANGE FOR A NAVY COMMITMENT TO MITIGATE THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND HELP WITH LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AS PART OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE NAVY RECOGNIZED "ITS OBLIGATION TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES" AND PLEDGED TO "CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE ISLAND'S PEOPLE."

MR. CHAIRMAN, ALL OF THE ECONOMIC PROJECTS SET UP IN VIEQUES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE NAVY CLOSED DOWN WITHIN ONE OR TWO YEARS AFTER INITIATING OPERATIONS.

LACK OF CONTROL OF OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE ISLAND BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF VIEQUES' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WOES. TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT PROBLEMS, THE LOCAL PLANNING BOARD AND THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT HAVE ENGAGED AND COMMENCED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TOURISM INDUSTRY STRATEGY. THE TRUTH OF THE FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT THIS GLOOMY ECONOMIC PICTURE CAN ONLY BE IMPROVED IF AND WHEN THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES SUFFICIENT LANDS TO DEVELOP THE REQUIRED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE POINT VERY CLEAR. THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT, IN ANY WAY, AN ANTI-NAVY STANCE. PUERTO RICO HAS A LONG AND PROUD TRADITION OF SUPPORTING NATIONAL DEFENSE.

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THOUSANDS OF PUERTO RICANS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN EVERY SINGLE ARMED CONFLICT IN WHICH OUR NATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED SINCE THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AND THEY HAVE DONE SO PROUDLY, WITH GREAT DIGNITY AND VALOR.

FURTHER, AND AS EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM KNOWS, I HAVE SUPPORTED STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO ALL MY LIFE. FOR THIS REASON, MANY PUERTO RICANS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES WHY I HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE.

FIRST OF ALL, I AM INVOLVED BECAUSE I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. AN ISLAND AS BEAUTIFUL AND WITH SO MUCH POTENTIAL AS VIEQUES WAS NOT MEANT TO BE USED AS AN AMMUNITION DEPOT.

SECONDLY, I AM CONVINCED THAT IF PUERTO RICO WERE A STATE OF THE UNION, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OF 6 TO 7 CONGRESSMEN AND 2 SENATORS, AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THERE IS NO WAY ON EARTH THAT THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING.

JUST RECENTLY (MAY OF 1994) HAWAIIANS CELEBRATED THE END OF A LONG STRUGGLE TO RECLAIM THE ISLAND OF KAHOO LAWE -- A DUSTY, ARID UNINHABITED ISLAND WHICH HAD BEEN USED FOR TARGET PRACTICE, BOMBED AND STRAFED FOR MORE THAN A GENERATION -- FROM THE U.S. MILITARY. THIS 45-SQUARE-MILE ISLAND, THE SMALLEST AND DRIEST OF THE EIGHT MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, BECAME A POWERFUL SYMBOL FOR THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN THEIR FUTURE, AND I, AS PUERTO RICO'S SOLE REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FULLY SUPPORT THEM IN THAT EFFORT. BY GIVING THEM AT LEAST SOME OF THE LAND BACK, WE WILL BE DOING JUST THAT.

IN CLOSING, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT -- WHILE NOT PERFECT -- THIS BILL PROVIDES A SOLUTION THAT WILL BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES AND THE NAVY IN THE LONG RUN.

THANK YOU.

Mr. DE LUGO. I thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico for that opening statement.

Are there additional statements?

The gentleman from Guam.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to offer my support of H.R. 3831, a bill that authorizes and directs the transfer of lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the municipality of Vieques, introduced by my good friend and very supportive colleague, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Mr. Carlos Romero-Barceló.

We all recognize the value of national defense and the burdens that defense needs have placed on some communities. The people of Puerto Rico, and in particular the residents of Vieques Island, have paid a social cost for the defense presence on their island. The inhabitants of Vieques have been suffering due to the demands brought on by the use of their island since the 1940s when the U.S. Navy acquired 78 percent of the island's total lands area for training purposes.

Since then, the island has suffered tremendous losses, with the near total loss of its land area, the inhabitants have no other choice but to abandon their island. Economic crisis have resulted in massive out-migration from a population of approximately 15,000 back in the 1940s, the island's inhabitants have dwindled to a mere 8,602 according to the 1990 Census.

Those who have persevered have suffered great economic hardship. The people who stayed behind have continually suffered from widespread unemployment, a growing crime rate and lack of adequate housing, educational and health care facilities. Emergency air evacuations have to be utilized to fly expectant mothers out of the island due to the lack of proper hospital facilities. Unemployment is estimated at over 50 percent. Consequently, the island suffers from the highest rate of broken families and the highest illiteracy rate within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Returning the lands in H.R. 3831 no longer needed by the Navy would begin the path to economic recovery for Vieques. Returning these lands would rejuvenate the agricultural base, fishing and possibly tourism.

By way of comparison, Guam shares a long association with the military, and certainly we know firsthand that the relationship can be strained when land resources are in short supply. The return of these excess military lands makes good sense and is good public policy. It might be the most basic form of defense conversion, converting land back to those who would harness its economic potential for the good of the community. However well-intentioned, it is time for the military to stop being a landlord and to start being a good neighbor.

I might add that my own lands bill, H.R. 2144, which had its first hearing here in this subcommittee has recently been successfully passed by both the House and the Senate, and that, by a kind of a quirk, although it was a different Christensen to lead the Navy witness in that hearing, it was another Admiral Kristensen, began

with a K, and maybe that is a good omen for this bill, I don't know. I hope so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DE LUGO. I thank the gentleman from Guam.

Any additional statements from the committee members?

The gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. AUSTIN J. MURPHY**

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly.

Of course my first experience with Vieques came in the early 1960s when I was a resident on Saint Croix and my nearest neighbor was a gentleman by the name of Pedro who had been dislocated from his home in Vieques. He was a farmer. He used to tell me of the days he farmed in Vieques. I got to know his children, and his children and my children went to school together.

It was always of interest to me how we Americans made no provisions to return the citizens of Vieques who had been displaced over the years. I suppose now they have become Crutians and they may not want to go back, but, by the same token, I do think we should take some positive steps.

I recently toured Vieques with Delegate Romero-Barceló and saw that there are vast lands there that I think we could surely give back to the community of Vieques and still preserve some naval presence. I think that there is no question the Caribbean Islands, Roosevelt Roads and the other Caribbean Islands that are a vital interest to our military needs, and that presence will be continually needed to some extent, and of course in Puerto Rico as well as Vieques, but I think we should have a balance and allow the citizens of Vieques to have a little more say and a little more room.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DE LUGO. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

And now, our lead witness for the administration, the Department of Defense, is Rear Admiral Ernest E. Christensen, Jr.

Admiral Christensen, let me welcome you here to the committee. If you will join us at the witness table and if you have anyone that you would like to have with you, please do. He is Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean, and I want to tell you that I am very impressed, having read the biography of Admiral Christensen.

Admiral Christensen graduated from Annapolis in 1964 and he became the first third generation naval aviator. His grandfather took part in the first transatlantic flight back in 1919, just two years after the Virgin Islands became a territory of the United States. And during his career, Admiral Christensen flew over 360 combat missions in Vietnam. He was a member of the Blue Angels, he commanded top gun of the Navy Fighter Weapons School. The Admiral commanded the U.S.S. Ranger during Desert Storm. He was selected for flag rank in 1991 and assumed his position as Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean, in September of 1993.

I want to tell you, Admiral, that I admire you tremendously. You are the best of the best, and one of those that makes our country great and makes us very proud to be Americans.

I would like to state for the record and to you, Admiral Christensen personally, that you and our military leaders deserve tremendous credit and gratitude from this Nation. You have cre-

ated a new military force unlike any in history, men and women as highly trained in the use of judicious restraint as they are in the use of power and the incredible technical arsenal at their disposal, a balance of restraint and force reflected in our President's superb handling of the very difficult situation in Haiti.

Any thinking American watching what is happening in Haiti has to be tremendously proud of our President and has to be tremendously proud of our men and women of the Armed Services and the way the operation is being conducted. I commend you for it and I commend you for your career.

Having said that, Admiral, this hearing may be rather rocky, but any of the tough questions we put to you are put to you without any animosity. They are put to you with respect, but rather we are putting these questions to you to try to find answers to a very difficult situation and a situation that we simply have to begin resolving.

As was pointed out, when you look at the difference between Vieques, which is twice the size of Saint Thomas, and what the impact of the long military presence in Vieques has been and the growth of Saint Thomas next door, well, something has to be adjusted.

I, myself, just a little while ago, before we began this hearing, was asking—you know, today, in most areas, we are asking the military to stay, because in many areas the presence of a military facility is a tremendous asset to the local community. But in the case of Vieques, it would seem that the presence of this large military complex, all this land and everything, is not an asset for this community and has regarding the growth of this community been a negative impact.

So I am amazed that despite the fact there is no question the land is owned—it was bought through eminent domain under a legal process back in the early 1940s for the then-fair market value price, but I am amazed that nothing has been done to really offset the negative impact of this long term. But I can find no program of impact aid, for instance, direct impact aid.

I am not here talking about the type of impact aid that comes through the good will of the military being in the community, but those are just my thoughts in welcoming you, and I look forward to hearing and receiving your statement, Admiral.

Welcome. Please, you may summarize or you may present your entire statement, whichever you feel best.

**STATEMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL ERNEST E. CHRISTENSEN, JR.,  
COMMANDER, FLEET AIR CARIBBEAN**

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Thank you very much, sir. I have written and submitted for the record a statement. I would, however, like, if it is proper to do so, to make some additional remarks to that statement.

Mr. DE LUGO. Fine. Without objection, the Admiral's statement will be placed in the record in its entirety. And let me say, Admiral, we have been joined to my right by the Ranking Republican, my good friend from California, Congressman Gallegly.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to echo your remarks and welcome the Admiral, and I

did have some questions, but there are some votes and I guess there is a vote on now, so I look forward to hearing your testimony, Admiral.

Thank you very much.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Good afternoon, I am Admiral Ernest Christensen.

Mr. DE LUGO. Admiral, would you suspend for just a minute. I understand that Congressman Serrano is—oh, Congressman, will you please come up and join us here as a guest of the committee?

Congressman Serrano is a native of Puerto Rico, having been born in Puerto Rico. He now serves and represents the people of New York and he is the chairman of the Hispanic Caucus and has been tremendously helpful to this member.

Good to see you, Joe.

Thank you. And now, Admiral.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Chairman, pardon me. I have a vote on, so you are going to have to excuse me for a second. I guess we are not recessing the committee, but we have a vote on, about eight minutes.

Mr. DE LUGO. All right. Well, we will be able to proceed. Thank you.

Admiral, please.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Good afternoon. I am Rear Admiral Ernest Christensen, Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean. I am the senior active duty flag officer permanently assigned in the Caribbean, and having been directed by the Secretary of the Navy to testify before you today at this subcommittee, I am honored to be here. As this is the first time I have ever given testimony, I do beg your indulgence with any errors of procedure or any lack of sensitivity regarding those procedures.

Second, I am privileged to be here. I would like to tell you up front that I am very honored to represent the Navy in Puerto Rico. Our association and friendship with Puerto Rico and with the administrations of the Commonwealth has been a long and enduring one.

As a sidelight to that, and in consideration of why we are here today, I would like also to mention the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding up front. That memorandum between the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Navy is something which you will hear much about today.

It was through the significant effort of Mr. Romero-Barceló, as Governor of Puerto Rico that, quote, and I mean this, manners were put on the United States Navy in her stewardship of the Island of Vieques. It was an historic document in that regard, in that it took the Navy, gave them the responsibility for not only conserving the precious lands of the Islands of Vieques, it additionally gave the Navy responsibility for participating in, and I repeat again, participating in, with the government of Puerto Rico, the economic development of Vieques.

You should each have before you the written statement. I certainly will not read that statement. Suffice it to say that the Navy is opposed to the House of Representatives bill number 3831, the Vieques Land Transfer Act of 1994. Why? Because the lands on Vieques are of inestimable value to the United States Government,

to the Department of Defense, to all the services, and, of course, to the United States Navy.

I believe that the issue which is before you today is not the absolute value of the land of Vieques to the United States Navy, nor to the Nation, nor is it the issue of the eastern side of Vieques, where significant training occurs. I believe that the issue here today is rather the western side of the island, which comprises somewhere between 7,600 and 8,000 acres, and whether the ammunition which is stored on the western side is worth more than the municipality of Vieques to this Nation than to the Nation in its national defense. It is my firm conviction it is worth more to the United States Nation and the national defense.

In reading the bill introduced by Mr. Romero-Barceló, much of the justification for the bill, and some of these statements made before my statement, state that unemployment exceeds 50 percent and that the Navy has not yet lived up to its responsibilities in executing its side of the memorandum. It is stated also that the transfer of land presently used for storage of ammunition to the municipality of Vieques will alleviate economic issues present in Vieques.

All of the people who will be here today I believe to be honorable people. I know some of them. Not only do I know them but I like them and I count them as friends. I know that what you will present or what they will present to you is most probable what many of them truly believe. I also believe that some will present to you what their constituents ask them to present, and their constituents are Viequenses.

What I present to you today is what I also believe to be the good story of the Navy's stewardship on Vieques. I cannot honestly say that the Navy's stewardship has always been perfect. I would not be honest with you and I would not be true to my uniform.

It is our position that when Federal lands are no longer required for the accomplishment of our mission, they are excessed through the procedure and the process established by GSA. To date, the Navy has excessed approximately 4,000 acres of Vieques. We are presently in process of excessing over 500 more acres of Federal lands no longer required for military training or for safety purposes. The remaining 21,000 acres are either essential to national defense posture or are conservationist zones established by the 1983 agreement with the Puerto Rico government.

Why do we need the land? This past year on Vieques, U.S. and other forces trained on Vieques. The same men who trained there are on the streets of Cap Haitien and in the streets of Port-au-Prince today. Last year's pilots who trained over Vieques today patrol the skies over Bosnia. They struck Serb targets in Bosnia last week.

Last year and the year before, U.S. forces trained on Vieques. Those same men walked the streets of Mogadishu, fought and died, and fought and lived as a direct result of the training they received on Vieques. The same was true of Desert Storm, the same was true of Panama, of Grenada, of Libya, Lebanon, and Vietnam.

In this world of violent peace, the training received in Vieques saves lives. The ordnance which is used to train the men who train on Vieques comes from the ammunition depot, the ammunition storage on the western side of the island.

Today, what I anticipate that you will hear about is not whether or not we need to train military forces, it is not the need to store ammunition, nor is it our national defense—but I think it is important to keep that at the forefront in the balancing of issues—I think today you will hear about economic development, I think you will hear about the ecological concerns.

As a guess, I would state that the people who come before you today will reach to the issue of the 1983 MOU and whether or not the Navy has lived up to their end of the bargain. The economy will be cited over and over again. They will state more land is needed and the economy will get better, and they will state an unofficial unemployment rate of 50 percent. I would like to clear the air a little bit on that.

According to Puerto Rico Labor Department statistics for June of 1994, for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the latest month for the officially tabulated unemployment figures, the overall unemployment rate on the island of Puerto Rico was 14.9 percent. On Vieques, the unemployment rate was 13.1, or 1.8 percent better than the island as a whole.

What do I think of the figures? I think numbers depend on a whole lot of things. Sometimes you get them based on the answers you ask. Sometimes you look good and sometimes you do not. Sometimes figures give you the answers that you want. I can argue all day as to whether the criteria which created the numbers are right or wrong, but I cannot argue with the fact that the same criteria that were used for Vieques were used for Arecibo, for Mayaguez, for Ponce, for San Juan, for Caguas or Humacao, for Fajardo or Pastillo. They are the same criteria.

So if you argue the figures for Vieques, and if you say the statistics are wrong and that unemployment is unacceptably high for Vieques, then you say that for the entire Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and perhaps you are right. But the issue is not Puerto Rico, the issue is Vieques here.

You will hear the argument that if the Navy had done its job right, 100 percent, in living up to the Memorandum of Understanding, there would be no economic issue. I do argue that.

How would I grade the Navy's performance in living up to the terms of the MOU? To be honest, probably 75 to 80 percent. We are imperfect in the way we administer, but we have good intentions and we work hard at it. I have a full-time officer whose responsibility is the Memorandum of Understanding and the execution of economic development on Vieques. Can we do better? You bet we can. We can do better.

We must be conscious of a couple of facts. Dynamics. We must be conscious of the fact that corporations, large corporations and light industry, are a very hard fit on Vieques. Few if any large corporations will come to Vieques and remain. It is the cost of building, it is the cost of infrastructure, and the cost of the transportation of raw materials which is prohibitive and it raises the overhead to an unacceptable level.

Let me state an issue which I truly believe must be solved before we can scrape away to the issue of the economic survivability or the economic viability of Vieques. It costs more to transport goods from San Juan to Vieques than to any other place on the island

of Puerto Rico. It costs more to buy consumer goods on the Island of Vieques than in Fajardo seven miles away. It costs more to travel to and from Vieques than anywhere else on the island. It flat costs more to live there. Why? First, Vieques is an island off an island off a continent. That can never be changed.

Second, the Port Authority, under the requirements of legislation enacted by the Puerto Rico legislature, are required to levy revenue on the users of the Vieques ferry in an effort to make up for the approximately \$8 million a year operating costs. And who pays for that? The Viequenses pay for it, as consumers, as residents, for business, tourists and taxpayers. Milk costs more, bread costs more, staple foods cost more, clothes cost more, and business overheads are higher. Much higher.

Let me give you an example. We recently leased a thousand acres of Navy land to a rancher for the raising of cattle and growing of hay. We leased the properties to him for 10 years at no cost. We agreed to reimburse him for his capital investments, like his exterior fences, irrigation systems, and help write his business plan. With all of that, he cannot get started. He cannot operate at a profit. And you know why? The ferry rates to get his hay to the main island put the per bail of hay price out of the market.

The same argument affects each and every person living on Vieques. They pay more as a person than their counterparts who live seven miles away. Putting Vieques on a level playing field with any other municipality in Puerto Rico would put a large boost in our business development program as well as the efforts of our partners in the Puerto Rican Economic Development Administration.

What else is the right answer for Vieques? I, like others, believe that tourism is the right answer. It is the primary industry in the Caribbean. It is the right answer for Vieques. Ecotourism is the economic opportunity for Vieques. I would be happy to see the island populated with hotels. There are two which are planned at present. We were an enabling force on one of those, a European venture, and it is ecotourism oriented.

The second hotel, North Shore, has asked us to help analyze soil for erosion and soils problems which could affect the venture. The importance of the tourism industry is what we, the Navy, the municipality, and the Commonwealth must continue to work on. There is no question about that.

New hotels, as well as the hotels and guest houses which exist on Vieques, feel they have a commodity which people wish to see, an island with natural beauty, with warmth and with wonderful people and a pace of life which takes them all away from the cities that they come from. That is ecotourism and that is the future for Vieques.

Countless magazine articles, newspaper reports, and television documentaries have documented the beauty of Vieques and any overflight of the island will instantly show you that beauty. We think if it were not for Navy efforts and the farsightedness of Governor Romero-Barceló to charge us with the responsibility of maintaining that environment and those conservation zones, the land would not be so pristine as it is today.

Anyone who tells you that the Navy is destroying reefs, turtle habitats, and mangrove forests has either not been to Vieques or has another agenda. I invite any of you at any time, day or night, under any condition, while we are operating forces there or not operating forces, to come visit. We will walk you through every piece of Vieques that we own.

We recognize that this is an imperfect world. We recognize we can do better in maintaining economic development of Vieques. We know that the answer is not solely the Navy's efforts, it is the effort of all of us, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the municipalities of Vieques and the Navy all three working together. And I think we all recognize that tourism, ecotourism, is one great and right answer to all of that.

Perhaps in the future, when this world becomes more perfect and there is no need for the military, or when we can train without ammunition, perhaps we can look forward to seeing tourist meccas thrive on the island in areas now reserved for the necessity of the military purposes which we have. But since I do not think we live in a perfect world, our reality is as it is for the time being and we will continue to do the best with what we have and what we have we badly need.

Vieques is important to the Navy, as I have said, as is Ceiba, or Fajardo, and any other communities which surround Navy bases within the United States and around the world. We have rules and regulations which govern our actions and we hope that we have an open channel to the communities to make things better.

Our men and women in the Navy and Marine Corps, many of them native Puerto Ricans, live side by side in our surrounding communities. We are as much a part of the community as they are a part of us. We believe deeply in our responsibilities to those communities to be good neighbors. We will continue to work hard and, hopefully, remain good neighbors.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the opportunity to make opening remarks.

[Prepared statement of Admiral Christensen follows:]

Statement of  
Rear Admiral Ernest E. Christensen, Jr  
before the  
Insular and International Affairs Subcommittee  
of the  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
on  
H.R. 3831  
October 4, 1994

Good morning/afternoon. I am Rear Admiral Ernest Christensen, the Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean, located at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. As the senior Department of Defense officer permanently based in the Caribbean, I am here at the direction of the Secretary of the Navy to speak to you on the Department's position regarding H.R. 3831, a bill brought forth to the 103rd Congress, "To authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques, and for other purposes."

Ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, before I speak of the contents of the bill itself, I think it important for you first to know a little about Vieques. The federally owned portions of Vieques are among the most important training grounds for members of the U.S. Department of Defense on the Atlantic coast. As I am sure you are aware, the Navy owns two-thirds of the island at present, roughly 22,000 of the island's 33,000 acres, although this number continues to decrease as excess lands become available for other-than-military uses. It was bought at fair market value in the 1940's for a total of \$1.4 million dollars.

Located on the eastern third of the island, the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility contains the heart and soul of the mission of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads: The training of U.S., NATO, South American, and CARICOM allied forces. This facility is perhaps the best training facility of its kind in the world. It allows the conduct of amphibious landing exercises, special forces parachute drops, close air support, artillery and small arms firings, naval gunfire support, missile shoots, air-to-surface, air-to-air, and surface-to-air ordnance deliveries, naval "war at sea" exercises, and both surface, air, and submarine maneuvering and drills.

The Weapons Training Facility covers not only the eastern third of Vieques, but

also approximately 195,000 square miles of open ocean and airspace adjacent to the island for its training exercises. It is used not only by the Navy, but Marines, Army, and Air Force components as well. Also, units from The Netherlands, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, Argentina, and Brazil used the training and operating areas of Vieques last year.

The most important aspect of the Vieques facility is its ability to provide realistic, integrated training scenarios in a multi-terrain, open-ocean deep water environment, with a fully operational support base, port facility, airfield, and ammunition storage depot just miles away. The Weapons Training Facility was used extensively by our forces during the buildup for Operation Desert Storm prior to troop deployments to the Persian Gulf area. U.S. Marines and Naval Forces practiced amphibious landings and assaults in an environment closely simulating the anticipated combat environment. Since that time, the multi-national exercise "Ocean Venture 93" was conducted on Vieques, involving over 21,000 forces from the United States, Great Britain, and The Netherlands.

The range has recently been used to train U.S. ships now deployed to Bosnian waters and just weeks ago by U.S. Marines, special forces and Navy ships deployed in preparation for Operation Uphold Democracy, our Haitian operation.

The western third of the island, which is the property under discussion in H.R. 3831, is used for ammunition storage, and is commonly known to us as the Naval Ammunition Storage Depot (NASD). For DOD purposes, this property is actually considered part of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads and is not a separate facility. The Ammunition Storage Depot is an integral component of the training conducted on Vieques, replenishing units and ships with both live and inert ordnance while they conduct refresher or combat training exercises.

Let me sight some figures for you as to attest to the usage of this facility. In Fiscal Year 1993, the NASD moved over 13,716,000 pounds of munitions to 21

squadrons, 3 Carrier Battle Groups, 1 Marine Air Group, 26 surface ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and 21 miscellaneous units, including special forces such as Navy SEALs and Army Rangers, foreign naval forces through the FMS program, and other groups of this kind.

In Fiscal Year 1994, these numbers were up to 14,379,926 pounds of munitions moved to 15 aircraft squadrons, 2 Carrier Battle Groups, 1 Marine Amphibious Group, 11 surface warships, and 30 miscellaneous groups. These movements saved operational hours and money by negating the need for an ammunition replenishment ship to accompany them to the range.

These munitions are stored in 102 active use magazines within the Depot, surrounded by what is called "Explosive Quantity Safety Distances" (or EQSD arcs). Calculated according to Department of Defense regulations, these arcs are designed for the safety of all persons surrounding the magazines. Of the properties currently owned by the Navy on the western end of Vieques, nearly all of the non-conservation zone property is covered by these EQSD arcs.

Although munitions storage requirements have decreased slightly during the last several years, we are currently anticipating an increase in these requirements as overseas bases are closed and as U.S. Caribbean involvement increases. Considering the eventual closings of the U.S. bases in Panama, this facility would be the closest munitions replenishment facility for Caribbean and South American operations should that contingency ever arise. At present, however, it is emphasized that the munitions in storage are primarily used for the training conducted on the eastern end of the island at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

Training conducted on or near Vieques in the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility provided timely, sometimes days prior, training to our servicemen and women in order to ensure their full preparedness for the real combat environment. It is one of my primary responsibilities as a senior member of the Defense Department to ensure that

our sons and daughters are prepared as best as possible for the worst possible combat scenarios. The facilities on Vieques Island, both the range facility and ammunition depot, provide me that opportunity in a safe environment, on U.S. soil, all year long.

In addition to the use of Vieques for training, Vieques is home to seven major conservation zones, all located on Navy property on both the eastern and western ends of the island. Three of the largest conservation zones are located on the western third of the island on the NASD. Named "Laguna Kiani, Monte Pirata, and Playa Grande," these three zones comprise nearly 3,700 acres of the 7,405 acres which the Navy owns on that side of the island. These zones are mandated solely by the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was negotiated between the then Governor of Puerto Rico, The Honorable Carlos Romero Barcelo, (a member of the Subcommittee) and the Acting Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable James F. Goodrich. According to the terms of this MOU, in regard to environmental matters, the Navy is obligated to maintain these seven conservation zones, in addition to participating in the sea turtle, sea mammal, and brown pelican management programs; preserving historic sites located on its property; and ensuring an active noise abatement program is enforced. A Management Advisory Committee was also established to assist the Navy in managing these resources. Made up of members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, two representatives of the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and a representative of the Navy, this Advisory Committee is empowered to enforce the provisions of the MOU and ensure full compliance with its terms. Thus far, the MOU has been executed to the fullest extent possible by the Navy, and upon our implementation of our 1986 Land Use Management Plan for Navy lands on Vieques, there have been no implementation or compliance issues raised through the Management Advisory Committee nor the Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico.

The efforts of the Naval Station who manage these areas were recently recognized by the Secretary of the Navy when they received the bi-annual Natural

Resources Conservation Special Recognition Award for 1992-93. Additionally, we have recently published a full color brochure entitled, "Welcome to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Vieques, Puerto Rico," which highlights our Vieques conservation efforts.

In order to allow everyone the enjoyment of the beauty of our conservation areas on the NASD, we routinely allow free and open access to both local Viequenses and tourists, as well as boaters from the main island, to the area called "Green Beach." On the northern road leading from "Green Beach" toward the encampment of the NASD, we also have allotted the Puerto Rican Department of Natural and Environmental Resources \$48,000 of Fiscal Year 93 money for the construction of a mangrove viewing boardwalk through the mangrove forests of Laguna Kiani. Made of wood and to be constructed with minimal impact on the mangroves, this boardwalk will allow free access and a self-guided tour through the mangrove forest to the people of Vieques and tourists coming to the island. An extremely successful boardwalk similar to this has already been constructed by the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico in the northeastern town of Fajardo, even with the small entry fee charged for the tour. Of note is that the materials for this boardwalk, on order for some time now, were delivered last Tuesday, the 26th of September, so construction should begin very soon. We hope that our boardwalk will likewise be a big ecotourism draw for the island of Vieques.

Lastly with regard to the mangrove forests and our environmental protection program, a booklet entitled, "Vieques Mangrove Forest Manual," written by a Mr. George Proctor, was published in June of this year by the Puerto Rican Department of Natural and Environmental Resources with the study and print funding being provided by the Department of the Navy. Written in both English and Spanish, this booklet is the most comprehensive cataloging of mangrove and plant species on the island of Vieques known to date. The Navy was proud to be able to fund this study and provide such a high quality product to the Natural and Environmental Resources Department of Puerto Rico and the people of Vieques.

The Naval Ammunition Storage Depot is also bustling with activity in the area of economic development for Vieques Island as well. Such projects as a 500 acre cattle farm, an aloe vera farm, a "canepa" (known in U.S. as a "honeyberry") orchard, and an expansion of the Vieques Bee Farm are in the works. All of these projects are strongly supported and encouraged by the Navy, which continues to lease its buffer areas to applicants as these projects arise.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, the Department of the Navy is an active participant in the development of the economy of the island of Vieques. We are both involved in supporting such projects as I have just mentioned, besides actively pursuing new ventures from outside Vieques and from the States. We respond as soon as a hand is waived in our direction and with terms and conditions most favorable to the developer.

In terms of returning excess lands to the Commonwealth government, we have returned nearly 4,000 acres thus far since our original purchases in the 1940's. And we continue to excess property no longer required for military or safety of personnel purposes. Using a few of the colloquial names for the tracts of land, the "Destino Tract", composing some 311 acres of property, was just a few months ago deeded to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Currently in the mill for excessing also are two tracts on the eastern end of the island known as "Parcels A and C." Totalling 166 acres, these properties are currently licensed to the Municipality of Vieques by the Navy, but in the excessing process now titled to the General Services Administration. The Mayor of Vieques, with strong support by the Navy, is in the process of finalizing plans to build a world-class sports complex on "Parcel A" beginning this month, with federal funding which were secured through the great efforts of the Puerto Rican Resident Commissioner, Mr. Romero Barcelo.

"Parcel C", which is adjacent to the Municipal landfill, is also being used by the Municipality. The General Service Administration is working with the Department of

Health and Human Services, as well as the National Park Service, since the Mayoress of Vieques has expressed an interest in the property for health, conservation, recreation, or residential housing.

The final property currently being excessed is called the "La Hueca" tract. "La Hueca" is 331 acres of property on the southwestern side of Vieques outside of the NASD fenceline. This land lies outside of existing EQSD explosive safety arcs of the NASD and is no longer required in the performance of the NASD's mission.

Members of the Committee, the land being discussed in H.R. 3831 is not wasteland. It is valuable property for all of the reasons just sighted. But foremost, it is part of an integral training program for the men and women of the United States Armed Services. It is for this reason that the Department of the Navy is opposed to H.R. 3831.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you very much, Admiral, for that opening statement, and I think you did a superb job of stating the Navy and the Defense Department's position.

I think that there are a few statements that impacted on the Chair. One was that the facility at Vieques, if I am quoting you correctly, has inestimable value to the Navy and to this country. I think you also said you believe it has great value to this country.

Then I think that the statement was made that some 8,000 acres—what was the figure on—

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I believe I said 4,000, sir, had already been exsessed.

Mr. DE LUGO. Yes, that is correct, it is 4,000. Let's see. Of the 4,000 that has been turned back, let's see. The municipal airport I think was turned back in June of 1967.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DE LUGO. And then there was Martinome, development of 1,146 acres. That was turned back in June of 1967.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. February of 1980, sir.

Mr. DE LUGO. All right. We have that. That was in June of 1967. And Monte Santo, that was 517 acres that was turned back in February of 1980. And Santa Maria, that is 964 acres, that was turned back in February of 1980.

So the Chair's records show that since the agreement—when was the Memorandum of Understanding? It was—

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. 1983.

Mr. DE LUGO. 1983. That since 1983, all we have that has been turned back since 1983 is 25 acres, which is a landfill in March of 1988, and the Desteno land that is meant for development that had squatters on that land, and that is 311 acres that was turned back in December of 1992.

That is all we see that has been turned back, that has actually been turned back since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed. Was there any other land turned back since that Memorandum of Understanding, Admiral?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. First, sir, I will make sure that we submit this so that it concurs with the figures that you have on the dates of the return.

[The information follows:]

#### DISPOSITION OF NAVY PROPERTY IN VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Tract	Acres	Date exsessed
Airport .....	124	June 1967.
Martineau .....	1,146	February 1980.
Monte Santo .....	517	February 1980.
Santa Maria .....	964	February 1980.
Landfill .....	25	March 1988.
Destino .....	311	December 1992.
Parcel "A", Eastern Maneuvering Area .....	69	To GSA for processing.
Parcel "C", Eastern Maneuvering Area .....	97	To GSA for processing.
La Hueca .....	334	To GSA for processing.
Total .....	3,587	

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. As you probably have, and I think maybe it is in the same document, there are three parcels in process right now. Parcel A, parcel C and La Hueca, which constitutes approxi-

mately 500 acres. I think it is important to note that all three of those have been in process for some period of time.

We have, through the House Armed Services, recommended legislation which would revert the 334 acres of La Hueca straight to the municipality. We do not know the state of that at the present time.

Mr. DE LUGO. Well, we had this Memorandum of Understanding back in 1983, and there is very little to show for it here. Most of the land that you referred to was turned over to Vieques long before that Memorandum of Understanding. We have the parcels you just referred to, Parcel A, C, and La Hueca of about 500 acres. That has been going on for some time. What has been the holdup?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. As you well know, sir, going through the process of excessing properties has to go through a number of legislative hoops. One is to screen it for homeless, whether there is any need for homeless; and others to screen it through all the Federal agencies. That takes time. That is, sir—

Mr. DE LUGO. Well, as I well know, it does take time, Admiral, but there is a limit to how much time it takes. If the administration is on board and is pushing this, if the Defense Department is moving on this, it does not take an inordinate amount of time.

It seems to me the problem we face here is that you have a facility that by your testimony is of incredible—by the Navy's testimony, is of incredible national importance. And yet, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the impression the Chair gets is that while the Navy did do some things to help, they were fairly routine. They were not Herculean, they were not the types of things that would be undertaken when something is as important as Vieques evidently is to the Navy.

As I said, if this property, Vieques, is of inestimable value to the Navy and the Nation, and the Navy acquired it back in 1940 or 1941 for \$1.5 million for two-thirds of the Island of Vieques, why is there no compensation to either the people of Vieques or Puerto Rico for the adverse impact, because this is an adverse impact. Yes, it is important for the training of our military and their exercises, but the people that live on that island, they have had to leave Vieques. That is not an asset, that is an adverse impact.

You know, most of the people that left Vieques came to my district, and we are glad to have them, because they vote for me, election after election. They have come to Saint Croix and they have helped us build a better Saint Croix. But they did not want to leave their homes and they would like to be able to go back.

So we have a situation where, and the sponsor of this legislation is a very reasonable man, but he is very determined when he is going to represent his constituents, the Navy is going to have to take this effort extremely seriously. I can tell you that the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico has a lot of support in the House and in the Congress, and that support, I am sure, will remain.

So I have been impressed very much by your statement. I wish you had been there when the Memorandum of Understanding had been signed, perhaps the effort would have been more enlightened, more serious, but, nevertheless, the Navy has a serious problem on its hands, a serious political problem.

I have some questions for you, Admiral, but I am going to recognize at this time the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Puerto Rico, for any questions he might have.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you very much, Admiral. And, obviously, we are coming from—you and I are coming from a different perspective, but I want to clear up one thing first and those are the economic facts. When you mentioned the Labor Department statistics on Vieques, you are referring to the Puerto Rico Labor Department, are you not?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. You are not using the U.S. Census figures, are you?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Those are the 1990 figures. No, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. If you were using the U.S. Census figures for 1990, you would show a much larger unemployment, which is 47.4 percent. You are aware of that, are you not?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir. I heard your testimony.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. All right. Those are the actual figures. They are not just in my testimony. I want to make sure. This is a copy of the 1990 Census and the figures are subdivided by municipality. And it says, Vieques, 47.4.

The census is a questionnaire that is answered by everyone, and those that do not answer they send people out to try to get the full answer. They want to get the whole population. So it is not a poll and it is not a mathematical type of formula that they try to use subdividing the results for the whole island but it is an accurate measurement. There have not been any jobs created in Vieques from 1990 until today.

I don't know if you are aware, but the fact that the figures of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor subdivided by municipalities are not accepted by any agency in the Federal Government because they are estimates, because they are not real figures. They have no real census by municipality. What they do island-wide is acceptable.

When you subdivide it by municipalities, the numbers are skewed. Are you aware of that?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. That is a difficult question for me to answer, sir. What I would say is that I am agreeing that however you want to argue the criterion, the fact remains that consistency that is spread across the board, to me, is where I use the comparison of the figures.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Let me then correct for your information and ask your people to get you some correct information. Because, I repeat, the Puerto Rico Labor Department figures, when they are subdivided by municipality, are not acceptable because they are estimates and they do things to the formulas or something, but they do not really know what the unemployment is in that area.

Maybe just a few samples they took which were insufficient. They use them to determine the unemployment. The Mayor of Vieques has done a census herself, also, house-by-house, on unemployment, and it also verifies the figures, more or less. It is a little bit higher than the U.S. Census of 47. Hers is a little higher than 50 percent.

The unemployment in Vieques is very severe and what we are telling you is 13 percent unemployment, which is very high, very high. It is higher than just about any municipality in the Nation, would still be very, very low in Vieques. Most people are unemployed.

Mr. DE LUGO. At this point, let the Chair, without objection, place the official census figures in the record. We will make that a part of the record. [See information on p. 265.]

Please continue.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. The other thing I would like to discuss regarding your testimony, Admiral, you said that the—I just want to make sure I heard right because I thought I heard you say the munitions depot is worth more in Vieques—is worth more to the Nation than the municipality.

Did I hear that right?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. No, sir. Believe me, I am a little nervous here today and sometimes the words come out a little wrong. What I tried to say is, is the issue of the ammunition dump worth more to the municipality of Vieques than it is to the national defense? That, to me, is what the issue is.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Is it worth more to the municipality?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Is it worth more as part of the municipality than it is to have it part of our national defense. That, to me, is what the issue is. I hope I said that right.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Well, it still gives me the impression you are comparing the value of a munitions depot to the value of a people.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Oh, no, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. That is what I am concerned about. I wanted to make it clear for the record. That is what I understood. But I do not think it is what you wanted to say.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. No, sir. One of the things I have learned is if you find you have dug yourself in a hole, it is time to stop digging.

I was making a simple comparison. The issue we have here today is the issue of where to place that parcel of land of 8,000 acres. And that your decision and what the subcommittee is hearing as part of 3831 is, is it worth more to give that property to the municipal government than to give that property and keep it part of the United States military in the national deference. So I apologize if I said it wrong.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. I wanted to make sure because I didn't think you wanted to be misquoted on that.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. No, definitely not.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. You talked about the acquisition of the land, and that it was acquired at a cost of \$1.4 million, 22,000 acres. Do you know what that comes out to an acre? It is \$66 an acre.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Has the Navy or the Department of Defense paid any taxes to the municipality of Vieques or to the government of Puerto Rico or has it made any payments in lieu of taxes from the time it acquired the property until today?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Well, you are asking the question and the answer of course is, no.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Just wanted to make sure. We want to keep that for the record. Neither the U.S. Navy nor the Department of Defense has ever paid any money in taxes to Vieques or the people of Puerto Rico, the government of Puerto Rico, or made any payments in lieu of taxes. So they have the use of 22,000 acres at \$66 an acre since 1940; is that right?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. 1941.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Since 1941, at the time of war already. What evidence do you have that even that 1.4 was a fair market value?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I have to admit it was before I was born.

Mr. DE LUGO. I envy you.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. During the war, everybody was pretty tragic and I am sure ways were found to give this to the Navy at the least possible cost. I am not so sure it was even then market value. But even if it was market value, do you have any idea how much an acre of land next to a beautiful beach is worth in Puerto Rico area nowadays?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. You and I both agree that the land and the beaches on Vieques are absolutely beautiful; that the island is an island of great, great beauty, and that there is great worth to the land that is there.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Would I be exaggerating if I said an acre of land next to a beach would bring as much as \$50,000 in the Puerto Rico area?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I am not an expert, Mr. Romero. I agree that there would be value to the land that is there, great value.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So the reason I am talking of the value is, if you have something of value that is not being used for the purpose or the benefit of a municipality or people, then, obviously, whatever you can derive from that thing of value, which is substantial, is lost to those people.

I just wanted to make sure to bring to your mind, and perhaps you can bring to the minds of the people in the Department of Defense and the Navy, the cost, the economic cost, to Vieques for not having those lands, which were expropriated from them or taken from them at a cost of \$1.4 million, which is \$66 an acre, when today they are worth thousands of dollars an acre. And they are beautiful beaches, which they are now being used and do not have the normal access to those beaches.

Sometimes, once in a while, they do have access to some of the beaches, not to all of them. That is correct, no?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. May I make a quick statement in that regard?

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Yes, you may.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Last year we opened the beaches to anyone who wished to use those beaches, for any time they wished to use the beaches, for any condition, under which they left the beaches as pristine as they found them, with the exception of those specific times where we ran operations which were amphibious operations.

I believe, and do not quote me on this—I can go into the figures, I have them here—that it was approximately 15 days, day by day, that we closed the beaches last year. And of the beaches we used, we only used two of those beaches for military operations. The reason why we did not use two of the beaches is because we do surveys prior to each amphibious operation. We found turtle eggs there and that restricted our use of those beaches for those operations. So we moved our operations elsewhere.

The total amount of time which we closed last year, I think, was 15 days. As you know, I have been over to those beaches sailing on friends' sailboats. I have seen those beaches, in particular, Green Beach, crowded with boats, crowded with people who are taking advantage of the beauty of the beaches.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Green Beach. Yes, sir.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. But the other beaches on the eastern shore, the eastern coast, are much more limited.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. They are the ones we held amphibious operations on last year.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. There is no access to them.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. To the exception of the areas which lie within the restricted areas which is used as an impact area.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. The buses, public buses, can go to those beaches?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The beaches are more accessible by boat than by bus.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And the reason is there are no roads. There is no development there.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. There is no development, yes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So the municipality cannot build roads there because it is not their land. They are not accessible, as most beaches are. They are there and, yes, you can go there, but only if you can find a way, like you can find a helicopter to drop you over there or drop you by parachute, or go by boat. But, otherwise, they are not really available to most of the people of Vieques and most of the people of Puerto Rico.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I understand your point, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Even in the Green Beach, which Green Beach is the one on the western shore, which is—as you said, is open, yet there are still even some people who cannot even go there because you have denied access to that area, to some of the city councilmen, for instance.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I can go back and check on that. You mentioned that to me once before and I have to get an answer.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. To specific city councilmen.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. If they were city councilmen and denied access, I will go back and find out. And if there was good reason, I will communicate back with you. If there was not, then I accept responsibility for that not being provided.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And another point, another issue, something that happened. They tried to take passengers there from some of the hotels and they were stopped under threat of being arrested because they said they were using the beaches for exploitation.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir. You and I have talked about this before.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Yes, I know.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. May I.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Sure, give an explanation.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The letter which was written was harshly written and it was wrong, and I have written a letter back to the individual who suffered the commercial activity, who was on a commercial venture with 140 people.

He advertised that he was going to Green Beach and they were cooking out on Green Beach. The commercial activity flyers went out stating that. And so when the flyers came out and the boat went to Green Beach, the U.S. Navy, at the time, went ashore with them and said you cannot do a commercial venture here on government property. It is not legal. And not only that, you cannot come back here again under any condition of a commercial venture.

I wrote a letter back to that gentleman and I said that it was a harshly worded document; that, in truth, all we have is the requirement not to allow people to make money off of the beach there. And that is my responsibility. It is not to allow people to go in there with stands or to put advertisements up or to make money by using Green Beach as the sole reason that they profit. But there was absolutely no prohibition against people going to the beach if the advertisement—

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Picnicking on the beach.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Absolutely, yes, sir. Absolutely. And as I said, I think you and I had a discussion. And I said perhaps one of the most arrogant animals that has ever been created by man is a Navy lieutenant or an Army captain. So what we had there was someone who was slightly overzealous and a little bit too abrupt in the handling of his duties.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. See, the thing is, I know this goes to the bottom of the issue, the crux of the matter. The Navy feels and the people in the Navy, officers and all down the line, that this is their land just because they have title to it. They are users of the land. They have legal title to it but this land has, for centuries, belonged to the people who lived in Vieques and they want to be able to enjoy it and they want to be able to develop it and they feel they are being hemmed in.

Now, it has been used for a munitions depot. My question is: Is a munitions depot—can there not be another place for a munitions depot? Can you tell me, really, there is no other, no other place in the world for a munitions depot? You have to use an island of such beautiful beaches for the process and warehouse munitions?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I want to answer the question right and as honestly as I possibly can, but let me frame it in this context. We are in the process right now of going through significant, I believe we call it rightsizing instead of downsizing; that the Navy we have today, the armed forces we have today is not the armed forces we will have two to three years from now.

If you ask me this question two to three years from now, I may have a different answer because I will know what the final shape of the Navy is because BRAC 95 will have been completed at that time and I will at least have been able to drive a stake in the sand

and say this is the size of the Navy, this is the size of the armed forces that we have, this is the amount of training that we do, and this is the amount of training ordnance we need so, therefore, we need the following places.

I cannot do that right now because this is a moving target. What I will say is, we did look at the possibility of relocating the ammunition dump on Vieques. That as we did that, we looked at the naval station, Roosevelt Roads, as an alternative. And if we were to move that ordnance to Roosevelt Roads, which is now the only place I can see on the island we can move it, the cost would have been approximately \$300 million.

Now, I don't know how valid those costs are, but I can tell you this, it is very expensive to move it. It is expensive because in order to have explosive-safe quantity distance, such that we can store the ammunition we need, we need buffer areas. To have those buffer areas, we have to buy additional land in different areas. We have to construct new magazines, we have to construct a pier at Roosevelt Roads, where you can off-load significant ammunition. And because of those costs, which were estimated to be as high as \$300 million, it made the movement of the ammunition out of Vieques too expensive, hard to do.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. We will get back to this later on. The chairman wants to ask some questions.

Mr. DE LUGO. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Puerto Rico for additional questions in one moment. The Chair has some additional questions and observations.

In listening to your statement and to your reply to the questions to the gentleman from Puerto Rico, I was particularly taken when the gentleman from Puerto Rico made the point that we have this 22,000 acres, two-thirds of Vieques, that is sitting there and that you have testified it is of such great value to the Department of Defense and yet there has been no effort to make any payment in lieu of taxes.

This property, since it is Federal property, pays no taxes. The impact on this community is one that is negative. Now, this issue did not just come up today, Admiral. There were hearings held back in the early 1980s, and there was a report written by the committee of jurisdiction and a lot of things said in that report were very important.

One of the things said in February of 1981 was that interwoven into the central issue, speaking about Vieques and the Navy, is the question of the impact of the Navy's activities on the people of the island. The findings say the Navy should locate an alternative site.

Now, let me ask you. When you made reference to Roosevelt Roads, when was that explored?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. That was made in March or April of this year, sir. It was after H.R. 3831 was—

Mr. DE LUGO. That is a long time from 1981. It was in 1981 that the Congress told the Navy that you should locate an alternative site. Money was appropriated for this. I think it was \$12 million, was it not? Well, it was to move out of Culebra and find another site, but it was not supposed to be Vieques, it was supposed to be those two other islands and they never moved there.

Whatever happened to that money that was appropriated?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I have no idea, sir, but I would like to say the two islands you spoke about, if they are in fact on the western side of Puerto Rico, and given the distance, the stretch it takes to get from Roosevelt Roads to those islands, we are talking in excess of 110 to 120 miles. And the reach for aircraft launched out of Roosevelt Roads to do training there or for amphibious operations based out of Roosevelt Roads to get there is extraordinarily inefficient and does not constitute a real training opportunity.

Mr. DE LUGO. Well, Admiral, let's take a look at some more statements in this: The finding that was directed to the Department of Defense and the Navy in 1981. It says in the interim—before you find the alternative site the Navy should make every effort to work closely with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in implementing programs to alleviate the impact of its activities and, in particular, explore turning over additional land to the island for civilian use.

Then we look at the record. Most of the land turned over to you was cited as being turned over long before 1981. There is a pittance of land that was turned over after 1981 or is in the pipeline when we look at the question.

Anyone sitting here today who is new to this subcommittee has to say, my God, why was action not taken back in 1981? Why did the Navy not move in a realistic manner?

You are stuck with the fact there is a different political situation today, and that when Members look at this community and the impact of the naval facility there, the adverse impact, and then you look at the Federal Government making no meaningful effort to compensate, realistically, just compensate realistically, one thing has to be understood.

First of all, the people of Vieques, people of Puerto Rico, and the Members of this committee are patriotic Americans. Most of us have served in the military. The people of Puerto Rico have one of the highest records of military service that you will find is much higher than we have here on the mainland.

So this is not a question of patriotism we are talking about today. This is a question of fairness. This is where the Defense Department, with all of its billions of dollars, has taken advantage of a United States territory. Taken advantage because it is not a foreign country, taken advantage because, well, you think we could do this in, let's say the Philippines or let's say some other area? No, we could not.

As a Nation, we would have to stay up with the political curve, and our people would have to go in there and negotiate a new agreement that is fairer. So the problem is one everybody can be comfortable with. Instead, nothing meaningful has been done since 1981. Whatever has been done has depended on the good will of whoever was the commanding officer of a particular period. That is all. Whatever was done was on an ad hoc, day-to-day basis, no real policy that we can point to.

And, yet, you get my sympathy as you sit there. It is not fair for the Navy to send you alone, they should have sent—

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Well, I was ducking some of that, but in the same regard, may I say a couple of things, sir? First off, in 1983, the Navy sent down Rear Admiral Diego Hernandez, and Admiral Hernandez was the man who worked extraordinarily hard

with, at the time, Governor Romero who forged the Memorandum of Understanding with Governor Romero. He served extraordinarily for three years down there.

And while I acknowledge that some of us, and I include myself, are less than perfect in the execution of our duties, Rear Admiral Hernandez retired as a Vice Admiral, was extraordinary and exceptional as a Commander down there.

I would like to make a couple of other points. I think we have a chart somewhere. I hate charts and graphs, excuse me, but one of the reasons why we talk about not having much excess land is due to the fact we keep trying to find areas to carve out and additional land that we can give.

And what I will show you now is what land is there and what land we have tried to excess. The areas in green conservatory zones set up by the Memorandum of Understanding. The line, the black line, which is drawn straight down vertically north to south represents the edge of the territory which we now hold, which means properties outside that line have either been excessed or in process of being excessed.

As you look at that, you see that the red circles about that line. Those red circles are explosive-safe, quantity distance indicators. That is what we are required to have in the way of safe distance from magazines in order to lay no harm to people, to buildings, to roads, from explosive ordnance.

So as you can see, we agree there is not a lot that has been excessed, but we think we are just right down pretty tight on what we can excess out of that property without affecting explosive safe quantity distance.

Mr. DE LUGO. Well, it still does not change the military's response to the report which I am citing again. Paragraph 8 of the findings says I am concerned that a business-as-usual policy will be counterproductive.

The United States and Puerto Rico have a unique relationship that requires trust, communication, and cooperation. Vieques, however, is a political issue that, for some, not many, symbolizes Third World concerns with their relationship with the industrialized nations of the world. I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for the Navy and the Defense Department to proceed now—that is February of 1981—without delay to locate alternatives to Vieques and in the interim study and develop methods of alleviating as many of the more immediate concerns as possible. Otherwise—and this is a report that was accepted by the full committee and printed officially by the House—otherwise, the Navy may further undermine its credibility and encourage exploitation of the controversy.

Well, this hearing today is certainly not an exploitation of the controversy, rather it is a representative of the people of Puerto Rico doing his duty. And looking at this, I can only feel it is unfortunate that the Navy did not move with more dispatch when it was directed to do so by the House.

Let me ask you this: In 1971, after years of protest by the people of Culebra and the Puerto Rican government, as well as Members of the House and Senate, the Navy agreed to cease its operations in Culebra. The Secretary of Defense directed the Navy to relocate

its range facilities to an uninhabited island, Monito and Desecheo on the western part of Puerto Rico. That was the range facilities.

The military construction appropriation for fiscal year 1974 contained \$12 million to facilitate that move. Why was that plan not carried out? You have already said you do not know what happened to the other portion.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. No, sir. We will research that and submit it for the record.

Mr. DE LUGO. All right.

[The information follows:]

The disposition of the \$12,000,000 appropriated in FY74 is still being investigated. Initial indications are that the money was never spent (but this is not substantiated at present).

Mr. DE LUGO. After President Nixon terminated the Navy's use of Culebra by Executive order in 1974, a joint Department of Defense and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Committee was formed as the Armed Forces Committee report of February 1981 to find an alternative site for Culebra. This joint committee was reconstituted in 1977.

Was any recommendation made for an alternative site?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Let me say, first off, that there was an honest effort that went on during the period of the late 1970s through the early 1980s. While not a direct participant at that, I was a carrier pilot and had come down to the area working air-to-ground ordnance and part of other exercises that were ongoing.

As you well know, all of the range facilities were relocated to either the Island of Vieques, to Saint Croix, to Saint Thomas, or to Mt. Pico on Puerto Rico. As you well know now, we also have in excess of a 200,000 square mile area those range facilities now have some degree of oversight over.

Mr. DE LUGO. Well, it is clear, in reading the record of the past, that Vieques was not supposed to be the alternative site for Culebra. Admiral, I ask you under what authority did the Navy, in effect, relocate the Culebra operations to Vieques?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Let me find the specific answers to that and I will submit that for the record.

[The information follows:]

In regard to the transfer of operations from Culebra to Vieques, I do not believe that to be the case. As mentioned in the previous answer, target operations on Vieques had been ongoing long before the talk—or action—of closing the range in Culebra. Also, it was the intent of Congress to keep range operations on Puerto Rican territory, but a suitable alternative was not found. Therefore, the operations on Culebra were closed and Vieques operations remained ongoing.

Mr. DE LUGO. We will look forward to getting that for the record.

Under section 1 of the community assistance of the Memorandum of Understanding that we have made reference to several times during this hearing today, the Navy agreed to continue, quote, an ongoing effort to seek out and encourage civilian industry to locate their operations on the island.

Can you tell this subcommittee how many industries has the Navy been able to establish in Vieques since the signing of this memorandum?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Let me give you a little history again on that, and I apologize. When the original Memorandum of Under-

standing was signed, it was agreed to that we would go after what are called the top 10. They were major industries to come on to the Island of Vieques and establish some form of subcontracting effort.

They included General Dynamics, Grumman, Litton, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, Newport News Shipbuilding, Sperry, United Technologies, and General Electric. There were, by 1974, 400 direct jobs which were obtained.

The decline in the losses went as follows: 175 people lost jobs in the garment manufacturing plant which made military uniforms because the plant owner was no longer able to take military contracts for having accepted a bribe. The high cost of transportation to and from the island, as we have discussed before. There has been no help to this point from the Puerto Rican Port Authority. Lack of company diversification. Heavy reliance on government contracts. The government contracts ended, the military began to downsize. Hurricane Hugo destroyed that which had not already been taken in 1989. That was the top 10 as they existed.

Since then, Lieutenant Commander McCloskey, who is on my right, and his predecessor, were assigned for full-time economic development. As we know, the issue of industry and large company was one that is an extremely hard fit on the Islands of Vieques his efforts went down to those which could fit on the Island of Vieques.

The following is a list of projects which he has started and/or attempted to start which are ongoing, which have not made it because of other economic issues or which have yet to fully vet.

One-thousand-acre hay farm, Camp Garcia. I talked about that earlier. Aloe vera farm, lease of 200 acres of NASD land on the western side to grow aloe vera. Lease of 50 acres for canepa tree orchards. 8(a) Machine Shop, a subcontract of small works through Opti Company, which has the Navy 8(a) contracts in Lupia, Puerto Rico. A new hotel on the north shore of Vieques.

Living Machine. We have a report on the use of Vieques re-treated sewage water with an opportunity to start that for the recycling of wastewater through natural processes. A tourism package, Ask Hotels, in Vieques. Air link to work out deals for package tours that could be advertised to state side travel agents. A multi-tenant building subdivision of 11,000 square feet. A Puerto Rican industrial development company has helped us with that building, which is available as of November of this year.

In the process of going through the clearance through the different companies, one of the companies backed out. One of two of the other companies will move in.

Ecotourism development. Preservation of the bio bay through a management company. Mr. Romero and I have discussed this in the past. The bioluminescent bay on the Island of Vieques is a world class resource and it should be protected. Ecotourism is the use of that bay as an extraordinarily viable option.

Tax systems manufacturing. Stack CD-ROM drivers possibly to come to Vieques. A Vieques beef farm. Use of naval NASD area for beekeeper boxes for honeybees. A cattle ranch and a roof repair.

How many of these projects have succeeded? One. How many of these projects are influenced by the dynamic that occurs because of the cost of living on Vieques? A lot of them. What more can we do to help stimulate some of these projects? More. Will it ever

make up for the difference in the cost of living in Vieques? Probably not.

We have to come to the root of the basic problem. It costs more to live on Vieques than it does on the mainland.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DE LUGO. Yes, the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. When you say that, you mentioned it before as a reason for lack of development of Vieques. Is the cost of living in Vieques any more expensive than the cost of living on Saint Thomas? The cost of living on Saint Thomas is much higher, isn't it?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. It probably is. The income is higher in Saint Thomas, yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So the fact the cost of living is higher is not really an obstacle to development.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I think there is—

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Saint Thomas and Saint Croix and Saint John are part of the United States. Not like they were a foreign country and would have some different things, they are part of the United States and they have a much more—they are much more developed, much more developed than Vieques and they have even a much higher cost of living and their food is higher over there and clothing is higher and everything is higher.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir. And the income is a lot higher. And I think there is a dynamic in here we have to address.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. But there is not.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Airports on Vieques which is 3,400 feet long. That airport is too small to handle bigger airplanes. That airport needs to be bigger, too. Remember, Saint Thomas has its own airport so it brings in its supplies by ship to its harbor and by airplane to its airport.

Vieques gets its supplies by boat from the Vieques ferry through the Port Authority because none of the planes that bring air shipment over are big enough to carry those materials over by air. So there are different dynamics and there are things we can do better.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Where is the land that Vieques has for building an airport?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I think we talked about this before, and I will go back a little bit.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Navy has it, though, no?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The navy offered some portion of Camp Garcia as part of the extension for the use of the airport a few years ago. The answer was that the airport extension which we gave included 124 acres and was satisfactory to the municipality of Vieques.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And it was what?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. One hundred twenty-four acres we ceded to extend the airport was what the municipality of Vieques wanted. I was not there at the time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. The airport is—right now, the lands still belong to the Navy; is that not correct?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. No, sir, I believe we have ceded 124 acres.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Oh, you have ceded.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. But the municipality has no land at this moment to build a larger airport?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Not on that plan there, no, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Not on the island?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I cannot answer that question. I think we will find that there are other areas but that is not available to me at the time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Can we take a look at that map over there again?

Now, looking at that chart or map you have there, those red circles indicate the place where the magazines are located and the buffer zone that is necessary around it, right? Is that correct?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir. The western side is magazines and the conservation zones.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. The one on the top, the red circle, indicates a buffer zone around the pier?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir, that is correct.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So anything outside that area is not really necessary at all for the depots for the ammunition depot?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The green areas are those conservation zones that are a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Puerto Rico and some of them are under natural protection because they are wetlands and/or that they have endangered species and/or they come under other environmental constraint.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So they are not necessary for the depot facilities, that other part, there is about 3,000 acres at least.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Under the green?

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Yes.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. They are not part of the EQSD requirement as part of the depot, that is correct, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So they are not necessary for the depot?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Any of the lands which are outside of the red circles are not necessary for the depot.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Can those be returned to Vieques? Why are those not offered back to Vieques?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The lands which lie underneath the green portions are in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Puerto Rico or are under environmental protection.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. We can deal with the environmental protection. We can deal with the conservation. We do that with the Departments of Interior or the EQSD or whatever we have to deal with. This Navy is not the caretaker of the environmental protection of the Nation.

So in this case, the Memorandum of Understanding imposed that duty on the Navy to prevent the Navy from destroying those areas, not to keep it as—not to have the Navy be the caretaker of those areas but to prevent the Navy from hurting those areas; isn't that really the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I would also say we have done a whale of a job.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. I am not saying you have not done the job in taking care of that, I am just saying that the purpose is not to

have you as a caretaker but to make sure you did not do any injury to those areas. So that area can, therefore—you have no need for it as a Navy, no national defense interest for those lands.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I would say, again, that I will repeat the area which is part of the ammunition dump—NASD—are those areas described around the red lines.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Let the record show, then—can we have—do you have a print copy of that map?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. We can provide it, yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Would you provide us one.

[The information follows:]

A color-coded copy of the map used during the 4 Oct 94 hearing is enclosed.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The map may be found in the Committee's files.]

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And let the record show that this is a map of almost all of Vieques, that it includes the western part of Vieques where the ammunition depot is and the pier is. It has some red circles which show that the area which is needed to be used for the ammunition depot facilities and as buffer zones, that there is considerable amount of land around that area which is, oh at least over 3,000 acres, which are not needed and are not part of the needs for the national defense. I want the record to show that so that we may be able to later on determine exactly the description of those lands.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Let me also point out a couple of white areas on there. Lieutenant Commander McCloskey will do it. We have a location for an aloe vera farm and also a location for the ROTH, which will be going in—the ROTH, relocatable, over-the-horizon radar—which will be going in and those are the parts he is showing now. And I apologize there is one other and I cannot read it. Oh, the mahogany grove which we are growing there.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mahogany grove.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Mahogany grove.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Is that necessary for the national defense?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. It is part of the requirement of the MOU.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. All I want to do is identify that land that you have indicated here that is necessary for national defense. So the other one, the other lands are not necessary for national defense. Okay. So there is at least over 3,000 acres that can be disposed of that the Navy has acknowledged there is no need for the national defense.

Now, you talked about that you were sure the best development for Vieques is tourism. And what is one of the greatest attractions for tourism in the Caribbean? Is it not the beaches?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Absolutely.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And we have already stated for the record that the largest number of beaches in Vieques are in the Navy land. There are some not very nice beaches in that western area.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Okay, thank you very much.

Mr. DE LUGO. All right. Finally, I want to thank you for your patience, Admiral, and I want to thank the other witnesses. We have had the Admiral on the stand here for about an hour and a half.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Wait a minute, I am sorry. May I?

Mr. DE LUGO. Yes, the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Of the 102 magazines that you have there, how many of those magazines are, for instance, right now being used and have munitions warehoused in them.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. I am looking to see where I have my crib sheet here.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Okay, take your time.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. We have some Teague magazines which are active, 34 in ready reserve, 26 which are unusable at the present time. In use, we have 60.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. In use, you have 60?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So what you need really is to have 60 magazines. You do not need more than 60, really, for your everyday—for your purposes of your activities around Vieques.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. The 34 magazines which were in ready reserve, plus the 20 which are presently unusable, are in that condition for the possibility of surge, larger training forces more requirements to store ordnance.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. For the possibility, but they are not now necessary for the national defense.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. We are holding 60 active. We are holding 30 in ready reserve which means, at any moment, we are ready to put into use those magazines, and 20 would require work prior to the time they would be able to store support ordnance.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. If you were to require only 60, would those 60 fit in the Roosevelt Roads.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. You have asked the very same question I asked. We are able to provide to you and we will provide for the record the impact of what goes from those 60 magazines on to Roosevelt Roads. It is part of the study we made in March after you submitted the bill. It is part of the information which we used to derive the cost of \$300 million.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. We do not have that information.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Well, then, we will provide it to you, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So the answer to my question is, are those 60 magazines, will they fit in within the Roosevelt Roads.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. At a cost of approximately \$300 million.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. At a cost of approximately \$300 million.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. And who made those estimates.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. That was made by the Public Works officer in conjunction with the OPNAV here in the Pentagon.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. To Public Works officer.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Roosevelt Roads, who is charged with the responsibility of facilities in Roosevelt Roads in Vieques and in conjunction with the planners in OPNAV.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Can you give us copies of those estimates, also?

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Together with the others.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Yes, sir, we sure will.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

The following table outlines the estimated costs for relocating the existing magazines on Vieques to Roosevelt Roads:

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Relocating existing facilities in the "Bundy" area of Roosevelt Roads .....	\$60,000,000
Acquisition of 210 acres of private property outside current fenceline for ESQD arcs .....	6,300,000
Mitigation of 156 acres of pime quality mangrove areas (3:1) .....	303,264,000
Mitigation of 140 acres of medium quality wetlands (2:1) .....	166,800,000
Mitigation of 140 acres of low quality wetlands (1:1) .....	76,160,000
Reroute portion of Boxer Drive to Gate 3 .....	2,000,000
Construct mooring facility for handling weapons .....	12,000,000
Total .....	626,524,000

Mr. DE LUGO. All right, thank you. The committee will receive those documents and make them a part of the record when you forward them, Admiral.

Let me say, in winding up, one of the concerns of the committee we raised was this \$12 million which was appropriated back in 1974 for the relocation of the two islands that were mentioned moving from Culebra. This money was appropriated. At that time, Admiral Iselin said that this money was needed. In order to accomplish that, we will require funding for the project.

That was introduced by the Senate Armed Services Committee based on the decision that had been made by the Secretary of the Defense, and that was, of course, to relocate from Culebra from these other two islands which we are now told would not work out. There is nothing in the record about the Navy saying they would not work out at that time. At that time, the Navy said this is where we have to go and we need \$12 million in 1974 dollars and they got it. And today we do not even know where the \$12 million went to.

We still do not know how so much got moved from Culebra to Vieques, which was not supposed to be done and we want to know under what authority that was done. Anyway, this page, page 458 of the Senate hearing, the testimony of the Admiral and Senator Bellmon, if there are no objections, that will be made a part of the record at this point.

I want to thank you again, Admiral. There may be one or two additional questions that we will submit to you for the record.

Again, I thank you for your cooperation with us and you did a fine job for the Navy, but this situation has got to be adjusted in this day and age. I mean, this is no longer acceptable and I think that we all know that and we need to adjust this situation. It has to be adjusted by finding additional substantial additional land that can be transferred and developed so that this community can be developed. But if not, I think that the Navy and the Defense Department have to come up with a plan that gives some meaningful compensation to the people of Puerto Rico and Vieques for this impact. I mean to have all this property since the early 1940s, no taxes being collected, no money in lieu of taxes, it would not happen anywhere else.

Thank you, again, Admiral, for your testimony and your courtesy to this committee.

Admiral CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, sir. It was an honor to be here.

Mr. DE LUGO. They are going to send you up many times. You do an excellent job. Thank you.

All right, now we have a good friend of this committee, the Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, former member of this committee, the Honorable Baltasar Corrada del Rio.

Secretary Corrada was Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico from 1976 to 1984. He was here during the days of my youth, and mayor of San Juan from 1984 to 1989. It gives me the greatest pleasure to welcome you, to welcome my former colleague on the committee, and still close personal friend.

Baltasar Corrada del Rio, the Secretary of State, has a reputation in Congress as a very fair and discerning legislator who made it his business to study both sides of the issues that came before him. His scholarly approach won him many compliments and helped him make many friends for all of the insular areas. Good to have you before us Baltasar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BALTASAR CORRADA DEL RIO,  
SECRETARY OF STATE, PUERTO RICO**

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, Resident Commissioner, Romero-Barceló.

First of all, before I begin, I would like to say that upon learning that this may become the last hearing to be chaired by Chairman de Lugo, I would like to associate myself with prior remarks. I had the privilege of working with him for six out of my eight years as Resident Commissioner, and more frequently than ever, we had the opportunity of working together for matters that were for the benefit of both the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

And upon his retirement from Congress, I certainly commend Ron de Lugo for his excellent service, not only to the people of the Virgin Islands but to the Nation as a whole.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. And if you would suspend for just one moment. Let me say to those who are here today that I am going to turn over the Chair to the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico at 5 o'clock this afternoon. I have another commitment, and I want to apologize to any of you who are at the witness table when I am not in the chair, because I very much want to hear your testimony.

I have a lot of friends here that have come from Puerto Rico to testify, and you know, it is my way to be in the chair for the entire hearing. But I have another commitment and I must vacate the Chair at that time and I would ask the gentleman from Puerto Rico to assume the chair at that time.

I see we have the Mayor of Vieques, the Honorable Manuela Santiago Collazo. I want to thank you for coming all this way, and I read your statement. And also my good friend Senator Kenneth McClintock-Hernandez; and Dr. Rafael A. Rivera Castano will be testifying; and Carlos Ventura. So my apologies to those whom I miss.

Now, please proceed, Mr. Secretary.

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. Mr. Chairman, I request my entire testimony consisting of eight pages be made part of the record.

Mr. DE LUGO. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. Today I appear on behalf of the Governor of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Pedro Rossello, to deliver testimony in support of H.R. 3831, the Vieques Lands Transfer Act of 1994, introduced by Resident Commissioner Romero-Barceló on February 9, 1994.

The objective of H.R. 3831 is to revert to the municipality of Vieques approximately 8,000 acres of Federal lands located on the western part of Vieques Island which are now used by the Department of the Navy so that the municipality of Vieques may use them for the benefit of the inhabitants over the island.

The Department of Defense has long opposed a transfer to civilians of its Navy facilities in Vieques on the grounds that Vieques provides, quote, the most comprehensive naval training environment available anywhere in the Atlantic and that such facilities are indispensable in the maintenance of fleet readiness. Thus, the Department of Defense has argued there are no alternative facilities for the Navy to relocate, and the continued use of the Vieques facilities are vital to the national security.

Although advancing and protecting our national security is a pre-eminent concern of government, it is necessary to take a closer look at this argument. The operations of the Navy in Vieques take place at both ends of the island. On the eastern end, the installations are part of a large military complex known as the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility headquartered at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. This facility consists of four firing ranges of which only two are related to Vieques.

West of the civilian zone in Vieques is the naval ammunition facility, which encompasses the whole western end of the island. This facility is used by the Navy for deep storage of conventional ammunition, although most of the ammunition is destined for off-island use by the Navy, the Marines, and the Puerto Rico National Guard.

The land presently occupied by the NAF is precisely the land which has been sought by the municipality of Vieques for its economic development and which H.R. 3831 intends the Navy to transfer. Thus, in order to make a realistic attempt to analyze the possibility of the land transfer, it is necessary to concentrate on the issues involving not only the NAF and not the operations of the Navy in Vieques as a whole.

Before continuing any further, I believe it is appropriate to reiterate that the government of Puerto Rico supports without reservation all actions taken by the President and the Congress that are necessary to protect and further the security interests of the United States. Governor Rossello is keenly aware that the presence of the Navy in Puerto Rico, and particularly in Vieques, is of utmost importance in allowing it to conduct operations in support of the national defense and the security policy of the United States in this hemisphere.

Puerto Rico's steadfast support to the Nation's defense should come as no surprise to anyone. Having one of the Nation's highest enlistment rates, the American citizens of Puerto Rico have always

had a significant presence in the various branches of the armed forces.

Our servicemen have participated courageously in every war, armed conflict, and peacekeeping operation since World War I. Just recently, a unit of the Puerto Rico National Guard has been selected for possible deployment in Haiti. And in fact some of the members of the multinational force that will be deployed in Haiti have been trained in Puerto Rico.

Moreover, of all the territories that have entered the union, none has sustained as many combat casualties as Puerto Rico. The patriotism of Puerto Ricans becomes even more evident when one takes into account that, because Puerto Rico is not a state, its residents cannot have voting or proportional representation in Congress, which possesses the authority to declare war and, likewise, cannot participate in the election of the President who is the Commander-in-Chief. Nevertheless, we have been and are there at the defense of the Nation whenever it has been required.

But to continue with the land transfer issue, allow me to put forth this question. Would the security of the United States be put at risk if the lands now used by the Naval Ammunition Facility are transferred to the Municipality of Vieques? We are certain it would not. Governor Rossello would not support this bill if he believed it would imperil the Nation's security. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that H.R. 3831 does not address, and the administration of Governor Rossello is not now supporting the closing of the Vieques range or the Inner Range of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

Let us then analyze the reasons for the position taken by the Navy and by the Department of Defense in opposing the land transfer that would be authorized under H.R. 3831—particularly two objections set forth in a letter of Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, Mr. Dennis H. Trosch, to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums dated May 26, 1994.

One of them in fact provides a possible alternative that was clearly spelled out in a sentence which refers to the usefulness and importance of the NAF, thus "negating the need for an ammunition resupply ship to steam in the area for every training evolution." There might be the alternative, of course, of an ammunition risk supply ship that could be available to take care of the ammunition needs. That is one alternative. The other alternative would be the eastern part of Vieques. And the third alternative was the one mentioned by Admiral Christensen, which is Roosevelt Roads.

The other objection is one of cost. Nevertheless, it recognizes the feasibility of moving the naval ammunition facility to some other location. The question is what would the cost be, and I think that is a very important element and should be clarified through the process of this congressional hearing.

But being within the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility or in Roosevelt Roads or elsewhere in the eastern Caribbean, there is an alternative. Also, part of the relocation cost provides for infrastructure construction and/or maintenance that could very well be a sound investment for future civilian use by the people of Vieques.

It seems, therefore, that the objections presented by the Navy relate more to having a convenient and inexpensive storage location rather than the security of our Nation.

Is convenience an acceptable reason for maintaining the Naval Ammunition Facility in the western end of Vieques over the pressing need for jobs of the U.S. citizens in that island? Certainly not. Even if the land transfer will not be a panacea to all the socio-economic problems that the population of Vieques now faces, the inhabitants of Vieques deserve to have the means by which they can advance their economic development.

Another reason why the Navy and the Department of Defense oppose the lands transfer is the cost that would be involved in making the land safe for civilian use from an environmental standpoint. In a letter I previously referred to, they link this environmental concern with requiring payment for the land that they are asked to revert to civilian use, and I quote: Any legislation should address the significant cost of cleanup for residential and educational use by either requiring the payment of fair market value or by including a substantial appropriation for environmental remediation, end quote.

If the operation of the Naval Ammunition Facility in Vieques has had an adverse environmental impact which must be remedied, this should not be a reason for exacting payment from the Municipality of Vieques for land. It needs to further the continued economic development of the island. The cost of any environmental remedial action should be borne by the Navy as the user of that property and by putting into that area the 8,000 acres the risk elements that now would be required to remedy.

Moreover, when needed for the development of a community, Federal lands have traditionally been transferred without cost as is proposed by Congressman Romero-Barceló and the sponsors of this bill and by the Vieques municipal government. At this time, there are two land transfers that are being handled by the Commission for the Transfer of Land and other Federal Properties, of which I am its chairman, without cost to the Municipality of Vieques. One is the transfer of 69 acres of land for the development of a sports complex, and the other is the transfer of 97 acres of land located next to the landfill which will be left undeveloped so as to provide a buffer zone between the landfill and other developments.

Yet the people of Vieques need more land in order to increase the prospect of building a better life for themselves. That is why the transfer of lands provided by this bill will certainly have an urgently needed positive impact on the community. It will provide land for economic development and opportunities, such as in the area of tourism while at the same time providing room for other pressing needs such as schools, child care centers, hospitals, public housing and still some others. But this is an area that I will leave for the Mayor of Vieques to describe in detail, although rest assured that the Vieques municipal government will have the complete support of the Governor and of the various state governmental agencies that will be involved in this important endeavor. The state government of Puerto Rico stands ready to prepare in close coordination and collaboration with the municipal government

of Vieques, a detailed plan for the use and development of the 8,000 acres of land should Congress order the transfer so that the land is well managed and utilized to further the creation of jobs, environmental protection, housing, recreation, and other social needs of the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico.

In the past, and especially after the agreement of October 11, 1983 between the Government of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Navy—Memorandum of Understanding—expectations were too high as to the assistance that the Navy could provide in the economic development of Vieques.

For example, when explaining the efforts that the Navy would undertake to assist their neighboring civilian community, that document stated, and I quote: Primary among them is an ongoing effort to seek out and encourage civilian industry to locate their operations on the Island.

The Navy will work with Commonwealth agencies and groups to seek grants, start up funds and financial assistance from other Federal departments for use on Vieques and make every meaningful effort within its power to obtain full employment on the Island, end quote, from the MOU.

I do not doubt the Navy's good intentions, but I do question the ability of a branch of the armed forces to promote the continued economic development of a civilian community—it is certainly neither the proper role nor the mission of the Department of Defense or the Navy to do so. Nevertheless, the inability of the Navy to fully comply with the MOU shows that the Municipality of Vieques and the government of Puerto Rico are in a much better position to set forth the framework and provide the incentives for the economic development of the Island. Also, both state and local governments are in a better position to address and look after other issues of great importance to the citizenship they are elected to serve such as the protection of the environment.

This is why we are somewhat puzzled when the Navy poses the protection of the environment as a reason for opposing the lands transfer proposed in this bill. We certainly appreciate their concern. However, the Navy could hardly be more interested or better able to protect the environment in Vieques than the Government of Puerto Rico and the Municipality of Vieques are. Not only does the Municipality of Vieques abide by Federal environmental legislation, but it must comply with our own state legislation and with the regulations of various state agencies whose task is to protect and to care for our natural resources.

The U.S. Navy should not be concerned either by the possibility of uncurtailed development that does not abide with, or that tries to sidestep, environmental laws. On the contrary, the Autonomous Municipalities Act of Puerto Rico, under which the Municipality of Vieques is governed, establishes a very rigorous procedure for all municipal government to follow as provided in Article 13.04, and I quote:

In order to foster maximum compatibility between the Territorial Planning Strategy with the regional and statewide public policies of the Government of Puerto Rico, the initial approval of the Territorial Planning Strategy, and revision of parts thereof, is retained for the central Government through the Planning Board.

This is a reliable and effective safeguard for the sound use of the land that H.R. 3831 intends to revert to the Municipality of Vieques. Also, before the Municipality of Vieques can put into operation its Territorial Planning Strategy, it will need to comply with the regulations of other state and Federal agencies such as the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, EPA, and there are others.

We know that the people of Vieques not only enjoy and take pride in the immense natural beauty of their Island, but since they want to develop a tourism-oriented economic base, it makes sense that they would be very interested in the protection of their environment. Its unspoiled and unique natural resources—for example, three of the world's seven bioluminescent bays are located in Vieques—could very well prove to be its major tourist attraction and especially with the development of what we nowadays call ecotourism. Thus, even if it is true that over 47 percent of the land in the Naval Ammunition Facility is not suitable for any kind of development, this would not negate the usefulness of the lands transfer to the Municipality of Vieques.

Instead, this transfer will provide incentives for the Municipality and for the people of Vieques to decide, with the assistance of the state government of Puerto Rico, what is best for their well-being, rather than having the Navy decide for them. Also, this land transfer would provide the means for the development of an improved relationship between the Navy and the people of Vieques—an improved relationship that benefits both the civilian population of Vieques and the defense preparedness that the Navy strives to maintain.

Let us allow the American citizens of Vieques to stand for themselves, and let us give them the means by which they can achieve their goals. After all, government—of which the Navy and the rest of the Armed Forces are an important part—exists for the benefit of the people and not vice versa.

Thank you very much, and I will be glad to answer any of your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Corrada del Rio follows:]

NOT FOR RELEASE BEFORE OCTOBER 4, 1994 AT 2:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF

THE HONORABLE BALTASAR CORRADA DEL RIO  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF PUERTO RICO

BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGARDING H.R. 3831

OCTOBER 4, 1994

Chairman De Lugo and members of the House Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs:

My name is Baltasar Corrada del Rio. I was privileged to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives for eight (8) years as Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner. Currently, I hold the office of Secretary of State which is the second highest office in the executive branch of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Today, I appear on behalf of the Governor of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Pedro Rosselló, to deliver testimony in support of H.R. 3831, the Vieques Lands Transfer Act of 1994, introduced by Resident Commissioner Romero Barceló on February 9, 1994.

Vieques, one of the seventy eight (78) municipalities of Puerto Rico, is a small, narrow and long island located approximately seven (7) miles southeast of Puerto Rico and twenty two (22) miles southwest of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Measuring twenty (20) miles long and four and a half (4.5) miles wide, at its widest point, Vieques has an area of thirty-four thousand one hundred one (34,101) acres. However, its population, of approximately eighty-six hundred (8,600) persons, controls an area of land not larger than seven thousand (7,000) acres. On the other hand, the Department of the Navy either owns or controls close to twenty-seven thousand (27,000) acres, which accounts for over seventy-

nine (79) percent of the surface of the island.

The objective of H.R. 3831 is to revert to the Municipality of Vieques approximately eight thousand (8,000) acres of federal lands located on the western part of Vieques Island which are now used by the Department of the Navy so that the Municipality of Vieques may use them for the benefit of the inhabitants of the island.

The Department of Defense has long opposed the transfer to civilians of its Navy facilities in Vieques on the grounds that Vieques provides "the most comprehensive naval training environment available anywhere in the Atlantic",<sup>1</sup> and that such facilities "are indispensable in the maintenance of fleet readiness."<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Department of Defense has argued that there are no alternative facilities where the Navy could relocate, and that the continued use of the Vieques facilities are vital to the national security.

Although advancing and protecting our national security is a preeminent concern of government, it is necessary to take a closer look at this argument. The operations of the Navy in Vieques take place at both ends of the island. On the eastern end, the installations are part of a large military complex known as the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility ("A.F.W.T.F."), headquartered at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. This facility consists of four (4) firing ranges of which only two (2) are related to Vieques.

West of the civilian zone in Vieques is the Naval Ammunition Facility ("N.A.F.") which encompasses the whole western end of the island. This facility is used by the Navy for deep storage of conventional ammunition although most of the ammunition is destined for off-island use by the Navy, the Marines and the Puerto Rico National Guard.

The land presently occupied by the N.A.F. is precisely the land which has

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<sup>1</sup> Letter dated July 2, 1993 from Mr. F. S. Sterns, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, to Hon. Carlos Romero-Barceló, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

been sought by the Municipality of Vieques for its economic development<sup>3</sup> and which H.R. 3831 intends the Navy to transfer. Thus, in order to make an honest attempt to analyze the possibility of the land transfer it is necessary to concentrate on the issues involving only the N.A.F. and not the operations of the Navy in Vieques as a whole.

Before continuing any further, I believe it is appropriate to reiterate that the Government of Puerto Rico supports without reservation all actions taken by the President and Congress that are necessary to protect and further the security interests of the United States. Governor Rosselló is keenly aware that the presence of the Navy in Puerto Rico, and particularly in Vieques, is of utmost importance in allowing it to conduct operations in support of the national defense and the security policy of the United States in this Hemisphere.

Puerto Rico's steadfast support to the Nation's defense should come as no surprise. Having one of the Nation's highest enlistment rates, the American citizens of Puerto Rico have always had a significant presence in the various branches of the armed forces. Our servicemen have participated courageously in every war, armed conflict and peacekeeping operation since World War I. Just recently, a unit of the Puerto Rico National Guard has been selected for possible deployment in Haiti.

Moreover, of all the territories that have entered the Union, none has sustained as many combat casualties as Puerto Rico. The patriotism of Puerto Ricans becomes even more evident when one takes into account that, because Puerto Rico is not a state, its residents cannot have voting or proportional representation in Congress, which possesses the authority to declare war and, likewise, cannot participate in the election of the President who is the Commander-in-Chief.

But to continue with the land transfer issue, allow me to put forth this question. Would the security of the United States be put at risk if the lands now used by the N.A.F. are transferred to the Municipality of Vieques? We are certain it would not. Governor Rosselló would not support this bill if he believed it would imperil the Nation's security. At the same time, I would like

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<sup>3</sup> Letter dated May 25, 1993 from Hon. Manuela Santiago Collazo, Mayor of Vieques, to Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, p. 2.

to emphasize that H.R. 3831 does not address, and the administration of Governor Rosselló is not now supporting the closing of the Vieques range or Inner Range of the A.F.W.T.F.

Let us then analyze the reasons for the position taken by the Navy and by the Department of Defense in opposing the land transfer that would be authorized under H.R. 3831 —particularly, two (2) objections set forth in a letter of Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, Mr. Dennis H. Trosch, to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums dated May 26, 1994.

One of them provides a possible alternative that was clearly spelled-out in a sentence which refers to the usefulness and importance of the N.A.F., thus "negating the need for an ammunition resupply ship to steam in the area for every training evolution."<sup>4</sup> The other objection is one of cost. Nevertheless, it recognizes the feasibility of moving the N.A.F. to some other location; be it within the A.F.W.T.F., in Roosevelt Roads or elsewhere in the Eastern Caribbean. Also, part of the relocation cost provides for infrastructure construction and/or maintenance that could very well be a sound investment for future civilian use by the people of Vieques.<sup>5</sup>

It seems, therefore, that the objections presented by the Navy relate more to having a convenient and inexpensive storage location rather than the security of our Nation.

Is convenience an acceptable reason for maintaining the N.A.F. in the western end of Vieques over the pressing need for jobs of the U.S. citizens in that island? Certainly not. Even if the land transfer will not be a panacea to all the socioeconomic problems that the population of Vieques now faces, the inhabitants of Vieques deserve to have the means by which they can advance their economic development.

Another reason why the Navy and the Department of Defense oppose the

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<sup>4</sup> Letter dated May 26, 1994 from Mr. Dennis H. Trosch, Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Response by the Navy to information requested by Ms. Alma Moore, included as an enclosure to a letter from Admiral E. E. Christensen, Commander Fleet Air Caribbean, to Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, on May 9, 1994.

lands transfer is the cost that would be involved in making the land safe for civilian use from an environmental standpoint. In a letter I previously referred to, they link this environmental concern with requiring payment for the land that they are asked to revert to civilian use, and I quote:

[a]ny legislation should address the significant cost of cleanup for residential and educational use by either requiring the payment of fair market value or by including a substantial appropriation for environmental remediation.

End of quote.

If the operation of the N.A.F. in Vieques has had an adverse environmental impact which must be remedied this should not be a reason for exacting payment from the Municipality of Vieques for land it needs to further the continued economic development of the island. The cost of any environmental remedial action should be borne by the Navy.

Moreover, when needed for the development of a community, federal lands have traditionally been transferred without cost as is proposed by the sponsors of this bill and by the Vieques municipal government. At this time there are two (2) land transfers that are being handled by the Commission for the Transfer of Land and other Federal Properties, of which I am its Chairman, without cost to the Municipality of Vieques. One, is the transfer of sixty nine (69) acres of land for the development of a sports complex; and the other, is the transfer of ninety-seven (97) acres of land located next to the landfill, which will be left undeveloped so as to provide a buffer zone between the landfill and other developments.

Yet, the people of Vieques need more land in order to increase the prospect of building a better life for themselves. That is why the transfer of lands provided by this bill will certainly have an urgently needed positive impact on the community. It will provide land for economic development and opportunities, such as in the area of tourism while at the same time providing room for other pressing needs such as schools, child care centers, hospitals, public housing and still some others. But this is an area that I will leave for the Mayor of Vieques to describe in detail, although rest assured that the Vieques

municipal government will have the complete support of the Governor and of the various state governmental agencies that will be involved in this important endeavor. The state government of Puerto Rico stands ready to prepare in close coordination and collaboration with the municipal government of Vieques, a detailed plan for the use and development of the 8,000 acres of land should Congress order their transfer so that the land is well managed and utilized to further the creation of jobs, environmental protection, housing, recreation, and social needs of the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico.

In the past, and especially after the agreement of October 11, 1983 between the Government of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Navy —better known as the Memorandum of Understanding— expectations were too high as to the assistance that the Navy could provide in the economic development of Vieques. For example, when explaining the efforts that the Navy would undertake to assist their neighboring civilian community, that document stated, and I quote:

Primary among them is an ongoing effort to seek out and encourage civilian industry to locate their operations on the Island.

The Navy will work with Commonwealth agencies and groups to seek grants, start up funds and financial assistance from other federal departments for use on Vieques and make every meaningful effort within its power to obtain full employment on the Island.<sup>6</sup>

End of quote.

I do not doubt the Navy's good intentions, but I do question the ability of a branch of the armed forces to promote the continued economic development of a civilian community --it is certainly neither the proper role nor the mission of the Department of Defense to do so. Nevertheless, the inability of the Navy to fully comply with the Memorandum of Understanding shows that the Municipality of Vieques and the Government of Puerto Rico are in a much

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<sup>6</sup> Document provided by the U.S. Navy and included as an enclosure to a letter dated May 9, 1994 from Rear Admiral E. E. Christensen, Commander Fleet Air Caribbean, to Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

better position to set forth the framework and provide the incentives for the economic development of the island. Also, both state and local governments are in a better position to address and look after other issues of great importance to the citizenship they are elected to serve such as the protection of the environment.

This is why we are somewhat puzzled when the Navy poses the protection of the environment as a reason for opposing the lands transfer proposed in H.R. 3831. We certainly appreciate their concern. However, the Navy could hardly be more interested or better able to protect the environment in Vieques than the Government of Puerto Rico and the Municipality of Vieques is. Not only does the Municipality of Vieques must abide by federal environmental legislation, but it must comply with our own state legislation and with the regulations of various state agencies whose task is to protect and to care for our natural resources.

The U.S. Navy should not be concerned either by the possibility of uncurtailed development that does not abide with, or that tries to sidestep, environmental laws. On the contrary, the Autonomous Municipalities Act of Puerto Rico, under which the Municipality of Vieques is governed, establishes a very rigorous procedure for all municipal government to follow as provided in Article 13.04, and I quote:

In order to foster maximum compatibility between the Territorial Planning Strategy with the regional and statewide public policies of the Government of Puerto Rico, the initial approval of the Territorial Planning Strategy, and revision of parts thereof, is retained for the central Government through the Planning Board.

End of quote.

This is a reliable and effective safeguard for the sound use of the land that H.R. 3831 intends to revert to the Municipality of Vieques. Also, before the Municipality of Vieques can put into operation its Territorial Planning Strategy, it will need to comply with the regulations of other state and federal agencies such as the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and various others.

We know that the people of Vieques not only enjoy and take pride in the immense natural beauty of their Island, but since they want to develop a tourism-oriented economic base<sup>7</sup>, it makes sense that they would be very interested in the protection of their environment. Its unspoiled and unique natural resources—for example, three (3) of the world's seven (7) bioluminescent bays are located in this Island— could very well prove to be its major tourist attraction and especially with the development of what we nowadays know as ecotourism. Thus, even if it is true that over forty seven (47) percent of the land in the N.A.F. is not suitable for any kind of development<sup>8</sup> this would not negate the usefulness of the lands transfer to the Municipality of Vieques.

Instead, this transfer will provide incentives for the Municipality and for the people of Vieques to decide, with the assistance of the state government of Puerto Rico, what is best for their well-being, rather than having the Navy decide for them. Also, this land transfer would provide the means for the development of an improved relationship between the Navy and the people of Vieques—a continuing relationship that benefits both the civilian population of Vieques and the defense preparedness that the Navy strives to maintain.

Let us allow the American citizens of Vieques to stand for themselves, and let us give them the means by which they can achieve their goals. After all, government—of which the Navy and the rest of the Armed Forces are an important part—exists for the benefit of the people and not vice versa.

Thank you very much.

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<sup>7</sup> Letter dated May 25, 1993, from the Mayor of Vieques, Hon. Manuela Santiago Collazo, to Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Letter dated May 26, 1994, from Mr. Dennis H. Trosch, Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. You say in your statement it seems the objections to H.R. 3831 presented by the Navy relate more to having a convenient and inexpensive storage location.

On what do you base that conclusion?

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. I think it appears from the letters that have been sent and even from the testimony of Admiral Christensen today. It is not a question of national security to keep the ammunition facilities in that particular tract of lands, it is a matter of convenience, of having it there readily accessible or because it may be too costly to move them to Roosevelt Roads.

So the question is not of national security, the question is one of convenience or inconvenience to the Navy and the possible cost of relocation. And I think that it would be important in the work of Congress to assess what that cost of relocation; what the alternatives or options are or may be, including removal or relocation to the eastern part of Vieques, the use of naval, of vessels as ammunition, as a munition facility, the use of Roosevelt Roads, or any other alternative that might be located. And, also, the question of cost.

Now, I heard here the figure of \$300 million to do this relocation. To me, it appears to be a very staggering figure. It is an important figure. But it is a one-shot deal. It is a cost of relocating elsewhere. Once that cost is eliminated, it is nonrecurrent.

Now, I wonder what the annual cost or the long-term cost of the utilization of those 8,000 acres represent to the people of Vieques and the people of Puerto Rico. If those 8,000 acres could be utilized for job creation, tourism, protection of the environment and housing and all the other elements, I venture to say that in 10 to 12 years, the benefits to the people of Vieques would very highly surpass \$300 million.

In other words, it is either the nonrecurrent cost of \$300 million or keeping the people of Vieques recurrently in a situation where they stand to lose millions and millions of dollars, which not only mean money but happiness and well-being to these people.

And, again, I have to question at this time, for lack of expertise, advice on this matter, whether the actual cost of relocation would be \$300 million. But I think that the adverse economic impact on the people of Vieques of the use of this 8,000 acres goes way above \$300 million when you look at the continuing impact that this represents on a year-by-year basis.

These are the limits that have to be considered by the Congress, and Governor Rossello certainly supports this bill.

Mr. DE LUGO. That is a very good point you make.

There are those in Congress, Mr. Secretary, and elsewhere who would argue the Navy is entitled to have this "convenient and inexpensive location" since they paid fair market value for the land back in the early 1940s.

What is your reaction to such comments?

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. Well, I think you have to address these issues on the basis of a changing world and changing circumstance. And the fact that they paid back in 1941, because there were compelling reasons to acquire that land and they paid the market value, does not mean that simply because it is convenient to retain

the 8,000 acres they should retain them, when there is a more compelling reason why the 8,000 acres at this time and toward the end of the 21st century may be much better put to use by the civilian population and the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico than the Navy based on current needs.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

The gentleman from Puerto Rico.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, let me congratulate you on a very, very complete and very good statement. I wanted to just underscore something that you mentioned about it is a matter of feasibility, it is a matter of cost, it is not a matter of national security. The cost of the \$300 million, when the Admiral testified that at most what they really need is 60 magazines. He said 60 magazines were going to be built in Roosevelt Roads, it would cost \$50 million per magazine for a depot, that seems like an enormous amount of money for one magazine.

So \$300 million—the Navy and the Army and the Air Force, I think all three government service branches have a tendency to, whatever they do seems to cost more than what anybody else does. So that is why I wanted him to examine the estimates, because I think we should have that analyzed by maybe the Public Works Department or somebody else that could take a look at it, because it seems to be very, very expensive.

I really agree with your testimony, your statement, 100 percent. I do not think there is any need for me to ask you questions, it would be just to make you repeat what you have said, but I wanted to make that clarification and thank you for what you said.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. You have been most helpful to the committee.

Mr. CORRADA DEL RIO. Thank you very much.

Mr. DE LUGO. Now, our next witness is the Mayor of Vieques, the Honorable Manuela Santiago-Collazo. Mayor Santiago was born on Vieques, the youngest of seven children and graduated magna cum laude in her graduate and undergraduate studies in her education at the University of Puerto Rico.

She has worked for 28 years to improve educational resources for her island, the Island of Vieques, and she became the first woman to hold the position of Mayor of Vieques. Our congratulations to you, Your Honor, and welcome to the committee. Your statement, without objection, will be made a part of the record at this point and you may proceed by summarizing or as you wish.

**STATEMENT OF MANUELA SANTIAGO-COLLAZO, MAYOR, VIEQUES, PR, ACCOMPANIED BY ANTONIO MONROIG, LEGAL COUNSEL, MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, AND MARIA SALAZAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIEQUES NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Good afternoon. My name is Manuela Santiago Collazo and I have been the mayor of the Island Municipality of Vieques since January of 1985. Before that, I served in the municipal assembly for two terms.

Vieques, as you well know, is an island of 20 miles long by 4.5 miles wide and two-thirds of our island has been under the jurisdiction of the Navy since 1940.

We are proud that we have contributed to the national defense of our country during the Second World War and all subsequent conflicts in which our Nation has been involved, be it in far away Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf or our close neighbors Grenada, Panama and Haiti.

Our island has been used for assault landing practices, bombarded for over 50 years with every conceivable weapon, except nuclear or biological, and has served as a rest and recreation site for our military personnel suffering from exhaustion and mental ailments. Civilian residents of Vieques have endured the noise of explosions and the risks to their life, health, and environment with courage and resignation. But the time has come that we get back part of our land so that Vieques may develop its resources to benefit our population.

When the Navy took over our lands, we had a population of 15,000 people. Let me tell you that during the first 10 years, people went to different places, most especially to Saint Croix and the Virgin Islands. The Viequenses, as our residents are called, have been forced to leave their homes because of lack of development and the burden of living under the constant shelling and bombarding of the Navy.

Our island have been divided in three areas: The eastern part used by the Navy for target practice, the central part used by the residents of the municipality, and the western third used as a depot.

H.R. 3831 proposes the return of the western portion of Vieques back to the civilian use so that we may develop and create economic communities for our people. We fully support the enactment of H.R. 3831 as a measure of justice. Since the Navy took our lands, our sugar industry disappeared and we have not been able to utilize our natural resources to benefit our community.

Tourism can be an important industry for our island as it has been for all the Caribbean Islands that are remote. The return of the Navy land will allow Vieques to develop tourism to create jobs and energize our economy.

Since we have no land available to permit projects to ameliorate the critical housing situation and to build new recreational and educational facilities, the growing crime rate hangs over us as the clearest manifestation of the critical economic situation. We have unemployment rates higher than 15 percent, and this is real and official. Our per capita income, according to the 1990 Census, is \$2,997, one of the lowest per capita incomes in Puerto Rico and in the whole United States.

The Viequense families with an income below the established poverty level reached 70 percent in 1989.

Women must be flown by emergency planes to the main island of Puerto Rico to give birth due to the poor conditions of the Vieques hospital.

We also suffer from the highest rate of broken families and the highest infant mortality index among Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities.

The Vieques student in quest of a higher education has to travel to Puerto Rico to obtain a university degree and then with no hope of returning to Vieques due to the lack of employment opportunities. Many of the students travel to the main island on a daily basis in the decrepit, obsolete, and hazardous transportation system owned and operated by the state government.

We do not ask for welfare or subsidies, rather we first ask to have the right to enjoy the fruits of our labor and to provide an adequate standard of living for the people of Vieques.

In 1983, then-Governor of Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero-Barcelo, and the Navy signed an agreement whereby the Puerto Rican government agreed to drop all litigations in court against the military for ecological and economic damage in exchange for a Navy commitment to mitigate ecological damage of their activities and help with local economic development. This agreement is known as the Memorandum of Understanding—MOU.

In it the Navy recognizes "that the Navy activities on the Island of Vieques may have a potential detrimental impact on the social and economic development of the island." It also recognizes its obligation to be a good neighbor to the people of Vieques and will continue to strive to improve the welfare of the island's people.

Its most prominent parts are: Community assistance, land use, ordinance delivery in the inner range on Vieques, and environmental matters.

The Navy promised that together with the Puerto Rican government agencies and groups, they would work to seek grants, start-up funds and financial assistance from other Federal departments for use in Vieques and make every meaningful effort within its power to obtain full employment on the island. Even though it was not specified in the memorandum, at least 500 jobs were promised.

Our municipal government has never obtained grants through the Navy's efforts.

Even though the government of Puerto Rico and the Navy have tried to stimulate industry and job creation, it has been possible to sustain manufacturing industries in Vieques.

Forty-four years of bombarding, including napalm in Vieques has been painful to the environment of the island. The Navy nevertheless has been careful not to destroy turtles and pelicans because they are protected species, but now it is time to protect the people of Vieques which, to us, are at least as important as turtles and pelicans.

Last year, on a Sunday, October 24, 1993, 10:20 p.m., the whole Island of Vieques was totally shaken and taken aback by the strangest and most eerie noise. Since it was common knowledge that military maneuvers were taking place, we understood that was due to this fact and immediately called the NAF, Camp Garcia, and Roosevelt Roads requesting an explanation. But to no avail.

After waiting for more than an hour, when everyone refused to identify themselves, we called the observation post and were informed that the Navy had canceled all military maneuvers for the night. Upon learning that all maneuvers had been canceled, I realized that something very dangerous had happened that could seriously affect the lives of all of us and requested additional informa-

tion. But, again, deaf ears. Very little sapience. I was simply advised that I would receive detailed information the next day.

True to their word, the next day we were informed that by an error in judgment, a pilot had dropped five bombs outside the inner range and that they had fallen 2.5 miles from Isabel II, our urban area. That is 1.5 miles from our solid waste facility that is patrolled on a 24-hour basis.

We were also advised than experts in deactivating bombs were on their way to Vieques and that four bombs had already been found.

Mr. Chairman, do you think that the people of Massachusetts would have tolerated such a Navy's presence in Martha's Vineyard or the people of California on Catalina Island, or the people of the Carolinas in the Outer Banks? Of course no. The time has come to do justice to the loyal American citizens of Puerto Rico by letting Vieques enjoy its land for its benefit.

Recently Hawaii was given back the island of Kahoolawe which was uninhabited and had been used for target practice. Our island bears a larger burden because it is inhabited by human beings.

A new world order has been in the making in recent years. With the demise of the Soviet Union, national defense priorities have changed and it is important that the western part of our island is returned to us so we may pursue our happiness and improve the living standards of our people.

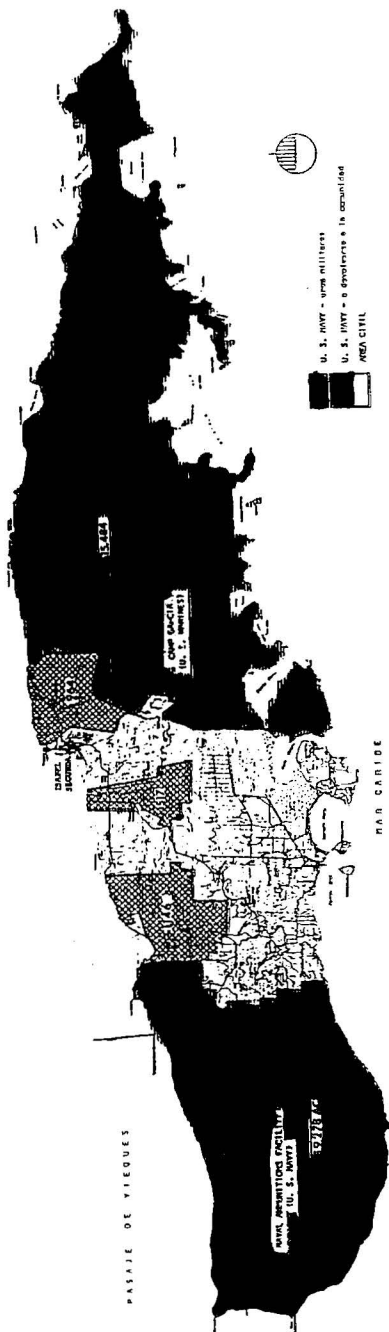
Thank you very much.

[Prepared statement of Ms. Santiago-Collazo follows:]

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE  
HONORABLE MANUELA SANTIAGO-COLLAZO**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**OCTOBER 4, 1994**



GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS MANUELA SANTIAGO COLLAZO AND I HAVE BEEN MAYOR OF THE ISLAND MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES SINCE JANUARY OF 1985. BEFORE THAT I SERVED IN THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY FOR EIGHT YEARS.

VIEQUES, AS YOU WELL KNOW, IS AN ISLAND OF TWENTY MILES LONG BY FOUR AND A HALF MILES WIDE AND THREE FOURTHS OF OUR ISLAND HAS BEEN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NAVY SINCE 1940.

WE ARE PROUD THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND ALL SUBSEQUENT CONFLICTS IN WHICH OUR NATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED, BE IT IN FAR AWAY KOREA, VIETNAM, OR THE PERSIAN GULF OR OUR CLOSE NEIGHBORS GRENADA, PANAMA AND HAITI.

OUR ISLAND HAS BEEN USED FOR ASSAULT LANDING PRACTICES, BOMBARDED FOR OVER 50 YEARS WITH EVERY CONCEIVABLE WEAPON, EXCEPT NUCLEAR OR BIOLOGICAL, AND HAS SERVED AS A REST AND RECREATION SITE FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SUFFERING FROM EXHAUSTION AND MENTAL AILMENTS. CIVILIAN RESIDENTS OF VIEQUES HAVE ENDURED THE NOISE OF EXPLOSIONS AND THE RISKS TO THEIR LIFE, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT WITH COURAGE AND RESIGNATION. BUT THE TIME HAS COME THAT WE GET BACK PART OF OUR LAND SO

THAT VIEQUES MAY DEVELOP ITS RESOURCES TO BENEFIT OUR POPULATION.

VIEQUES HAS A RICH HISTORY. IT WAS DISCOVERED BY CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ON NOVEMBER 16, 1493, THREE DAYS BEFORE HE DISCOVERED THE MAINLAND OF PUERTO RICO.

SINCE THEN IT WAS INHABITED BY THE SPANIARDS, THE ENGLISH AND THE FRENCH, UNTIL THE YEAR 1844 WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED AS A MUNICIPALITY.

OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFESTYLE WAS NOTEWORTHY.

THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY OPERATED FOUR SUGAR MILLS WHICH BROUGHT TO LIFE GREAT SPLENDOR AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING FOR THE VIEQUENSES, AS OUR PEOPLE ARE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN. SUGAR CANE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE IMPORTED FROM THE LESSER ANTILLES AND FROM TOWNS BORDERING THE EASTERN COAST OF PUERTO RICO.

DURING THE EARLY 1940's, MORE THAN 15,000 VIEQUENSES LIVED HAPPILY IN OUR ISLAND OF VIEQUES.

DURING THE DECADES OF THE 20's AND 30's, THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES SHONE AS A BRIGHT STAR AMONG THE 78 MUNICIPALITIES OF PUERTO RICO.

THE VIEQUENSES ARE GOOD-NATURED, SKILLED LABORERS, TRUSTWORTHY AND LOYAL. AS EVERY OTHER CITIZEN IN THE WORLD, THEY HOPE FOR A BETTER WAY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND TO PROVIDE THEIR FAMILIES WITH IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

DURING THE DECADE OF THE 1940's, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY OCCUPIED MORE THAN 78% OF OUR LAND TO ESTABLISH TWO MILITARY BASES AS PART OF THE ROOSEVELT ROADS COMPLEX. THIS ACTION BRINGS FORTH THE TOTAL DECAY OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN OUR ISLAND. THE TWO BASES LOCATED IN VIEQUES ARE STILL KNOWN AS CAMP GARCIA ON THE EASTERN COAST AND THE NAF ON THE WESTERN COAST.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHEN THE NAVY TOOK OVER THE LAND IN VIEQUES, IT MOVED ITS INHABITANTS TO ANOTHER AREA, OWNED BY THEM, CLOSE TO ISABEL II, OUR URBAN CENTER.

THE DISPLACED VIEQUENSES WERE GIVEN A LETTER BY THE NAVY ADVISING THEM THAT THE LAND AND HOUSES TO WHICH THEY WERE BEING MOVED BELONGED TO THE NAVY, AND IF NEEDED THEY WERE TO ABANDON SAME IN 24 HOURS.

MANY VIEQUENSES ENJOYED THIS "NEW AND TEMPORARY BONANZA" BROUGHT FORTH BY THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

HOWEVER, THE GREATEST MAJORITY OF THE DISPLACED VIEQUENSES FELT THAT THEY HAD BEEN BANISHED FROM THEIR HOMES, FROM THEIR LAND AND FROM THEIR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. THEY FELT LIKE EXILES IN THEIR HOMELAND AND DECIDED TO EMIGRATE TO NEW YORK AND SAINT CROIX IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, WHICH AT THE TIME WAS EXPERIENCING A FLOURISHING SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY.

KNOWN AS THE EXODUS, WE LOST MORE THAN 7,000 INHABITANTS.

THE VIEQUENSES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF LACK OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE BURDEN OF LIVING UNDER THE CONSTANT SHELLING AND BOMBARDING OF THE NAVY.

PUERTO RICANS OBTAINED THEIR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IN THE YEAR 1917 AND SINCE THEN WE ARE U.S. CITIZENS BY RIGHT AND WITH LOVE.

WE HAVE COURAGEOUSLY RESPONDED TO THE CALL OF OUR COUNTRY AND HAVE SPILLED THE BLOOD OF OUR CHILDREN TOGETHER WITH THE GALLANT AND BRAVE AMERICAN SOLDIERS DRENCHING FAR AWAY LANDS; SUCH AS, EUROPE - KOREA AND VIETNAM, IN OUR QUEST TO DEFEND AND UPHOLD OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE.

## **WE CARE.**

OUR ISLAND HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS; THE EASTERN PART USED BY THE NAVY FOR TARGET PRACTICE, THE CENTRAL PART USED BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE WESTERN THIRD USED AS A DEPOT.

H.R. 3831, KNOWN AS THE LANDS TRANSFER ACT, PROPOSES THE RETURN OF THE WESTERN PORTION OF VIEQUES BACK TO CIVILIAN USE SO THAT WE MAY DEVELOP AND CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF H.R. 3831 AS A MEASURE OF JUSTICE.

THE CENTRAL PART OF THE ISLAND, KNOWN AS THE CIVILIAN AREA IS COMPRISED OF 7,000 ACRES. OF THIS, MORE OR LESS 4,000 ACRES ARE OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO WHO LEASES MOST OF THEM TO SMALL AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS. OF THE REMAINING 3,000 ACRES, 1,000 ARE OWNED BY SMALL PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, LEAVING 2,000 ACRES FOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

THE NAVY'S OCCUPATION OF OUR LAND HAS HAD A HAUNTING AND SPIRALLING NEGATIVE EFFECT:

1. IT HAS AFFECTED ADVERSELY THE CIVILIAN POPULATION
2. IT HAS DRAMATICALLY REDUCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
3. IT HAS STUNTED AND ERODED OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

SINCE WE HAVE NO LAND AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS TO AMELIORATE THE CRITICAL HOUSING SITUATION AND TO BUILD NEW RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES; THE GROWING CRIME RATE HANGS OVER US AS THE CLEAREST MANIFESTATION OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

WE HAVE AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHER THAN 50 PERCENT (REAL, NON-OFFICIAL) AND OUR PER CAPITA INCOME, ACCORDING TO THE 1990 CENSUS IS \$2,997, ONE OF THE LOWEST PER CAPITA INCOME IN PUERTO RICO AND IN THE WHOLE UNITED STATES.

THE VIEQUENSE FAMILIES WITH AN INCOME BELOW THE ESTABLISHED POVERTY LEVEL REACHED 70 PERCENT IN 1989.

WOMEN MUST BE FLOWN BY EMERGENCY PLANES TO THE MAIN ISLAND OF PUERTO RICO TO GIVE BIRTH, DUE TO THE POOR CONDITIONS OF THE VIEQUES HOSPITAL.

WE ALSO SUFFER FROM THE HIGHEST RATE OF BROKEN FAMILIES AND THE HIGHEST INFANT MORTALITY INDEX AMONG PUERTO RICO'S 78 MUNICIPALITIES.

THE VIEQUENSE STUDENT IN QUEST OF A HIGHER EDUCATION HAS TO TRAVEL TO PUERTO RICO TO OBTAIN A UNIVERSITY DEGREE; AND THEN - WITH NO HOPE OF RETURNING TO VIEQUES DUE TO THE LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

MANY OF THE STUDENTS TRAVEL TO THE MAIN ISLAND ON A DAILY BASIS IN THE DECREPIT, OBSOLETE AND HAZARDOUS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY ARE BOUND TO THIS NEVER-ENDING FATE BECAUSE THEIR FAMILY'S PRECARIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION PREVENTS THEM FROM BOARDING IN PUERTO RICO.

IN THE LATE 1970's AND DUE TO THE DECLINING ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE FISHING PREVENTION IN CERTAIN AREAS AND DURING CERTAIN TIMES WHEN THE NAVY CONDUCTED MILITARY MANEUVERS THE VIEQUENSE FISHERMEN SPEARHEADED A DRIVE TO STOP THE BOMBING ON THE ISLAND AND END RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING. MOST OF THE PEOPLE REBELLED AGAINST THE NAVY'S PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND, AND MANY OF THEM WERE ARRESTED.

MANY OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE PROHIBITED TO ENTER ALL OF THE NAVY-OWNED LANDS, A PROHIBITION THAT STILL STANDS TODAY. IT IS PAINFUL AND OUTRIGHT DEMEANING NOT TO ALLOW AMERICAN CITIZENS TO ENTER THE LAND WHERE THEY WERE BORN.

IN 1980, CONGRESSMAN, RON DELLUMS DIRECTED A HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE PANEL REVIEW OF THE NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES. THIS PANEL CONCLUDED IN ITS FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NAVY "SHOULD LOCATE AN ALTERNATIVE SITE" AND THAT "IN THE INTERIM, THE NAVY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND IN PARTICULAR, EXPLORE TURNING OVER ADDITIONAL LAND TO THE ISLAND FOR CIVILIAN USE".

IN 1980, THE NAVY SOLD THE MONTE SANTO AND SANTA MARIA RESETTLEMENT AREAS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO; THESE AREAS HAD BEEN INHABITED BY VIEQUENSE FAMILIES SINCE THE 1940's.

WHEN SQUATTERS, VERY LOW AND LOW-INCOME VIEQUENSE FAMILIES, TOOK OVER WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE SANTA MARIA GRAZING TO BUILD THEIR HUMBLE HOMES, AND THE NAVY COULD NOT STOP THEIR

INFLUX, THEN - THEY SOLD THIS LAND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO. TODAY - THE AREA - MAINLY KNOWN AS VILLA BORINQUEN IS HOME TO HUNDREDS OF THESE NEEDY VIEQUENSES - WHO HAVE FINALLY ACHIEVED THE ALL-AMERICAN DREAM OF LAND AND HOME OWNERSHIP.

MOST RECENTLY, THE NAVY SOLD TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO 320 ACRES DUE TO ANOTHER SQUATTER TAKE OVER. THIS SITUATION IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE VILLA BORINQUEN LAND SITE; SINCE THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PLOT CAN BE CONSIDERED SPECULATORS AND NON-VIEQUENSES.

BEING RESPONSIBLE AND FORTHRIGHT ADMINISTRATORS, WE CANNOT DENY THAT THE NAVY HAS CONVEYED APPROXIMATELY 200 ACRES - DECLARED EXCESS PROPERTY - TO THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT TO DESIGN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC PROJECTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE NEED SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION THAT WILL ALLOW OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT TO UTILIZE THIS LAND FOR OTHER VALID PURPOSES; SUCH AS, THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING AND TOURISM RELATED PROJECTS.

IN 1983, THEN GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO AND THE NAVY, SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE PUERTO

RICAN GOVERNMENT AGREED TO DROP ALL LITIGATIONS IN COURT AGAINST THE MILITARY FOR ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE IN EXCHANGE FOR A NAVY COMMITMENT TO MITIGATE THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND HELP WITH LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT IS KNOWN AS THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

IN IT THE NAVY RECOGNIZES "THAT THE NAVY ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES MAY HAVE A POTENTIAL DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND". IT ALSO RECOGNIZES "ITS OBLIGATION TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES AND WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE ISLAND'S PEOPLE.

ITS MOST PROMINENT PARTS ARE: COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, LAND USE, ORDINANCE DELIVERY IN THE INNER RANGE ON VIEQUES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

THE NAVY PROMISED THAT TOGETHER WITH THE PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND GROUPS THEY WOULD WORK TO SEEK

GRANTS, START UP FUNDS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS FOR USE IN VIEQUES AND MAKE EVERY MEANINGFUL EFFORT, WITHIN ITS POWER, TO OBTAIN FULL EMPLOYMENT ON THE ISLAND. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE MEMORANDUM, AT LEAST 500 JOBS WERE PROMISED.

OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER OBTAINED GRANTS THROUGH THE NAVY'S EFFORT.

EVEN THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO AND THE NAVY HAVE TRIED TO STIMULATE INDUSTRY AND JOB CREATION IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SUSTAIN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN VIEQUES.

THE NAVY SPENDS MILLIONS IN MILITARY-SPONSORED MANUFACTURING CONTRACTS IN PUERTO RICO. MOST OF THESE INDUSTRIES ARE ESTABLISHED IN MAYAGUEZ AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES OF PUERTO RICO. NONE OF THESE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR RESIDENTS NOR HAVE THEY SUFFERED FROM THE NAVY'S NEGATIVE IMPACT AS VIEQUES HAS. WE ARE LIVING IN A CORNER OF OUR ISLAND BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE THE BEST TRAINED ARMED FORCES TO UPHOLD DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

VIEQUES POSSESSES THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND THE BEST TECHNICAL AND QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES.

ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES--THE FISHING INDUSTRY - IS MOST NEGATIVELY AFFECTED DURING THE NAVY'S MANEUVER ACTIVITIES. THE FISHERMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FISH; AND, IN ADDITION, THE WAR VESSELS DESTROY THEIR NETS AND FISHING DEVICES. OUR FISHERMEN ARE NEVER COMPENSATED FOR THESE LOSSES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT OUR FISHERMEN HAVE RESORTED TO THE ART OF DEEP-SEA DIVING TO ACHIEVE GOOD FISHING; BUT, THEY NOW FACE AN EVEN GREATER RISK - GETTING THE BENDS - A DISABLING CONDITION THAT CONFINES THEM TO A WHEEL CHAIR FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FORESTRY PROGRAM IN NAVY LAND WHEREBY THE NAVY AGREES TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE NAVY PROCEEDED TO PLANT SEVERAL HUNDRED MAHOGANY TREES ON THE WESTERN PART. THE NAVY AGREED TO MAINTAIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST UNTIL IT IS FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING THROUGH HARVESTING AND REFORESTATION.

BUT, THIS INDUSTRY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE VIEQUENSES IN AT LEAST 30 YEARS; AND, IN ADDITION THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS FROM SUCH A NAVY MANAGED FOREST (10 USC 2665) IF ANY, WILL HELP US TO ALLEVIATE THE DEVASTATING ECONOMIC SITUATION OF OUR ISLAND.

IN RELATION TO THE ADVANCES DELIVERY INNER RANGE ON VIEQUES THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING STATES THAT THE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL (CIVILIAN AND MILITARY) DURING THE CONDUCT OF MILITARY TRAINING OPERATIONS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. IT ALSO STATES THAT THE NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES FROM MISHAP INVOLVING THE USE OF LIVE ORDNANCE AND HIGH POWERED AIRCRAFT FLYING ADJACENT TO POPULATED AREAS OF VIEQUES.

BUT THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES HAVE HAD THE MOST PAINFUL AND TRAGIC EXPERIENCES UPON FINDING LIFE ORDNANCES IN OUR BEACHES. MANY VIEQUENSES HAVE BEEN SEVERELY HURT WHEN HANDLING THESE LIVE AMMUNITIONS.

LAST YEAR ON A SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1993, 10:20 P.M. THE WHOLE ISLAND OF VIEQUES WAS TOTALLY SHAKEN AND TAKEN A BACK BY THE STRANGEST AND MOST EERIE NOISE.

SINCE IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT MILITARY MANEUVERS WERE TAKING PLACE, WE UNDERSTOOD THAT WAS DUE TO THIS FACT AND IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE NAF, CAMP GARCIA AND ROOSEVELT ROADS REQUESTING AN EXPLANATION.

BUT, TO NO AVAIL, AFTER WAITING FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR, WHEN EVERYONE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, WE CALLED THE OBSERVATION POST AND WERE INFORMED THAT THE NAVY HAD CANCELLED ALL MILITARY MANEUVERS FOR THE NIGHT. UPON LEARNING THAT ALL MANEUVERS HAD BEEN CANCELLED, I REALIZED THAT SOMETHING VERY DANGEROUS HAD HAPPENED THAT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE LIVES OF ALL OF US AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - BUT, AGAIN, DEAF EARS, VERY LITTLE

SAPIENCE, I WAS SIMPLY ADVISED THAT I WOULD RECEIVE DETAILED INFORMATION THE NEXT DAY.

TRUE TO THEIR WORD, THE NEXT DAY, WE WERE INFORMED THAT BY AN ERROR IN JUDGEMENT A PILOT HAD DROPPED FIVE BOMBS OUTSIDE THE INNER RANGE AND THAT THEY HAD FALLEN 2.5 MILES FROM ISABEL II, OUR URBAN AREA; THAT IS, 1.5 MILES FROM OUR SOLID WASTE FACILITY THAT IS PATROLLED ON A 24 - HOUR BASIS.

WE WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT EXPERTS IN DEACTIVATING BOMBS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO VIEQUES - AND THAT FOUR BOMBS HAD ALREADY BEEN FOUND.

NOW - I ASK YOU - DO WE DESERVE TO LIVE WITH THIS CONSTANT NIGHTMARE?

IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, THE NAVY HAS DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB. THEIR CONSTANT PREOCCUPATION WITH PROTECTING THE TURTLES AND BROWN PELICANS, ENDANGERED SPECIES, HAS BEEN MERITORIOUS AND WORTHY OF COMMENDATION.

THE NAVY HAS TAKEN ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE ITS ACTIVITIES DO NOT JEOPARDIZE THEIR CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

FORTY FOUR YEARS OF BOMBARDING INCLUDING NAPALM IN VIEQUES HAS BEEN PAINFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ISLAND. THE NAVY NEVERTHELESS HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO DESTROY TURTLES AND PELICANS BECAUSE THEY ARE PROTECTED SPECIES BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES WHICH TO US ARE AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS TURTLES AND PELICANS.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES STRONGLY ENDORSE AND SUPPORT H.R. 3831.

WE NEED THE LAND: SINCE THE NAVY TOOK OUR LANDS OUR SUGAR INDUSTRY DISAPPEARED, OUR RESIDENTS WENT INTO EXILE AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY.

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, AMONG OTHERS, CAN BE AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY FOR OUR ISLAND AS IT HAS BEEN FOR OTHER CARIBBEAN ISLANDS THAT ARE REMOTE AND NOT AS BEAUTIFUL AS VIEQUES.

THE RETURN OF THE NAVY LAND WILL ALLOW VIEQUES TO DEVELOP TOURISM TO CREATE JOBS AND ENERGIZE OUR ECONOMY.

WE ARE AMONG THE POOREST PEOPLE UNDER THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT ASK FOR WELFARE OF SUBSIDIES. RATHER WE FIRST ASK TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR AND PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE PEOPLE OF VIEQUES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, DO YOU THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS WOULD HAVE TOLERATED SUCH A NAVY PRESENCE IN MARTHA'S VINEYARD OR THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA IN CATALINA ISLAND OR THE PEOPLE OF THE CAROLINAS, IN THE OUTER BANKS? OF COURSE NOT. THE TIME HAS COME TO DO JUSTICE TO THE LOYAL AMERICAN CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO BY LETTING VIEQUES ENJOY ITS LAND FOR ITS BENEFIT.

RECENTLY HAWAII WAS GIVEN BACK THE ISLAND OF KAHOO LAWE WHICH WAS UNINHABITED AND HAD BEEN USED FOR TARGET PRACTICE. IN ADDITION, CONGRESS ASSIGNED 400 MILLION DOLLARS FOR CLEANING THE ISLAND. THE ISLAND BEARS A LARGER BURDEN BECAUSE IT IS INHABITED BY HUMAN BEINGS.

A NEW WORLD ORDER HAS BEEN IN THE MAKING IN RECENT YEARS. WITH THE DEMISE OF THE SOVIET UNION, NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES HAVE CHANGED AND WE ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO LET THE U.S. NAVY USE PART OF OUR LAND, IF IT IS NECESSARY. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE WESTERN PART OF OUR ISLAND IS RETURNED TO US SO WE MAY PURSUE OUR HAPPINESS AND IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF OUR PEOPLE.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you, Mayor Santiago, for your statement. Very moving statement and very strong pronouncement on behalf of your people.

Mayor, Your Honor, would you identify the people that are at the witness table with you, please.

Mr. MONROIG. Yes, Mr. Chairman. My name is Antonio Monroig, legal counsel to the Municipality of Vieques here in Washington.

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Chairman, my name is Maria Salazar, and I am the Executive Director of a nonprofit corporation in Vieques dealing in housing and economic development.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you, and it is a pleasure to have you here before the committee. Let me ask you now, Mayor, could you tell the committee how you arrived at the 50 percent unemployment figure for Vieques.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, we conducted a survey house by house, business by business, everything where people were working, we just survey it and it is more than 50 percent.

Mr. DE LUGO. More than 50 percent.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. The unemployment.

Mr. DE LUGO. You feel confident that this is an accurate representation of the economic situation on Vieques having gone house to house to establish this?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, that is true.

Mr. DE LUGO. Thank you. You state in your testimony that in 1982, the Navy sold what is now Villa Borinquen to the government of Puerto Rico. How much land was involved and what is the land being used for now? How was it subdivided?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, by 1980, the Navy sold two resettlements, Monte Santo and Santa Maria settlement areas, but those areas were inhabited by the people that they moved from the other areas to an area next to the urban area, Monte Santo and Santa Maria.

Mr. DE LUGO. So the Navy had resettled people from its land?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. DE LUGO. To this other land?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes. And in 1980, they sold that land to the state government, especially to the land administration agency.

Mr. DE LUGO. What happened? Did the people who were living on the land at that time, did they receive title to the land?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. No, no, no, no. The state agency is dealing with the title. But they are not giving the title—they have to buy the land. Most of them have to buy the land. Some of them can get it by \$1.

Mr. DE LUGO. I see. But if they buy the land, then they will get—there is a program, the government of Puerto Rico has set up a program under which those people who are living on the land can purchase the property on which they built their homes? I understand these are very modest homes.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Their homes are already built because they have been there since 1940, and they had no title.

Mr. DE LUGO. They have no title, but is there a program today that these people can get title to their land, I mean, to the land on which they built their homes?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. DE LUGO. There is a program?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes. It is—no, no, no. No program at all.

Mr. DE LUGO. No program at all?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. They have to buy the piece of land where they established their homes 50 years ago.

Mr. DE LUGO. But that—I see. They would buy that piece of land—

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. DE LUGO [continuing]. From the State agency, the government of Puerto Rico?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. DE LUGO. And they would get title, all right.

You also state that more recently, 320 acres were sold by the Navy to the government of Puerto Rico, but for people that you describe as speculators and people not from Vieques. Could you explain to the committee about this?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, they—the Navy sold it to the government of Puerto Rico, about 1,000 acres of land. It is the Santa Maria grazing area and Marteno tract.

The Santa Maria grazing area, they are having a problem with—they were having a problem with the squatters, so they decided to sell the land to Puerto Rico, not the government of Puerto Rico. They couldn't deal with the squatters so they sold the land.

Mr. DE LUGO. But these squatters were not from Vieques?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, those from that part, grazing area, they are from Vieques and they are poor people in a great need of land, but there is another 311 acres of land that the Navy sold to the land administration because there were some people that were speculating with the land. They were squatters and they were speculating with the land. They also sold that.

Mr. DE LUGO. Where did these people come from?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, some from Vieques. They have other houses, to establish a second home, and people from Puerto Rico, Ponce, Bayamon, Quintnabo, everywhere in Puerto Rico, and in the United States, and we have a Japanese—

Mr. DE LUGO. The mainland, too?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, and we have Japanese also and we have Frenchmen over there, and they have not—they have not sold that land—they have not bought that land. Those are squatters, but different kind of squatters than the first ones.

Mr. DE LUGO. Are you familiar with the recommendations of Senator McClintock, Senator McClintock's study?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes. They visited Vieques about a year ago and they gave us the study.

Mr. DE LUGO. Do you support the findings of Senator McClintock's study?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Right now I do not recall everything of the study, but by that time, I thought, and I think it was a very good study on the situation of Vieques.

Mr. DE LUGO. It was a very good study.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. DE LUGO. Your assessment of it. All right, thank you very much.

Let me recognize—let me do this: I am going to have to turn over the Chair at this time to the resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and before I do, I would like to place in the record at the end of the witnesses that we will be hearing today statements, one from Mr. Luis R. Carrillo, retired pharmacist, San Juan Puerto Rico. Mr. Carrillo is here and sitting in the front row. Thank you for joining us today. Your statement will appear in its entirety in the record.

One from Victor M. Emeric, President, Committee to Improve Maritime Transportation between Vieques and Puerto Rico, and a letter from Mr. Valentin “Chiro” Hernandez, President, Puerto Rico Freedom—I am sorry, Puerto Rico Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and I would like to state that the record will remain open for 14 days for any additional statements that are received by the committee.

[Prepared statements of Mr. Carrillo and Mr. Emeric, and letter from Mr. Hernandez follow:]

DEPOSITION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE HEARING OF THE SUB-COMMISSION  
OF INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HELD ON  
OCTOBER 4, 1994 AT 13:00 ~~HR~~ REGARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE  
TO TRANSFER 8,000 ACRES OF LAND HELD BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY  
TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.

LUIS R. CARRILLO  
1512 RODANO ST.  
RIO PIEDRAS,  
PUERTO RICO 00926-2817  
TELEPHONE (809) 764-6979  
FAX (809) 767-3072

CONTENT: EIGHT PAGES

OCTOBER 4, 1994

HON. RON DE LUGO-CHAIRMAN  
SUB-COMMITTEE OF INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-6201

REF: PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE FOR  
THE TRANSFER OF 8000 ACRES OF LAND TO THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF VIEQUES BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

GENTLEMEN:

MY NAME IS LUIS R. CARRILLO, A 70 YEARS OLD CITIZEN OF THE  
UNITED STATES. BORN, RAISED AND RESIDENT OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.

AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION, I WISH TO INFORM THAT I SERVED  
FOR 25 MONTHS IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR WITH THE 65TH. INFANTRY REGIMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE  
NORTH AFRICA AND EUROPEAN CAMPAIGNS.

I AM A RETIRED REGISTERED PHARMACIST ALTHOUGH AT THE PRESENT  
I AM PROVIDING VOLUNTARY SERVICE AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
HOSPITAL IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.

I AM ATTENDING THIS HEARING REPRESENTING MY WIFE, MRS. CARMEN  
AMELIA BENITEZ AS WELL AS THE RELATIVES OF HER PATERNAL BROTHERS.  
DOLOREZ BENITEZ, GEORGINA BENITEZ FRANCISCA BENITEZ SANTIAGO  
CARLOS ARTURO BENITEZ SANTIAGO CARLOTA BENITEZ SANTIAGO AND JULIO  
BENITEZ VAZQUEZ. TO MY KNOWLEDGE ALL DECEASED. AS DEFENDANTS IN  
THE EXPROPRIATION AND CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS. UNDER THE CIVIL  
CASE NO 2604 BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY. OF THEIR LAND IN THE  
WARDS OF PUNTA ARENAS AND LA LLAVE, MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES.  
PUERT RICO.

HON. RON DE LUGO-CHAIRMAN  
 PAGE 2  
 OCTOBER 4, 1994

OUR POSITION IN THIS CASE IS BASED IN MY LETTER ADDRESSED TO MR. CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OF PUERTO RICO IN WASHINGTON WITH A COPY TO HON. WILLIAM CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, HON. DR. PEDRO A. ROSELLO, GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, THE PUERTO RICAN NEWS PAPERS EL NUEVO DIA, EL VOCERO, THE SAN JUAN STAR AND MY ATTORNEY RICARDO E. CARRILLO. WHICH LETTER I WOULD LIKE TO READ BEFORE THIS COMMISSION. LEAVING A COPY OF THE SAME FOR THE RECORDS AS PART OF THIS DEPOSITION.

**READ LETTER OF APRIL 11, 1994 ADDRESSED TO MR. CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO**

CONSIDERING THAT THE "COLD WAR" IS OVER AS WELL AS THAT THE COMMUNISTS COUNTRIES ARE EASING OFF THEIR THREAT TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, THE SAFEGUARD OF THE UNITED STATES IS NO LONGER IN JEOPARDY OR AT STAKES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES AT THE PRESENT TIME DOES NOT REPRESENT THE STRATEGIC POSITION AS THE MAIN REASON FOR WHICH THIS LAND WAS CONDEMNED AND EXPROPRIATED IN 1942.

BESIDES, HAVING THE U.S. NAVY TAKEN OVER, FOR SECURITY MEASURES, THE LAND IN VIEQUES, AN UNDUO HARDSHIP FOR 52 YEARS HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN THIS ISLAND WHICH IT IS MY FEELING IS NO LONGER THE STRATEGIC POSITION NECESSARY FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CARIBBEAN AND ADJACENT REGION.

BASED ON THE AFORESAID IT IS OUR FEELING THAT MOST OF THE LAND BEING CLAIMED IN THIS HEARING SHOULD BE TRANSFERED TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES WITHOUT INCLUDING THE 1234.03 ACRES EXPROPRIATED FROM THE DEFENDANTS MENTIONED UNDER THE CIVIL CASE NO.2604 REFERRED TO IN MY COMMUNICATION OF APRIL, 11, 1994, ADDRESSED TO MR. CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO AS RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OF PUERTO RICO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HON. RON DE LUGO-CHAIRMAN

PAGE 3

OCTOBER 4, 1994

WE STRONGLY FEEL AND REQUEST THAT IN ORDER TO JUSTLY COMPENSATE FOR THE INJUSTICE AND HARDSHIP IMPOSED TO THEIR ESTATE IN THE AFOREMENTIONED CIVIL CASE. THE DEFENDANTS BE REDEEMED BY GRANTING THEIR JUST REQUEST WHENEVER ANY ACTION IS TAKEN ON THE REFERRED LAND.

I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO DR. ANTONIO RIVERA CASTAÑO FOR INVITING ME TO THIS HEARING AS WELL AS TO THIS HONORABLE COMMISSION IN PERMITTING ME TO MAKE THIS DEPOSITION.

IF YOU NEED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE IN CONTACTING ME WHENEVER YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY.

ONCE AGAIN MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR KINDEST ATTENTION.



Handwritten signature of Luis R. Carrillo in cursive script.

LUIS R. CARRILLO

1512 RODANO ST.  
RIO PIEDRAS, P.R.  
00926-2817  
PHONE: (809) 764-6979  
FAX: (809) 767-3072

April 11, 1994

MR. CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO  
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D C. 20515

Dear Mr. Romero Barcelo:

Through the media, I heard that there is a committee strongly lobbying among the Congress and the President of the United States towards the final withdrawal of the United States Navy from the Island of Vieques while at the same time requesting that the land be handed over to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Most probably this committee is not fully aware of the means in which some of this land was expropriated and ultimately condemned by the Navy of the United States as a security measure for the Mainland.

In 1942, the estate of my mother-in-law, the late Mrs. Maria Bithorn Vda. Benitez and my wife Carmen Amelia Benitez Bithorn then a minor, was badly hampered by the expropriation and condemnation proceedings, under the civil case No.2604, by the United States Navy of their land in the wards of Punta Arenas and La Llave, Municipality of Vieques. This same situation is applicable to my wife's paternal brothers Dolores Benitez, Georgina Benitez, Francisca Benitez Santiago, Carlos Arturo Benitez Santiago, Carlota Benitez Santiago, Julio Benitez Vazquez and the other defendants, Joaquin L. Rodriguez, Sofia Bermudez, Rafael Lopez Dominguez, Bank of Nova Scotia, Ana Rieckhoff Medina, Francisco Vilches, Federal Land Bank of Baltimore and the People of Puerto Rico, as defendants in the above entitled case as sole owners of the 1234.03 acres of land condemned in the referred wards.

The reasons behind the condemnation proceedings were <sup>SC</sup> never questioned as the defendants realized that the take over of the land in question was of paramount importance for the safeguard and security of the United States

However, while reviewing all the evidence available from my wife's file on this proceeding, I realized that the same was not done with the class and honesty expected from the Government of the United States. On the contrary, it was totally unfair, unjust, unilateral, ominous, unlawful, improper as the officers involved in the proceedings didn't act in good faith. There was a foul play since the beginning of the proceedings.

Henceforth, I will refer only to the land taken over from the estate of my mother-in-law and my wife as we don't have any additional information on the other land (698.51 acres) condemned from the other defendants.

It is common and customary that, for tax purpose, the property in Puerto Rico is appraised at a price much lower than it's actual market value.

For the tax years of 1939-40 and 1940-41, the land belonging to the estate of my wife and mother-in-law was appraised by a Government appraiser, Vicente L. Gimenez, in the amount of \$50,780. for the 535.52 acres comprised by their estate and taxes were being paid based on this appraisal value.

According to our file, the last appraisal was dated March 4, 1941. This appraisal was appealed by my mother-in-law before the "Junta de Revisi6n & Igualamiento", a government agency. Finally, the Junta made a revision on the appraisement of the land in question, reducing the tax value to \$47,420.

As mentioned before, the last appraisal made by the Government appraiser, Vicente L. Gimenez, was dated March 4, 1941. In the meantime, words were spreading around towards the imminent possibility by the Government of the United States for the expropriation and condemnation of the land in question.

All of a sudden, in April 19, 1941 (46 days after the last appraisal), the same Government appraiser, Vicente L. Gimenez, reduced the appraisal value of the same land from \$50,780. to \$35,430. Don't you think there was something smelling fishy on this last appraisal?

A letter dated April 15, 1942 signed by C.L. Strain, Lt. Comdr, U.S. Navy, was received by my mother-in-law in which it was stated that her property in the Island of Vieques consisting of 535.52 acres was appraised as having a value of \$24,420. and that due to the urgency of defense measures a proceeding to acquire the property would be instituted by or shortly after May 1, 1942.

It was also indicated that "should it be necessary the United States may enter into possession of property prior to the acquisition of formal title".

In view of the flagrant abusiveness and unfairness made by the appraiser of the land condemned, a letter was written on April 18, 1942 by the lawyer of my mother-in-law, Attorney Jose G. González and addressed to Lt. Comdr. C.L. Strain questioning the appraisal value as their estate would be badly hampered by the inadequacy in the appraisal value and the true value of the land.

Furthermore, a letter was sent by the defendants to Mr. Norman M. Littell, Under Procurement General of the United States, in which the appraisal value of the land condemned was challenged for being unjust, unfair, absurd, outrageous, and contemptibly while at the same time requesting a revision of the same.

To the defendant's claim for justice and fairness implied in their letter, to their dismay, no answer was given to their communication.

Conversely, dated May 11, 1942, signed by Lulu H. Donohue as Clerk of the District Court of the United States for Puerto Rico, the defendants were notified that a proceeding for condemnation of the land was filed in said court under the civil case No. 2604 being the attorneys for the petitioner Walter L. Newman Jr, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, and Tomás I. Nido, Guillermo Estrella Frasqueri and Antonio Castro Fernández as Special Attorneys.

Dated the same date, May 11, 1942, the judgment and declaration of taking was issued by Judge Robert A. Cooper without giving the defendants their basic rights and opportunity to be heard regarding the inequity of the compensation for the condemned land as they considered it as unjust, unfair and unilateral.

It is my understanding that the defendants never questioned the security reasons for the take over of the land. However, what they always questioned were the procedures involved. It should have been done with the class and honesty expected from the Government of the United States. Rather, they felt that the Officers representing the petitioner acted like henchmen without any consideration towards the rights of the defendants. Their positions was "This is a yes or yes proposition, take it or leave it." Justice was not served in this case.

In order to continue with their sugar business and maintain their sugar quota, my mother-in-law, had to buy land in the Municipality of Trujillo Alto at a price of \$217 per acre versus \$45 per acre which was the condemnation price of their land expropriated in Vieques

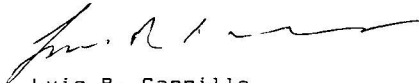
Considering that the land in Vieques at any moment may be handed over to the Government of Puerto Rico, it is our strong request and feeling that the least the Government of the United States should do is to revert the land condemned to their original owners at the time of the condemnation proceedings. In this way the defendants are redeemed and justly compensated for the hardship and injustice imposed to their Estate when the land was condemned.

Your assistance and orientation will be greatly appreciated in this just and fair request. On the other hand, please let me know who else we should address on this matter.

If you need any additional information kindly do not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at your convenience.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. I remain.

Cordially yours



Luis R. Carrillo  
1512 Rodano St  
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00926-2817  
Tel-764-6979

LRC/cms

cc: Hon. William Clinton  
Pres. of the United States  
Hon. Dr. Pedro A. Roselló  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
Newspapers: El Nuevo Día  
El Vocero  
The San Juan Star  
Attorney: Ricardo E. Carrillo

**Comité Pro Mejor Transportación Marítima de Vieques**

(Committee to Improve Maritime Transportation between Vieques and Puerto Rico)

**Apartado 142  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765**

**October 4, 1994**

**Position of the Committee to Improve Maritime Transportation between Vieques and Puerto Rico (CPMTMV) before the Sub Committee on Insular Affairs relative to House Resolution 3831, Vieques Land Transfer Bill of 1994**

The Committee to Improve Maritime Transportation between Vieques and the Main Island of Puerto Rico is an organization that strives for a better maritime link between the islands of Vieques and Puerto Rico. One of our objectives is the reestablishment of the shortest natural route connecting the islands.

Our message to you addresses this concern.

Vieques is a small municipal island located seven miles southeast of the main island of Puerto Rico.

During the decade of the 1940's, when the U.S. Navy expropriated 26,000 of the total 33,000 acres of the island of Vieques, two military installations were established on Vieques: On the Eastern end and one on the Western end of the island. The Western base, which is used as a naval ammunition facility, is located only six miles from the Southeast coast of Puerto Rico. This is the shortest distance between both islands. The expropriation of that land closest to Puerto Rico deprives the people of Vieques of the closest point of contact between both islands. This route (from Punta Arenas in Vieques to Ensenada Honda in Ceiba, Puerto Rico) was long used commercially (passengers and cargo) until the expropriation of these lands occurred in the 1940's.

Committee to Improve Maritime Transportation between Vieques and Puerto Rico  
October 4, 1994  
Page 2

The other route (Puerto Mulas in Vieques to Puerto Real in Fajardo, Puerto Rico) remains as the only available commercial route still in service. It is a much longer route of 18 nautical miles.

The other existing route, which is used exclusively by the U.S. Navy for military purposes is only seven miles long. This route is also used by family and friends of military personnel stationed at Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba, who come to "Green Beach" (Punta Arenas) in private yachts, and consider it their private beach.

The elimination of this short route has eliminated potential tourist development of the island as well as a shorter, quicker and more comfortable trip for Vieques residents travelling to the "big island". This trip utilizing the short route took forty five minutes in 1940. After the expropriation of these lands by the U.S. Navy and the elimination of this route, a trip to Puerto Rico takes no less than an hour and a half utilizing the Puerto Mulas-Fajardo route. Obviously, the service has worsened.

This bill introduced by the Honorable Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero Barceló, to return the Western end of Vieques to the local Municipal Government, offers us the opportunity to reestablish the short route by our people and visitor.

It is for this reason that we urge you to approve this bill which will enable our island to progress by ending the isolation which we now suffer due to inadequate transportation to and from Vieques.

In your hands is the opportunity to do true justice to the people of Vieques.

  
Victor M. Emeric

President  
Committee to Improve Maritime  
Transportation between  
Vieques and Puerto Rico



**FEDERACION DEL TRABAJO DE PUERTO RICO AFL-CIO**  
(PUERTO RICO FEDERATION OF LABOR AFL-CIO)

TEL. (809) 7  
FAX (809) 7

VALENTIN (CHIRO) HERNANDEZ  
PRESIDENTE

JOSE M. TORRES  
SECRETARIO - TESORERO

JOSE E CADIZ  
1<sup>er</sup> VICE - PRESIDENTE

CARMEN FANNY VALDES  
JOSE (PEPE) FELICIANO  
CARLOS ORTIZ  
VICE-PRESIDENTES

July 14, 1994

The Honorable Ron de Lugo  
Chair  
Insular and International Affairs  
United States Capitol  
Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Room 1626  
Independence & New Jersey Aves., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mister de Lugo:

Hopefully the 103d Congress will pass bill HR-3831, presented by the Honorable Eni Paleomavaega, Ron de Lugo, Elton Gollegly Austin Murphy, Robert Underwood and Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barcelo.

As representative of the workers in Puerto Rico through the AFL-CIO we urge that the Committee on Armed Services and Natural Resources evaluate and consider the bill seriously.

For years the people of Vieques have suffer greatly the devastating drama of the military presence in the Island. The workers in particular have not benefit in anyway by this relationship. Many of them are rural inhabitants who have been unemployed most of their lives and live off the little agriculture they can manage in the limited land that is available to them, sometimes they are arrested for crossing the Navy borders to do some fishing.

They not only have to suffer critical economic consequences they also suffer the need of good healthcare, childcare, housing, educational facilities and recently brought to them by the Navy, commuters, high crime rates. They also lack a good night sleep since in the middle of the night they are awaked to enjoy, see, listen and feel the target practices in the middle of the Ocean.

The islanders are neglected, the use of good fishing are having at times the necessity to come across to the town of Fajaro on the ferry boat, to buy expensive seafood and other articles.

P.O. BOX 19669, PDEZ, JUNCOS STATION, SANTURCE, P.R. 00910-19669  
SEGUNDO PISO SANTURCE, P.R. 00907

The Honorable Ron de Lugo  
 Page 2  
 July 14, 1994


Our recommendation goes further than HR-3831, we recommend that the base close completely and return all the land to our people. As drastic as it may seem, in the 54 years of the existence of the military base in Vieques the only one that it has benefit is the militaries and the US Government.

The Navy has damaged the ecology and the economy of the Island. The help they promised in 1983 on the economy and ecology of the Island was never met, they failed to keep the agreement with the Government of Puerto Rico.

Vieques infrastructure could be solved but not with the military presence there. The tourism industry could be brought to the island only when the beautiful land and beaches are turned over to the people of Vieques.

We Trust that this time the initiative of your fellow Congressman to present this bill will be taken seriously. Please pass copy of our letter to all the members of the Committee. I remain,

Cordially,

  
 Valentin "Chico" Hernandez  
 President

CC: Mr. Lane Kirkland  
 President AFL-CIO

/mc

Mr. DE LUGO. I want to thank you, Madam Mayor, and all of the witnesses who are here, and, at this time, let me turn the gavel over to my friend from Puerto Rico to assume the Chair.

Thank you very much.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ [presiding]. Mayor, good afternoon. I want to congratulate you on your testimony. It was very, very complete and very powerful.

There is one part of your testimony I am—that was not clear and I want to make sure—I want to clarify it. You said there were five bombs dropped, and you said that four were found. Was the fifth one found eventually?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, I don't know. I don't know. Nobody told me about a last one.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. I am going to take note of that. I am going to find out myself. We should find that, make sure that that bomb is found.

As you heard the testimony of Admiral Christensen how the Navy contributes to the economy of Vieques, how would you compare the contribution of the Navy to the economy of Vieques to what it would represent to Vieques if Vieques had to use those 8,000 acres in the western part of Vieques?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. I am very confused because I can't tell you that they are contributing to the economic development of Vieques. That is not true. For example, they say that they are losing about 500 acres to farmers to establish a project, and they know that the farmer doesn't have any money to establish the project. They are also leasing some land——

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So in other words, they are still not leasing the land. They are only planning to lease it?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, that is true. They are also helping the Vieques marine laboratories to establish a shrimp—a project in Vieques, and they took the project to the MAC, the Management Advisory Committee of the Navy, and they didn't give him the permits to establish the project. Those are the projects that they are telling or that they included in the written statement that are not true. We are dealing with those——

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Are they really helping you pave the roads?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. No, they didn't. They asked me for the money.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. In other words, they will pave it if you give them the money?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Including the cost of the engineer?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, and that is true, very, very true.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So actually, the only way that you can see that Vieques can develop is by having the land available for the tourism projects?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Otherwise you don't see—how do you feel, you as a Viequean, being hemmed in on both sides by the Navy property?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Well, it is very difficult for us. For example, the Navy owns three-fourths of our island. We only live in the central parts, but let me tell you, from the 7,000 acres that are land for civilian use, the state government has about 4,000. One thousand belongs to small farmers, and we only have 2,000 acres of land, and I have to tell you something, I do not have any land to establish our projects. On Thursday, I bought less than an acre of land for the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corporation and I paid \$55,000 for less than an acre.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So when I mention the price of one acre of land in the beach—with beach front, \$50,000, it is much more than that?

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. It is priceless.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. It is much more than that, okay. Mayor, I don't have any questions to ask from you because I agree with you 100 percent. All I want to say is that we are supporting your request very strongly.

Unfortunately, I don't think that this year it will go to the Floor, this bill, as you may well know. We are recessing on Friday and I couldn't get the hearing before this time and so we won't have any time to go to the Floor, but when we come back in January, this bill is going to be renewed.

We are going to file it again. We are going to have—I think we are going to have more sponsors on the bill than we have now. The hearings will be there in the record to be referred to and in the meantime, we are going to be talking to other people in between to make sure that we get what we need for Vieques.

Thank you very much.

Ms. SANTIAGO-COLLAZO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The next witness now is Senator Kenneth McClintock. After Senator Kenneth McClintock, then we will have the panel of Mr. Rivera Castano and Mr. Carlos Ventura.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. KENNETH McCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ, SENATOR, THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO**

Mr. McCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Chairman, my name is Kenneth McClintock, and I appear on behalf of the Senate of Puerto Rico. I am especially pleased to appear before you this time, not to talk about our perennial political status problem, but about a problem at least as important for the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

May I say that our passionate and dedicated mayor of Vieques is a very hard act to follow. All Puerto Ricans are grateful to you for filing H.R. 3831 and calling the attention of Congress to an issue that Congress should address and resolve.

While the relationship between the overwhelming majority of the residents of Puerto Rico and the Navy has been one of mutual cooperation and reciprocal necessity over the years, most Puerto Ricans are concerned that the residents of Vieques have borne more than their share of the economic cost of national defense for over half a century. The Navy has contributed to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Puerto Rico, but clearly the United States Navy has injected a substantial amount of capital to the local economy.

In addition, Puerto Rico greatly benefited from the operations in the island of Vieques due to the fact that Puerto Rico is an indispensable part of the U.S. and therefore benefits from U.S. military support.

However, Mr. Chairman, the Cold War is over and our nation remains the only military superpower in the world. The need for a 600-ship Navy is no longer as great as it was a decade ago. Likewise, the intensity of the training needs of our armed forces is not the same as it was when Soviet nuclear subs prowled the Caribbean or when Cuba was a major exporter of revolution and failed socialist ideology in our hemisphere.

It is time to reevaluate the Navy's need for control over two-thirds of the island of Vieques and clearly the need is no longer the same. H.R. 3831, which follows the lines of House Concurrent Resolution 16, approved by overwhelming majorities in our legislature, undoubtedly has the support of most Puerto Ricans.

Navy operations in Vieques have essentially stifled economic growth on the island. While one of the beautiful Virgin Islands' chains, geographically speaking, Vieques has several of the Caribbean's most pristine beaches, several bioluminescent bays, and a land mass comprising 52 square miles or 34,101 acres. Obviously you haven't visited Vieques. I strongly urge you to do so.

Other islands in the Caribbean with comparable natural resources are more highly developed than Vieques. The major difference is that economic activity on those other islands is not constrained as it is in Vieques where even Navy-generated economic activity is limited.

Consequently, as an elected representative of the people of Puerto Rico, I share the point of view of the Honorable Manuela Santiago, mayor of Vieques, in that the most important and fruitful way that the economic hardship currently suffered by the residents of Vieques can be eradicated is through the creation of an economic development strategy that would convert the island and its pristine beaches into a tourist haven of the northeastern part of the Caribbean, as well as preserve those areas of the island of high ecological value.

This necessarily means the reacquisition of sufficient land now occupied by the United States Navy as H.R. 3831 proposes. The Committee on Federal and Economic Affairs conducted a study of the problems and economic opportunities of the island of Vieques last year which identified several problems enumerated in our written statement.

In addition to tourism development, we also propose the development of certain agricultural activities, such as the strengthening of Vieques' unique bee and honey industry, as well as certain limited industrial activity. Although the limitations imposed on the social, cultural, and economic development of the island of Vieques by the U.S. Navy is not the only cause for such hardship, it is undisputedly a major factor.

Our study concludes the following: Due to historical and geographic reasons, Vieques has been marginalized from the process of economic development that the rest of Puerto Rico has experienced during the last 50 years.

The United States Navy has controlled some of the best lands for agricultural development, the most pristine beaches of Puerto Rico, the most important fish farms, and the most expedient route between Vieques and Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Navy has now occupied and controlled over two-thirds of the island of Vieques for the past 50 years. Undeniably, we as American citizens have greatly benefited from the operations performed by the Navy through the years. Nevertheless, it is clear from what I have described above that the Vieques community suffers great hardship and foresees an obscure future so long as the hand of restrictions here under review remain.

As American citizens, the people of Puerto Rico, like the people of California, Florida, or New York are more than willing to contribute and sacrifice themselves for the national interest. However, because of the amount of land used by the armed forces in Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico carries a much higher burden of our national defense than many States of the union.

From what I have described above, it is clear that a grave problem exists in Vieques. It is not a problem of great national concern that affects Americans nationwide, yet it is a grave problem for a small microcosm of American citizens, the residents of Vieques in particular and the American citizens in Puerto Rico in general.

Vieques served a vital interest to all of us. It is my belief that the U.S. Navy can ably adapt to the situation H.R. 3831 proposes, just like it has done when the Iron Curtain fell and a much larger and critical readjustment had to be made. I strongly urge you to favorably report H.R. 3831, an island as beautiful as this wasn't meant to be totally controlled by the military forever.

Thank you.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you very much, Senator McClintock.

[Prepared statement of Mr. McClintock-Hernandez follows:]

STATEMENT ON HR 3831 BY THE  
HON. KENNETH D. MCCLINTOCK  
ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

...  
October 4, 1994  
...

Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Chairman De Lugo and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Kenneth D. McClintock and I appear on behalf of the Senate of Puerto Rico, in which I chair two standing committees, one select committee and one joint committee<sup>1</sup>. I am especially pleased to appear before you, this time not to talk about our perennial political status problem but about a problem at least as important for the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

All Puerto Ricans are grateful to Congressman Romero for filing HR 3831 and calling your attention to an issue that Congress should address and resolve.

While the relationship between the overwhelming majority of the residents of Puerto Rico and the Navy has been one of mutual cooperation and reciprocal necessity over the years, most Puerto Ricans are concerned that the residents of Vieques have borne more than their share of the economic cost of national defense for over half a century.

The Navy has contributed to the social, cultural and economic well being of Puerto Rico. Clearly, the United States Navy has injected a substantial amount of capital to the local economy. In addition, Puerto Rico greatly benefitted from the operations in the island of Vieques due to the fact that Puerto Rico is an indispensable part of the United States and therefore benefits from U.S. military support.

However, the Cold War is over---and our nation remains the only military superpower in the world. The need for a 600-ship Navy is no longer as great as it was a decade ago. Likewise, the intensity of the training needs of our Armed Forces are not the same as they were when Soviet nuclear subs prowled the Caribbean, or when Cuba was a major exporter of revolution and socialist ideology in our hemisphere.

It is time to reevaluate the Navy's need for control of over two-thirds of the island of Vieques, and clearly the need is no longer the same.

HR 3831, which follows the lines of H. Conc. Res. 16, approved

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<sup>1</sup> By appointment of Senate President Roberto Rexach Benítez, I chair the Committee on Governmental Affairs, one of the two most important in the Senate, the Committee on Federal and Economic Affairs, and the Select Committee on Economic Regulation. I was elected by fellow senators and representatives to chair the Joint Committee for the Córdova Congressional Internship Program, a program created by Law 59 of 1993, which I authored, and which will provide several students from Puerto Rico colleges and universities the opportunity to work and study in Congress every year, beginning in the Spring of 1995.

by overwhelming majorities in our Legislature<sup>2</sup>, undoubtedly has the support of most Puerto Ricans.

Navy operations in Vieques have essentially stifled economic growth on the island. While one of the beautiful Virgin Islands chain, Vieques has several of the Caribbean's most pristine beaches, several bioluminescent bays and a land mass comprising 52 square miles or 34,101 acres. If you haven't visited Vieques, I strongly urge you to do so.

Other islands in the Caribbean with comparable natural resources are more highly developed than Vieques. The major difference is that economic activity on those other islands is not constrained, as it is in Vieques, where even Navy-generated

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<sup>2</sup> Members of all political parties in Puerto Rico's Legislature have introduced legislation concerning Vieques, including:

1. H.R. 513 presented April 18, 1989 which made a direct call to the United States Navy to traspass to the Government of Puerto Rico those lands not necessary for defense readiness.

**Authors: Samuel Cepeda García (PPD) and José M. Del Valle López (PPD).**

2. H.R. 529 presented April 21, 1989 which made a formal request to the Governor of Puerto Rico to authorize the admonition of Lands to transfer them free of cost.

**Author: Nestor S. Aponte Hernández (PNP)**

3. H.R. 2186 presented May 16, 1991 which ordered the Commission on Housing and Urban Development to investigate the grave housing problem facing the residents of Vieques.

**Authors: Samuel Cepeda García (PPD) and Alfonso López Chaar (PPD)**

4. Senate Resolution 179 presented April 29, 1989 which made a formal request to the Governor of Puerto Rico to authorize the admonition of Lands to transfer them free of cost.

**Author: Enrique Rodríguez Negrón (PNP)**

5. Senate Resolution 261 presented September 6, 1989 which ordered a study of the land title problems facing the island of Vieques and other matters relating to the well being of its residents.

**Author: Marcos A. Rigau (PPD)**

6. H.R. 1477 presented September 24, 1993 which ordered the Commission on Housing and Urban Development to realize an investigation of the invasions of lands in Vieques which are property of the Government of Puerto Rico.

**Author: Zaida Hernández Torres (Speaker, PNP)**

7. Joint Resolution 16 presented May 13, 1993 which requested President Bill Clinton to transfer the lands in Vieques occupied by the United States Armed Forces to the Government of Puerto Rico.

**Authors: David Noriega Rodríguez (PIP) and Augusto Sánchez Fuentes (PNP)**

economic activity is limited<sup>3</sup>.

Consequently, as an elected representative of the people of Puerto Rico, I share the point of view of the Honorable Manuela Santiago, Mayor of Vieques, in that the most important and fruitful way that the economic hardship currently suffered by the residents of Vieques can be eradicated is through the creation of an economic development strategy that would convert the island and its pristine beaches into the tourist haven of the northeastern part of the Caribbean, as well as preserve those areas of the island of high ecological value. This necessarily means the reacquisition of sufficient land now occupied by the United States Navy, as HR 3831 proposes.

The Committee on Federal and Economic Affairs conducted a study of the problems and economic opportunities of the island of Vieques last year which identified the following problems:

1. Navy land ownership severely restricts territorial expansion
2. An inadequate and outmoded system of water aqueducts impedes industrial and housing development.
3. An almost complete disappearance of agriculture.
4. A deficient system of transportation. The study expands on this issue to state that there is a crucial need to expand the runway and facilities of the airport in order to adequately connect Vieques and the main island of Puerto Rico. This, in turn, would facilitate communication and, most importantly, develop the all important and indispensable tourism industry. It noted that the shortest route by sea to the main island of Puerto Rico would require the use of lands under Navy ownership<sup>4</sup>.
5. A grave need for housing, which requires land.
6. Very little tourism activity. This is perhaps the most underdeveloped but richest asset the island of Vieques would have, were it not for the crippling land restrictions.
7. Chronic unemployment that is placed in the 50% range by some government estimates.
8. A lack of industrial promotion and industrial development.
9. A disproportionately large level of residents living under the poverty level, whose well-being depends solely on government aid.
10. The local municipal government suffers from an extremely weak fiscal situation directly due to the lack of capital and investment.

In addition to tourism development, we also propose the development of certain agricultural activities, such as the strengthening of Vieques' unique bee and honey industry, as well as certain limited industrial activity.

Although the limitations imposed on the social, cultural and economic development of the Island of Vieques by the United States

<sup>3</sup> The Executive Summary of the "Economic Adjustment Program for Vieques, Puerto Rico" concluded that "...Navy land ownership constrains community development and its activities provide few local jobs."

<sup>4</sup> The distance between the Navy-controlled westernmost tip of Vieques (an area included in the HR 3831 land transfer) and Ceiba is significantly shorter than the current Isabel Segunda-Fajardo ferry route.

Navy is not the only cause for such hardship, it is undisputably a major factor.

Our study concludes the following:

"Due to historical and geographic reasons, [Vieques] has been marginalized from the process of economic development that the rest of Puerto Rico has experienced...during the last 50 years, the United States Navy has controlled some of the best lands for agricultural development, the most pristine beaches of Puerto Rico, the most important fishfarms and the most expedient route between Vieques and Puerto Rico".

The United States Navy has now occupied and controlled over two-thirds of the Island of Vieques for the past 50 years. Undeniably, we, as American Citizens, have greatly benefitted from the operations performed by the Navy through the years. Nevertheless, it is clear from what I have described above that the Vieques community suffers great hardship and foresees an obscure future so long as the land restrictions here under review remain.

As American Citizens, the people of Puerto Rico, like the people of California, Florida or New York, are more than willing to contribute and sacrifice themselves for the national interest. This is abundantly clear from the active and indispensable participation of thousands of Puerto Ricans in each and everyone of the conflicts the U.S. has been involved in this century. Reserve, National Guard and Active Duty Puerto Ricans were notably active in Vietnam, Granada, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia and currently, in Haiti. However, because of the amount of land used by the Armed Forces in Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico carries a much higher burden of our national defense than many states of the Union<sup>5</sup>.

From what I have described above, it is clear that a grave problem exists in Vieques. It is not a problem of great national concern that affects Americans nationwide, yet it is a grave problem for a small microcosm of American citizens---the residents of Vieques in particular, and the American citizens in Puerto Rico in general. Vieques served a vital interest to all of us. It is my belief that the United States Navy can ably adapt to the situation H.R. 3831 proposes just like it has done when the Iron Curtain fell and a much larger and critical readjustment had to be made.

I strongly urge you to favorably report HR 3831. An island as beautiful as this wasn't meant to be totally controlled by the military forever.

Thank you.

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<sup>5</sup> Currently, Puerto Rico is host to 5 major U.S. Military installations. According to the Department of Defense, Puerto Rico carries the burden than the states of Arkansas (5), Kentucky (5), Louisiana (5), Maine (5), and Rhode Island (5). Puerto Rico carries a greater burden than the states of Connecticut (3), Delaware (2), Idaho (2), Iowa (2), Kansas (4), Minnesota (2), Montana (2), Nebraska (2), Nevada (4), New Hampshire (3), New Mexico (4), North Dakota (4), Oregon (2), South Dakota (2), Vermont (1), West Virginia (2), Wisconsin (3), and Wyoming (2).

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

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STATEMENT ON H.R. 3831 BY THE  
HON. KENNETH D. MCCLINTOCK  
ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

\* \* \*

October 4, 1994

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Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Pursuant to the "Committee on Natural Resources Formatting Requirements for Printing of Hearing Statements, Written Comments and Exhibits", I am providing the following information:

**Name:** Sen. Kenneth D. McClintock  
**Address:** Senate of Puerto Rico  
The Capitol  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

**Topical Outline:** The Statement will reflect the Senate Of Puerto Rico's support for H.R. 3831, placing particular attention to a study conducted by the Federal and Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. McClintock, which found that the transferring of land is indispensable for the social, cultural and economic well being of the Island of Vieques.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. I just want to congratulate you on your statement and also on your interest in the—Senate's interest and your committee's interest in issues in Vieques, and the initiatives that you took to conduct the study and to help us in that, obtain some results in this legislation.

I would like to ask you a very few questions. One of them is, the accommodations that the—that are set forth in your report, do you feel that or do you know, feel that those recommendations are supported by the people of Vieques?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Yes. My impression is that they would all be supported by the people of Vieques, because our recommendations basically were picked from a large pool of recommendations that the people of Vieques proposed in public hearings that we held in Vieques, in addition to public hearings that were held in the capital in San Juan.

In addition to that, we, a bipartisan delegation of our committee, visited Vieques, spoke to people outside the hearings process, and we also were able to have a tour of the whole island of Vieques, basically from one point to the other.

In fact, I must say, with great pain that when we visited the summit of Manta Pieta, the highest point in the island of Vieques, we were accompanied by Mayor Manuela Santiago Collazo who was there at our invitation, and it was the first time that she, as mayor of Vieques for many years, and as a life-long resident of Vieques, had had the opportunity to visit the summit, the highest mountain in her island.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Do you feel that the accommodations that the report—in your study, that they also feel that they have the support of the legislature?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Yes, I believe they have the support of the legislature. The problem is that we have not been able to get all agencies of the Executive Branch to devote the attention and to focus on these—all of these recommendations, although I do know that the Secretary of Economic Development, Louis Fortuno, is actively pursuing several initiatives relating to Vieques now, that he heads an umbrella agency that has responsibility over a number of agencies that have direct impact over Vieques, such as the Economic Development Administration, the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corporation, plus the tourism company, which had already been collaborating with the mayor of Vieques.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Are you planning to, once you get those statements and studies and reactions from the different agencies, to bring it to the floor of the legislature to have some kind of resolution?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. In fact, my report last year is a partial report, although it is complete in the sense that we did a very wide-ranging study. We did not want to file a final report so as to maintain jurisdiction over the subject, and we are actively pursuing follow-up on our recommendations and we will eventually be reopening the hearings process to hear from the agencies what have they done about our recommendations.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Your final report and resolution adopting some recommendations would be beneficial in the process that we are going to be following next year on this legislation.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. What we could probably do, I will not be filing a final report until December 1996. I will not relinquish jurisdiction over this important matter, and a matter that is very close to my heart, because I have been very close to Mayor Santiago and the electorate of Vieques.

But what we will probably be doing is probably early next year, we would do the—a second report which would update the first report so that then you would have a more complete picture, that would help this committee in its work.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Okay. Have you discussed any of your recommendations with any of the Navy officials?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. I have discussed with Admiral Christensen, and Officer McCloskey was with him here today, an overview of some of the recommendations. They have communicated to me some of the projects that they have been supposedly working on.

For example, the shrimp farm that Mayor Santiago mentioned in her testimony, the aloe vera farm, the canape farm, and a number of other projects. The problem is, as Mayor Santiago says, these are all—projects are in a very incipient phase. There is no guarantee that any of these projects will really get off the ground, and, for example, they are talking about setting up some bureaus that in some way or another are supposed to help develop the plankton or something that contributes to improving the food chain in the water so that fish will multiply more rapidly, but then there are so many constraints to the fishermen in Vieques that you can have all the fish in the world there, but if you are denied access to certain fishing areas, well, you know, what is the use of having all the fish if you can't throw your nets?

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. The mayor says in her statement, you say in your statement, that the Navy has stifled the economic growth on development of the island of Vieques, whereas the Navy, on the other hand, says that they provide the economy with \$4 million annually.

What is your reaction?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Well, just consider—I mean, if you are staying at a small country inn in Vieques during an ocean venture or one of the exercises where they do a live bombing, you know, I honeymooned recently in St. Martin and one of the things that attracted me there was the total silence and the total tranquility that you have there.

In Vieques, you don't have at all times of the year that total tranquility, and if you are going to have tourists planning their vacations based on military schedules, some of which may be known publicly, but others may not be known publicly, well, you know, it stifles tourism activity.

In addition to that, the fact that the municipality of Vieques, and Puerto Rico, as you know, the municipal governments, their major source of income is property taxes. They are not allowed to collect any type of sales taxes or excise taxes. They are not allowed to collect income taxes. So basically property taxes and taxes on business are their major source of income, and you were mayor of San Juan for eight years and have personal knowledge of that.

In Vieques, then you tell them, okay, you can't collect property taxes on two-thirds of the land of your municipality, so that stifles—

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Three-quarters.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Three-quarters of the land in Vieques, and then in the quarter of land that is devoted to civil end use, then almost all of it or most of it is devoted to residential purposes, and residents in Puerto Rico have a \$15,000 exemption over their first home so they don't get much money out of that either, and then there is a number of land use restrictions over the civilian portion of Vieques which were imposed by the Navy many years back.

You can't build any high-rises there. You can't do a number of things there, so their tax base is a fraction of the tax base of the rest of the municipalities in Puerto Rico. So when you consider that the municipal government is one of the promoters of economic development, and then you tie their hands and you tie their feet and you basically stuff their mouths by not allowing them to tax the properties in Vieques, you are stifling economic growth just in that area alone.

I could go—I could talk for an hour about other ways that they stifle economic growth.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Finally, Senator, what is your response to the Navy's assertion that transferring—you were here when the Admiral testified?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Yes, I was.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Transferring the lands under the bill to the municipality of Vieques would severely limit their ability to conduct the kinds of exercises that they conduct in Vieques.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Well, I am not an expert in military matters, but I just can't believe that the Navy's needs today are exactly the same as they were 15 years ago.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Fifty years ago?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. Fifteen. No, I don't know what 50 years is. I am only 37 years old, so I don't know what 50 years is.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. You are a wise guy now.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK-HERNANDEZ. No insult intended, but you know, 15 years ago, we were in the middle of the Cold War. We had ICBM's from Russia, the Soviet Union poised on the United States. You had Soviet nuclear submarines crawling around the Caribbean. You had Fidel Castro exporting revolution in the Americas and Africa and wherever. The situation was totally different, and I just can't believe that the training and military needs of the Navy and the United States Armed Forces today are exactly the same as they were then.

The Admiral has talked about how much it would cost to transfer the ammo depots to other land-based facilities, but he mentioned in passing several times that having those land-based ammo facilities in Vieques precludes the need of having ammunition ships in the exercises.

I am sure that the operation of an ammunition ship would not cost \$300 or \$400 million if they are talking about land-based facilities. So maybe what they should do is seriously consider the possibility of using ammunition facilities on board specialized ships,

which they have, and which they use in other parts of the world, rather than depend on land-based facilities.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you. Thank you very much.

**PANEL CONSISTING OF DR. RAFAEL A. RIVERA-CASTANO, PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE FOR THE RESCUE AND DEVELOPMENT OF VIEQUES; AND, CARLOS VENTURA MELENDEZ, COMMITTEE FOR THE PRO RIGHTS OF VIEQUES FISHERMEN**

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Now, we have the panel of Dr. Rafael A. Rivera-Castano, the President of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques and Mr. Carlos Ventura, Committee for the Pro Rights of Vieques Fishermen.

You may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF DR. RAFAEL A. RIVERA-CASTANO**

Dr. RIVERA-CASTANO. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, you have to excuse me, Mr. Carlos Ventura who was supposed to be with me this panel, but he had to step out of the room for some personal reasons. I hope that he—

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. If he comes back in time, we will listen to him.

Dr. RIVERA-CASTANO. I hope he is back before we finish this. But his statement has been filed with the Commission, and I urge you to really study this statement with all his addenda because they have a very good explanation of the impact of the Navy, especially in the fishermen and the fishermen industry.

But now, as I said, my name is Dr. Rafael A. Rivera-Castano. I am a professor of the University of Puerto Rico, America Sciences campus. I was born and raised in Vieques, and I was one of the ones, of the many Viequeans that had to migrate to the island of Puerto Rico. But luckily since 1992, I went back to Vieques, my beloved island, to live my retirement for the rest of my life.

I am here this afternoon on behalf of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, and I am pleased to present this afternoon our point of view regarding H.R. 3831, a bill also referred to as the Vieques Land Transfer Act of 1994, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Romero-Barceló, and other distinguished Congressmen.

This bill authorizes and directs the transfer of certain lands on the island of Vieques, owned by the U.S. Navy, to the municipality of Vieques. These lands comprise approximately 8,000 acres located in the western part of the island of Vieques designated by the Navy as a Naval ammunition depot.

We regret that these public hearings were not held in Puerto Rico since there are many fellow Puerto Ricans that would liked to express themselves on the benefits of this bill. In lieu of this personal presentation, we are delivering this afternoon a letter with several, over 500 signatures, from residents of Vieques endorsing the approval of bill H.R. 3831.

The committee feels that this act does justice to the residents of Vieques and marks the initial step for the recovery of land in Vieques and, therefore, the initiation of the socioeconomic recuperation of our island.

However, we believe that Subsections (b) of Section 2 should be amended to introduce specific language regarding the time needed to prepare the plan for the use of the recovered lands and to clarify the process for the approval by Congress of such plan.

We feel, however, that when these lands are transferred to the municipality of Vieques, under no circumstances should they be returned to the U.S. Navy since this will only defeat the purpose of the bill. Therefore, Section (2)(b) should reflect this purpose. With these comments, the committee wholeheartedly recommends the approval of H.R. 3831.

In order to back up our position, I would like to make a brief statement on our reasons to recommend the approval of this act.

During the early part of the 1940's, the U.S. Navy acquired by condemnation all the western part of Vieques, that this act pretends to return to the municipality of Vieques now. With this acquisition, Vieques lost the last of its sugarcane factories and the island was thrown into a severe economic situation. Not just 15 percent of unemployment, it is 50 percent of unemployment. It also lost the shortest route of transportation to the main island of Puerto Rico, aggravating the already serious socioeconomic depression, and this is why in Vieques everything costs more, because we have to—the transportation costs more because we have to use a longer distance.

By the mid-1940s, the Navy acquired also by condemnation all the eastern part of the island in order to establish an area for bombing and landing maneuvers. The result of all these land acquisitions was that the civilian population of Vieques was left with only one-third of its island.

Throughout these years the people of Vieques have been struggling to survive. The population has dropped from around 12,000 inhabitants in 1940 to around 8,000 in 1990. All these people live in a small part in the center of the island producing a population density of around 500 persons per square mile, about half of the population density of the whole Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which has one of the highest densities of all the worlds. The urban area of Isabel II, the capital of the island, has approximately 5,600 persons per square mile.

The high population density is one of the factors for severe health problems on the island. A high infant mortality rate, 24.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, a high incidence of alcoholism, drug abuse, and HIV infections. It also contributes to a high environmental contamination, which, added to the contamination produced by the bombing and landing maneuvers in the eastern part of the island, is probably the main factor for the high cancer rate of the island, 279 cases per 100,000 population, higher than all Puerto Rico.

There is no question in our minds that the only way that all socioeconomic indexes in Vieques will improve is with the return of all land occupied by the U.S. Navy to the people of Vieques. The act under consideration by this subcommittee is the first step toward this socioeconomic recovery.

As I said before, for the past 50 years, two-thirds of the land of Vieques have been under the control of the U.S. Navy. Throughout all these years, the people of Vieques have been struggling to sur-

vive and they have been demanding the return of these lands by the U.S. Navy.

Several political and civic groups have started actions to this effect. In the early years of the 1980s, the U.S. Navy prepared an Environmental Impact Statement in response to a lawsuit by the Puerto Rican government against the Navy. In this statement, the Navy admitted the existence in Vieques of hundreds of areas of cultural, historical, and archeological interest, most of them in the lands under Federal jurisdiction.

It also refers to the many areas that are subjected to ecological danger due to naval activities in the island, and I was extremely surprised and amazed to hear Admiral Christensen saying today that this was nothing to do about Vieques and saying a lot of—excuse me, a lot of lies about the Memorandum of Understanding of 1983. I mean, this is something that I did not expect from the Navy this afternoon.

This statement, the statement of impact, this statement also considered the transfer of NAD activities to Pinero Island, near the coast of the main Roosevelt Roads Base as a favorable alternative for the closure of these activities in Vieques and the return of the land to the Puerto Rican government.

Since 1983 they admitted that they wanted to move this land from the NAD.

In March of 1993 with the end of the Cold War and the intention of the U.S. Government to close several armed forces bases in the U.S., the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques was formed. Our purpose was to reinitiate the fight for the transfer of the Navy land to Puerto Rico and help in the planning process for the socioeconomic development of the island.

Our effort has received the backing of the mayor and the municipal assembly of Vieques, the Puerto Rico House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Last February of 1994, we delivered over 4,000 postcards to the White House signed by residents of Vieques asking President Clinton for the closure of all Naval bases on the island.

We feel that we are in the right moment to start a new era in Vieques. The many Viequeans living in the island and the thousands of other brothers and sisters that had to migrate to mainland, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the United States are eagerly awaiting for the moment in which we can say, all Vieques belongs to us, from Punta Arenas to Salinas. I look forward to living peacefully in the most beautiful island in the Caribbean.

We endorse H.R. 3831 and strongly recommend its approval by this subcommittee and eventually by the United States Congress.

Thank you.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Thank you very much, Mr. Rivera-Castano.

[Prepared statement of Dr. Rivera-Castano follows:]

**Statement on HR 3831  
by The Committee for the  
Rescue and Development of Vieques**

On behalf of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, I am pleased to present this afternoon our point of view regarding HR3831, a Bill also referred to as the Vieques Land Transfer Act of 1994, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Romero Barceló and other distinguished congressmen.

This Bill authorizes and directs the transfer of certain lands on the island of Vieques, owned by the U.S. Navy to the municipality of Vieques. These lands comprise approximately 8,000 acres located in the western part of the Island of Vieques designated by the Navy as a Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD).

We regret that these public hearings were not held in Puerto Rico, since there are many fellow Puerto Ricans that would have liked to express themselves on the benefits of this Bill. In lieu of this personal presentation, we are delivering a letter with several signatures from residents of Vieques endorsing the approval of Bill HR 3831.

The Committee feels that this Act does justice to the residents of Vieques and marks the initial step for the recovery of land in Vieques and, therefore, the initiation of the socioeconomic recuperation of our Island. However, we believe that sub-sections (b) and (c) of Section 2 should be amended to introduce specific language regarding the time needed to prepare the plan for the use of the recovered lands and to clarify the process for the approval by Congress of such plan. We feel, however, that when these lands are transferred to the Municipality of Vieques, under no circumstances should they be returned to the U.S. Navy since this will only defeat the purpose of this Bill. Therefore, Section II (b) should reflect this purpose. With these comments the Committee wholeheartedly recommends the approval of HR 3831.

In order to back up our position, I would like to make a brief statement on our reasons to recommend the approval of this Act.

During the early part of the 40's, the U.S. Navy acquired by condemnation all the western part of Vieques, that this Act pretends to return to the municipality of Vieques now. With this acquisition, Vieques lost the last of its sugar cane factories and the island was thrown into a severe economic situation. It also lost the shortest route of transportation to the main island of Puerto Rico, aggravating the already serious socioeconomic depression. By the mid-40's, the Navy acquired also by condemnation all the eastern part of the island

in order to establish an area for bombing and landing maneuvers. The result of all these land acquisitions was that the civilian population of Vieques was left with only 1/3 of its Island.

Throughout these years the people of Vieques have been struggling to survive. The population has dropped from around 12,000 inhabitants in 1940 to around 8,000 in 1990. All these people live in a small part in the center of the island producing a population density of around 500 persons per square mile, about half of the population density for the whole Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which has one of the highest densities of all the world. The urban area of Isabel II, the capital of the island, has approximately 5,600 persons per square mile.

This high population density is one of the factors for severe health problems on the island: a high infant mortality rate (24.5 deaths per 1,000 live births), a high incidence of alcoholism, drug abuse and HIV infections. It also contributes to a high environmental contamination, which, added to the contamination produced by the bombing and landing maneuvers in the eastern part of the Island, is probably the main factor for the high cancer rate for the island: 279 cases per 100,000 population, higher than all Puerto Rico.

There is no question in our minds that the only way that all socioeconomic indexes in Vieques will improve is with the return of all land occupied by the U.S. Navy to the people of Vieques. The Act under consideration by this sub-committee is the first step toward this socioeconomic recovery.

As I said before, for the past 50 years, 2/3 of the land of Vieques have been under the control of the US Navy. Throughout all these years, the people of Vieques have been struggling to survive and have been demanding the return of these lands by the US Navy. Several political and civic groups have started actions to this effect. In the early years of the 80's, the U.S. Navy prepared an Environmental Impact Statement in response to a lawsuit by the Puerto Rican Government against the Navy. In this statement, the Navy admitted the existence in Vieques of hundreds of areas of cultural, historical and archaeological interest. Most of them in the lands under federal jurisdiction. It also refers to the many areas that are subjected to ecological danger due to naval activities in the island. This statement also considered the transfer of NAD activities to Piñero Island, near the coast of the main Roosevelt Roads Base as a favorable alternative for the closure of these activities in Vieques and the return of the land to the Puerto Rican Government.

In March 1993, with the end of the Cold War and the intention of the U.S. Government to close several armed forces bases in the U.S., the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques was formed. Our purpose was to re-initiate the fight for the transfer of

the Navy land to Puerto Rico and help in the planning process for the socioeconomic development of the island. Our effort has received the backing of the Mayor and the Municipal Assembly of Vieques, the Puerto Rico House of Representatives, the Senate and, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Last February 1994 we delivered over 4,000 postcards to the White House signed by residents of Vieques, asking President Clinton for the closure of all Naval bases on the Island.

We feel that we are in the right moment to start a new era in Vieques. The many Viequenses living in the island and the thousands of other brothers and sisters that had to migrate; to mainland Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the United States — are eagerly waiting for the moment in which we can say: "All Vieques belongs to us, from Punta Arenas to Salinas " — and look forward to living peacefully in the most beautiful island in the Caribbean.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, we endorse HR 3831 and strongly recommend its approval by this Subcommittee and eventually by the United States Congress.

Thank you.

September, 1994

**STATEMENT OF CARLOS VENTURA MELENDEZ**

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Now, before we ask any questions, I am going to have Mr. Ventura give his testimony. And we have been advised Mr. Ventura is going to give his testimony in Spanish, so the stenographer will be handed a translation of his testimony for the purposes of the record. Carlos Ventura Melendez.

[The witness read his statement in Spanish.]

[Mr. Ventura Melendez' prepared statement and attachments follow:]

**STATEMENT OF**  
**CARLOS VENTURA MELENDEZ**  
**COMMITTEE PRO RIGHTS OF VIEQUES FISHERMAN**  
**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR**  
**AND INSULAR AFFAIRS**  
**ON H.R. 3831**  
**OCTOBER 4, 1994**

Greetings,

1

My name is Carlos Ventura Meléndez. I live on Bromelia Street in an area of Vieques, Puerto Rico, called Barrio Esperanza. I am here representing the fishermen and as spokesperson for "Grupo Pro Derechos de los Pescadores Viequenses" (Vieques Fishermen's Rights Group). I am a fisherman and come from a family of fishermen, that has fished for its livelihood for generations. I hold a Bachelor's Degree on Secondary Education in Biology for which I took courses in zoology, botany, human anatomy, physical geography, environmental studies, etc.

I am here today to express our support of H.R. Bill No. 3831 which concerns the transfer of lands of Vieques to the people of Vieques, which was submitted by our Resident Commissioner to the United States Congress, Honorable Carlos Romero Barcelo. We fishermen, support this bill which asks the return of approximately 8,000 acres to the Municipal Government of Vieques. These 8,000 acres are now controlled by the United States Navy. We support this Bill because we realize that it will bring great benefit not only to the fishermen, but also to the general population of Vieques, as opposed to the present situation of negative effects from the military presence.

We fishermen have suffered those negative effects on two fronts. As citizens of this island, we are suffering a ruined economy, rampant unemployment, and an exodus of our people in search of employment and better quality of life elsewhere. As fishermen we have suffered the worse torture that any worker could imagine - the destruction of our means of livelihood - the fishing industry of Vieques, which is on its last leg. The United States Navy with their constant bombardment from ships and airplanes destroy natural maritime resources such as fish, coral and reefs, in great quantities. They also destroy our fishing gear with their ship traffic during amphibious maneuvers that often are conducted without notification, or with notification that arrives with insufficient advance warning to allow us to move our gear out of danger; and then they do not honor our legitimate filed claims for damages. (See Annex #1-Admiral's Letter). This destruction greatly affects the fishing production of both fishermen using nets and those that dive for a living. This represents a serious threat to the economic future of our island. Endangered species are

not excluded from this destruction caused by the United States Navy during their military maneuvers. There are many turtle nesting areas destroyed by heavy amphibious equipment transversing the beach areas during these maneuvers. Fishermen have witnessed the death of many marine turtles and other endangered species. If this hearing were held in Vieques, many of these same fishermen would come to testify to you about the destruction caused by the military practices of the Navy.

Because of low production, fishermen and all others who gain economic benefits from this industry are affected, and they are forced to seek public assistance - when you eliminate self employment you thereby increase the need for public assistance. This type of pattern is contrary, for example, to the intention of the J.T.P.A. Law (Job Training Partnership Act), which tries to create self employment opportunities thereby diminishing high rates of dependency on federal assistance programs.

The military presence also affects land crab fishermen on the west of our island, lowering the production of their labors without taking into consideration the high unemployment levels on the island.

We fishermen understand that the military presence also affects all of citizens in the island municipality of Vieques and we furthermore maintain that the return of said lands must be done in such a way that these benefits come directly to the people of Vieques. Among the benefits we might mention is the establishment of the "short sea route" to the main island, this would reduce the cost of travel and exportation of fish and shellfish, thus allowing the fishermen of Vieques to expand marketing to Puerto Rico in a cost effective fashion. Developing this land will improve the economic situation of the fishermen by developing the fishing industry and increasing the demand for our products. Increasing demand will create more jobs in fishing and lower the unemployment level.

Certain areas are over-fished while other areas are not fished at all because of military restrictions. The Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico, Fishing Section, indicates that one of the principal causes for the loss of production of fish is the mangrove and reef destruction which should serve as habitats for various marine species. (See Annex #2-Newspaper article).

We know that the western part of the island can be developed for aquaculture which could increase both the fishing production and species.

repopulation. This part of the island is ideal for the creation of artificial reefs for species repopulation and to serve as a source of resupply and as an example of how to repopulate the eastern end of the island-which is the most affected by military use. We are working with the PR Legislature and the Dept. of Agriculture in the planning of a project to repopulate conch in places perfectly suited for this type of project in Vieques.

We also plan to coordinate a series of projects with pertinent agencies such as the Dept. of Interior (Div. of Fish and Wildlife Service of US ) which is responsible for the restoration of fish populations that have been reduced. (See Annex #3-Related Federal Agencies Literature).

In the same manner we hope to work with the Office of Aquaculture of Dept. of Agriculture since it plays a major role in implementing the projects we propose for the Western End of Vieques.

The Vieques Fishermen's Rights Group has issued an ultimatum (See Annex #4 )to the Navy - but not before having exhausted all other reasonable alternatives. We have been unable to reach an agreeable solution so far. Meanwhile the Navy is reaping propaganda benefits with many publicized reports of their good neighbor policy towards the people of Vieques. In the last edition of The Vieques Times the Navy speaks of eight projects in the planning stage. ( See Annex #5). We must point out that not one job has been created nor have any of these projects become a reality. It is not only the Navy - The Secretary of Defense (See Annex #6), the President's Economic Adjustment Program (See Annex #7), and the U.S. Congress have all publicized super projects for Vieques in fisheries and aquaculture (See Annex #8).

If the Congress of the United States has been misled into believing that there are, or ever were, 400 jobs in a crab farm in Vieques - now is the time to get these facts straight because there are none and never were any. In fact, the Crab Farm Project never got off the ground in Vieques although funds were committed. The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) authorized \$413,000 to train biologists and farmers for the Vieques Project in May, 1986. ( See Annex #9).

The US Agency for International Development authorized \$1.5 million dollars for the Crab Training Programs but put them in place in four foreign flag islands of the Caribbean, namely Grenada, Antigua,

Dominican Republic and Turks-Caicos. That's great for Grenada - but what about Vieques? (See Annex #10)

4

Not one job has been created - then came talk of shrimp and conch in other Navy supplied coastal zones. None of these have passed the planning stage or provided a single job. So the aquaculture projects never got off the ground but the areas which were supposed to be for our benefit still remain restricted and off-limits to fishermen although the Navy had already declared them available for aquaculture.

Of the total fish and seafood consumed in Puerto Rico, 96% is imported, only the remaining 4% is caught or cultivated on the island (Sea Grant UPR). Economic development in Vieques has for many years been hampered by the scarcity of two basic natural resources (1) land (for obvious reasons) and (2) fresh water in agro-industrial quantities. Add to this a real unemployment rate of some 50% (City Hall-Vedco, DoD) and a grim picture emerges.

The Island of Vieques does have, however, an unlimited abundance of one perennial, practically inexhaustible resource on all sides: sea water. It is in this sea water that development must begin.

So scarce has the fish population become in Vieques that our conch / lobster divers and spear fishermen are being killed and crippled by being forced further offshore into deeper and more dangerous waters in search of their livelihood. The log book at Roosevelt Roads Decompression Chamber will bear witness to this.

Vieques originally accepted the military presence to defend the world against the regimen of Hitler and we could understand that this was a legitimate need considering the threat against humanity. Then we further sacrificed for the Korean War effort, followed by the Viet Nam War effort, the Cold War, the Grenada Invasion, - then came the Gulf War, the Somalia humanitarian effort, recently the Haiti invasion — and now they're talking the War Against Drugs. These may all be honorable causes, in their own right, but as the basis for original acceptance changes continually, the people of Vieques can no longer understand the legitimate necessity of their prolonged sacrifice. It must be remembered that as well as sacrificing their lands, the people of Vieques, as all American citizens, have also made the ultimate sacrifice. It has been over 50 years of giving our share, enough already - you have taken our past, give us back our future.

Since you can see your way to support just causes in the name of  
democracy in foreign places around the world, we expect you to support us  
in our just cause of reclaiming our lands in Vieques, Puerto Rico, USA.

5

We also expect you to ensure that all government agencies honor their  
commitments for economic development projects already promised for  
Vieques.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this humble fisherman.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER FLEET AIR, CARIBBEAN  
PSC 1008  
FPO AA 34051-8000

5890  
Ser N02L/022  
11 Jan 94

Mr. Carlos R. Ventura Melendez  
Bromelias Street #393  
Bo. Esperanza  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

Dear Mr. Melendez:


This is in response to your letter of 3 December 1993 regarding the status of your claim for loss of fish traps.

The review of your claim should be completed soon. Several claims filed contemporaneously with yours have been reviewed and settlement offers sent out. The time lag in the processing of your claim is due to the large number received at one time and the necessity of translating the documents, validating receipts, and valuing the lost traps.

Inquiry into the issue you raised concerning the lack of notice regarding naval activities during the period of 22 November through 2 December 1993 indicates that, although notices were issued, they were not posted as required. This omission is regrettable and action has been taken to ensure the timely posting of the notices in the future. The United States Navy will continue to make every effort to provide notice to those effected by its activities and to ensure that the inconvenience caused thereby to Viequesens is minimal.

In closing, however, I would like to state that I encourage anyone with valid cause to file a claim against the Navy for any inadvertent damage which may be caused by our activities. That said, I would also ask you in the future not to include within such claims either your political philosophy or any other disingenuous, poorly written and/or inflammatory rhetoric.

Sincerely,

  
ERNEST R. CHRISTENSEN  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander

# negocios negocios

## Sumergida en aguas

Por MILDRED RIVERA MARRERO  
ESPECIAL PARA EL NUEVO DÍA

**Los  
recursos que  
habitan la  
plataforma  
de Puerto  
Rico son  
escasos**

LA INDUSTRIA de la pesca local sólo produce el 10% del pescado y mariscos que se consume en la Isla y los pescadores responsabilizan al Gobierno de que no haya crecimiento, mientras funcionarios públicos dicen que los recursos marinos del área son escasos.

En el 1992 los puertorriqueños consumieron 498,685 quintales de pescado y marisco (fresco y congelado), según las estadísticas más recientes del Departamento de Agricultura. De eso, 39,837 quintales fueron de producción local, mientras la importación ascendió a 458,848 quintales.

Esos datos podrían ser mayores -porque algunos pescadores no informan sus estadísticas- aunque la proporción se mantendría, según el director del Programa de Pesca del Departamento de Agricultura, Jaime González Azar.

Las razones para que la pesca local no sea mayor varían dependiendo del sector que lo exprese. Varios pescadores entrevistados dijeron que si tuvieran embarcaciones más grandes y mejor equipo pescarían en alta mar y aumentarían su producción. Eso sólo sería posible con ayuda gubernamental, dijeron.

Los pescadores mencionaron a algunas personas que tienen embarcaciones grandes (de más de 50 pies). Estos obtienen hasta 10,000 libras de pescado en una salida, cuando permanecen varios días en alta mar, según González.

SIN EMBARGO, "hay que tener claro que los recursos



# profundas la industria pesquera puertorriqueña

sobre la plataforma de Puerto Rico son escasos", dijo por su parte, el director del Laboratorio de Investigaciones Pesqueras, del Departamento de Recursos Naturales, Walter Padilla. La plataforma es la parte de la Isla sumergida en el mar.

El director señaló que, en alta mar, se encuentran los bancos de peces que van migrando. "¿Que tipo de presión podría aguantar ese recurso?" leamos para que los pescadores del país dependan de él no lo sabemos", dijo.

Debido a esa escasez, González dijo que, aunque un menor equipo aumentaría la producción, esta nunca llegará ni al 50% del consumo total en el País.

El consumo de pescados y mariscos, por otro lado, ha aumentado en los últimos años, según el vicepresidente ejecutivo de Packers Provision, Raul Carbonel. Antes, el grueso de la venta de pescado se hacía durante la Semana Santa, pero actualmente ese producto se vende durante todo el año, señaló.

El tipo de pescado que más se vende en Cuaremas es la sierra, mientras que el resto del año el de mayor demanda es el chillo, según el director del Departamento de Carnes de Pueblo Internacional, Wilfredo Rivera.

El 20% de las ventas de pescado de Pueblo es local. Pero no es común porque casi todos los pescadores del país venden a restaurantes y conocidos.

LA SIERRA comúnmente se importa de la India, mientras que otros especes como el metro, pez San Pedro, atún y chillo se traen de Sudamérica, coincidieron Rivera y el director de mercados de Supermercados Econo, Victor Salas. En las aguas que rodean la Isla hay muchas especies, pero pocos individuos de cada una, comentó González. Jarea, chillo, colitrubia, rayado, metro y sábalo son algunos de las especies que más se encuentran en el área Norte. Pero, las especies y su cantidad son diferentes en cada punto de la Isla.

El área donde más se pesca es el oeste, seguida del sur, del norte y finalmente el este, según el Laboratorio. Esto es por las condiciones climatológicas que imperan en cada área. En el norte, por ejemplo, sólo hay seis o siete meses de buena pesca porque en invierno, si el viento es del norte, el mar se pone bravo", según Gregorio Medina, pescador de San Juan.

La actividad pesquera no tiene una producción fija por-



EL NUEVO DIA TITO GUZMAN

que se depende de la naturaleza. Algunos días el pescador puede obtener 300 libras de pescado o más, en tiempo bueno. "Pero, hay veces que tú vas y no coges ni cinco libras", explicó Medina. El pescador explicó que en tiempo bueno se puede pescar todos los días, pero sino el promedio son tres días semanales.

Según los pescadores entrevistados, el ingreso que se genera, no les da para vivir, por lo que la mayoría tiene otra fuente de ingresos como los cupones de asistencia social o seguro social, en algunos casos.

"TIENEN QUE dejar la pesca de antaño, olvidarse de lo folclórico y antiguo" y utilizar la tecnología, dijo González. El funcionario dijo que los pescadores que tienen grandes embarcaciones y alta producción empezaron con una "voluntad". Recalco que los pescadores que son buenos administradores de sus ingresos pueden progresar.

El único programa gubernamental que ofrece ayuda a los pescadores es el que González dirige en Agricultura. Básicamente, ofrece ayuda técnica a los cerca de 1.800 pescadores del país. De esos, sólo 600 son pescadores a tiempo completo. Además han construido las 50 villas pesqueras existentes. La única ayuda monetaria son \$1.000 para compra de equipo.

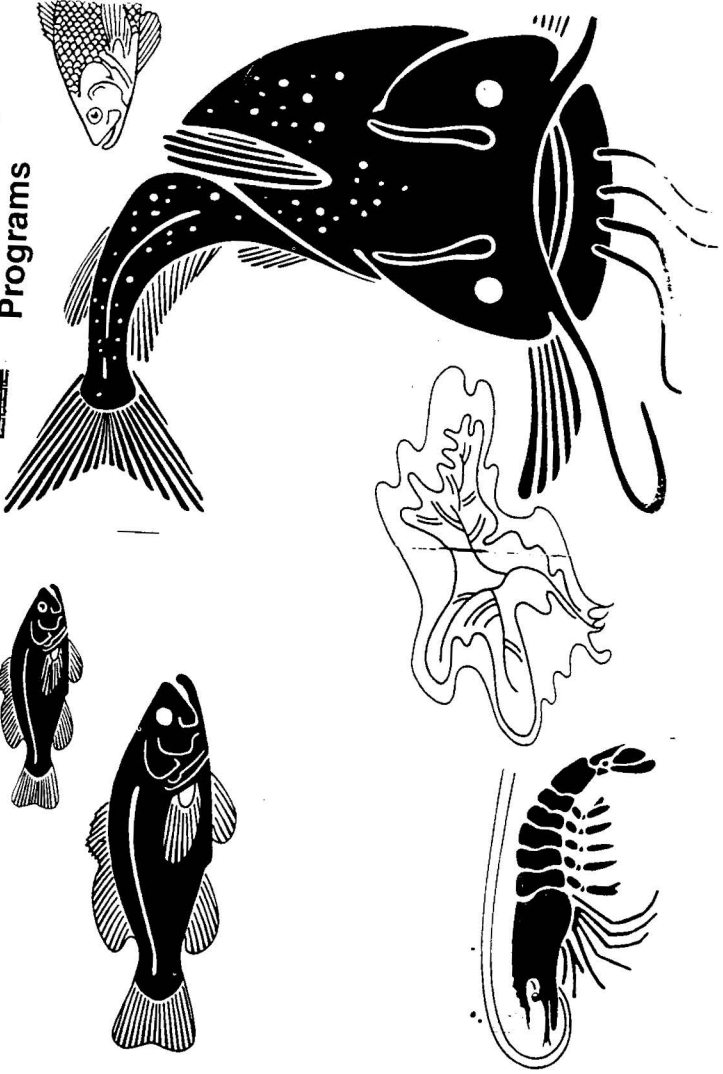
El Laboratorio que estudia la cantidad de recursos en aguas cercanas al país encontró que los peces han escaseado por otras razones, por la destrucción de los mangles y los corales, que sirven de viveros.

La contaminación también ha contribuido a la merma: "En San Juan ya, por la contaminación y por las embarcaciones, no hay muchos peces. La Bahía está muerta", comentó Medina con pescadores de Cataño.

# Aquaculture: A Guide to Federal Government Programs



National  
Aquacultural  
Library



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Veterinary Medicine**

The Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is responsible for the regulation of animal drugs, animal feeds, and veterinary medical devices. The Center's involvement in aquaculture consists of four main areas:

**Approval of Animal Drugs and Feeds**—Under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, animal drugs must ordinarily be approved before distribution and use. Manufacture of medicated feeds may require separate approval. Nondrug feed additives also fall under FDA regulation and ordinarily require approval prior to use. Additionally, CVM supports the IR-4 program relating to the development of new drugs for aquacultural uses.

**Oversight of Drug Distribution and Use**—CVM conducts surveillance and compliance programs relating to animal drugs, animal feeds, and other veterinary medical matters, and coordinates the veterinary medical aspects of FDA inspections.

**Research**—CVM conducts basic drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics research needed to support the development of analytical methods for detection of drug residues in aquaculture species.

**Educational Initiatives**—CVM works with the industry to develop quality assurance programs and educational materials to assist producers in using drugs and chemicals safely in aquaculture production systems.

**For Further Information Contact:**

Center for Veterinary Medicine  
Food and Drug Administration  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
(301) 295-8761 – FAX (301) 295-8807

**New Animal Drug Approval**.....Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation  
(HFV-100) (301) 295-8620 – FAX (301) 295-8297  
**Oversight of Drug Use**.....Office of Surveillance and Compliance  
(HFV-200) (301) 295-8761 – FAX (301) 295-8807  
**Approval of Animal Feeds**.....Division of Animal Feeds  
(HFV-220) (301) 295-8724 – FAX (301) 295-8807  
**Research**.....Office of Science  
(HFV-500) (301) 295-8702 – FAX (301) 295-8298  
**Educational Initiatives**.....Industry Programs Branch  
(HFV-244) (301) 295-8769 – FAX (301) 295-8807

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

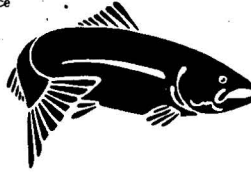
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Department of the Interior, has responsibilities for restoring depleted fish populations, preserving endangered species, mitigating the impacts of Federal water developments on fish populations, managing fish resources on Federal lands, and providing scientific leadership in fishery resource management. A nationwide system of fish hatcheries, fisheries assistance offices, fish health centers, fish technology centers, fisheries research centers, and a training facility are operated to carry out these responsibilities. The Service's fisheries activities involve research, management, and culture of freshwater, anadromous, estuarine, and exotic fishes of recreational, ecological, and commercial importance. The Service has established an aquaculture mission consisting of two broad functions: 1) encourage the development of private aquaculture in a manner that is compatible with responsible natural resource stewardship, and 2) make Service expertise, knowledge, and technical/scientific capabilities in fish culture and related disciplines available to the private aquaculture community.

## For Further Information Contact:

National Aquaculture Coordinator  
ARLSQ 820  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Mail Stop III, Arlington Square  
Washington, DC 20240  
(703) 358-1715  
FAX (703) 358-2210

## For Express or Courier Delivery:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203



**National Sea Grant College Program/National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

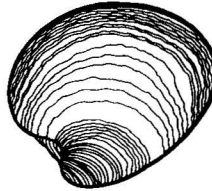
The National Sea Grant College Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts research, extension, and educational programs with universities in all coastal and Great Lakes States. Sea Grant aquaculture research is conducted in many areas: genetics, biotechnology, endocrinology, physiology, pathology, engineering, nutrition, policy, economics, and others. The Program chooses research projects on the basis of scientific merit, peer review, and the present needs of the aquaculture industry. It gives priority to projects that fit both the National Aquaculture and Sea Grant Aquaculture Development Plans. The extension aspect, called Marine Advisory Service, utilizes a corps of area agents and specialists to provide public education, technology transfer, and demonstration projects in aquaculture. The Program develops information generated by Sea Grant and other research for use by groups in the private sector to develop marine aquaculture. The Program is operated through 30 Sea Grant Programs in the coastal and Great Lakes States. Investigators interested in research support should contact the State Sea Grant Directors of their respective States.

**For Further Information Contact:**

Associate Program Director, Aquaculture  
National Sea Grant College Program  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1335 East-West Highway, Room 5492  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 713-2451  
FAX (301) 713-0799

or

Program Director, Marine Advisory Service  
National Sea Grant College Program  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 713-2431  
FAX (301) 713-0799



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Technical Information Service**

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS), an agency of the U. S. Department of Commerce, is the central source for the archive and publication of U.S. Government-sponsored research and development reports on all subjects, including those related to aquaculture, and for sales of foreign technical reports and other analyses prepared by national and local government agencies and their contractors or grantees.

For Further Information Contact:

National Technical Information Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
(703) 487-4650  
FAX (703) 321-8547

For a FREE copy of the NTIS Products and Services Catalog,  
please write or call (703) 487-4650 and ask for PR-827.



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

There are four informational programs sponsored by the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that have applications to the field of aquaculture. These programs provide services and products to a wide range of clientele. They are briefly described below.

The **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS)** is a computer-oriented system operated and maintained by several United States agencies and a network of information centers in member countries. A principal module of ASFIS is the **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)** database. This database covers international aquaculture and other topics in the marine and freshwater environmental sciences. It is available commercially as an online file and on compact disc. ASFA contains over 350,000 literature citations with abstracts. The printed counterpart on aquaculture is "ASFA Aquaculture Abstracts."

The **National Environmental Data REferral Service (NEDRES)** is available commercially as an online database containing over 22,000 descriptions and locations of data files on the environmental sciences, held by people and organizations in the United States and Canada.

The **NOAA Earth System Data Directory (NESDD)** is an online guide to about 700 environmental data sets held by NOAA. Two major functions are: (1) provide NOAA with a common system for documenting data held in NOAA data centers and other organizational components; and (2) provide the research community with the means to locate NOAA data sets.

The **NOAA Library and Information Network** consists of a central library in Rockville, Maryland, major branches in Miami and Seattle, and laboratory-based information centers throughout the United States. Their collections encompass more than one million volumes on marine and atmospheric sciences, aquaculture, and environmental disciplines.

For Further Information Contact:

National Oceanographic Data Center  
 JAA/NESDIS (E/OCx7)  
 User Services Division  
 U.S. Department of Commerce  
 25 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20235  
 (202) 606-4549  
 FAX (202) 606-4586

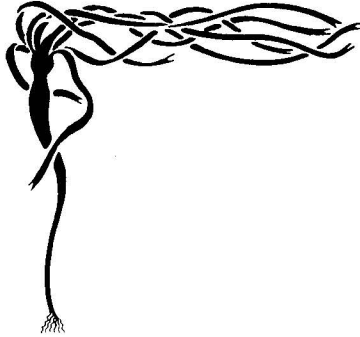
## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Marine Fisheries Service/National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) directs its aquaculture efforts toward managing common property resources and contributing to the ~~restoration~~ and protection of endangered species of stocks. It accomplishes this primarily through in-house research at several NMFS laboratories in the United States. In addition, NMFS disseminates aquaculture-related information and technological advances gained from its fisheries research. NMFS cooperates with Federal and State agencies, international bodies and foreign governments, and university and private interests, and promotes the development and expansion of domestic and international markets for products produced by the U.S. aquaculture industry.

For Further Information Contact:

Aquaculture Specialist  
Office of Research and Environmental Information  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1335 East-West Highway, Room 6314  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 713-2363  
FAX (301) 588-4853



**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

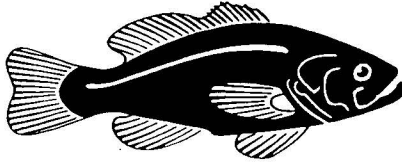
The National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prepares and publishes reports from monthly surveys of catfish processors' round weight processed, end-of-the-month inventories, prices paid to catfish producers, and prices received by processors by methods of sales.

The 16 major catfish-producing States collect and publish producer inventory and sales data. The four largest catfish-producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) collect data quarterly while the other 12 States collect data twice, annually.

Trout producer sales and losses data are collected and published for the 15 major producing States. Survey results are published each year in September.

For Further Information Contact:

Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Branch  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 5906, South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-2000  
(202) 720-6147  
FAX (202) 690-0675



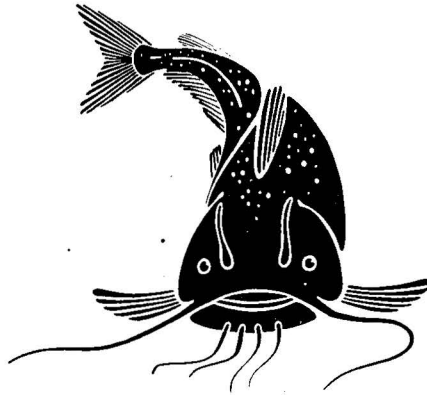
## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Office of Aquaculture**

The Office of Aquaculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the coordinating unit for Department-wide aquaculture activities and provides leadership for the Federal-wide Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture. The Office of Aquaculture also coordinates the operations and activities of the five USDA Regional Aquaculture Centers.

For Further Information Contact:

Director, Office of Aquaculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th and Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Aerospace Building, Suite 342  
Washington, DC 20250-2200  
(202) 401-4929  
FAX (202) 401-5179



# **Ultimátum de los Pescadores Viequenses a la Marina de Guerra de Estados Unidos**

Luego de haber agotado todos los medios de diálogo y gestiones razonables para solucionar el grave problema que representa el uso militar de la Isla Municipio de Vieques por parte de la Marina de Guerra de los Estados Unidos, los pescadores declaramos:

Nuestra más firme determinación a no desaparecer como pescadores y trabajadores del mar.

El derecho a proteger nuestros recursos pesqueros amenazados por las prácticas militares.

Proteger nuestro ambiente, nuestra salud, nuestro bienestar social y económico.

Proteger nuestras artes de pesca y embarcaciones.

Continuar pescando en nuestras aguas sin limitaciones de áreas, días y horas.

Proteger las especies en peligro de extinción.

Garantizarle a nuestros hijos viequenses el disfrute pleno de sus tierras y playas, sin exclusión alguna.

## **Declaramos:**

A la Marina como enemigo de los Pescadores y del pueblo viequense.

Tener derecho a vivir en paz y tranquilidad, lo cual por más de medio siglo nos ha sido negado.

Este ultimátum a la Marina de Guerra para que se retire de nuestra isla y cese su destrucción.

Tener derecho a ejercer cualquier acción futura que garantice la protección de nuestra isla, nuestras artes de pesca, el sustento de nuestras familias y nuestro derecho como trabajadores del mar.

[illegible]

A.C.C

Hestz R. G.  
 Domingo Lopez Dur.  
 Julia Carbon Torra  
 Carlos Ruiz Rodriguez  
 Antebal Medina Maldonado  
 Jorge L. Davina Medina  
 Julia Medina Maldonado  
 Jesus Medina Melendez  
 Jose F. Torres  
 Amibal Garcia  
 Angel M. Ayala  
 Mariano Duran  
 Juan Cornejo  
 Santiago Rosa Torres  
 Juan C. Lopez Duran  
 Jorge L. Medina  
 Carlos Garcia  
 Agustin Cruz Barona  
 Stephen Velazquez  
 Jose A. Brooks  
 Julia Rosa Barona

5

## Economic Development Update

by Lt. Cmdr. Michael K. McCloskey, USN

In my last article in TVT, I promised you an update on my economic development projects for Vieques. Before I do that, I'd like to ask for a favor: I need assistance in the promotion of Vieques to potential clients (called "prospects") and would like the support of public groups of Vieques to help in this effort. If you or your group is interested, please write to me at the address given at the end of this article with what you can do to help promote jobs on Vieques.

Since arriving in Puerto Rico two years ago, I have worked nearly non-stop on the economic development of Vieques. Carrying forth the projects begun by Fabian Martinez, I have promoted those and begun promotions of my own. But in your views, I'm sure, not much has changed over those two years. Well that's the process of economic development. We're playing with other people's money in this game, and things happen on their schedule, not yours or mine.

One of the biggest detractors in the development, however, has been a feeling of uneasiness on the island. When those feelings are displayed publicly, many of the potential investors that I've taken to the island have left with the feeling of, "Why should I put my money where there is such uneasiness and strife". We all have concerns about the future of the island, but those need to be reflected in a positive fashion, creating an environment that portrays an island that is willing to do what it takes to have business plant their roots there. I invite each of you to join me in creating that atmosphere.

Now, for what's cooking in my pot right now. AGRO VIEQUES is still struggling with some Commonwealth agencies for his plans. It has been over one year now since we entered into the lease agreement with this cattle and hay project, but we look forward to this being one of our most productive efforts once these hurdles are cleared.

VIEQUES MARINE LABORATORIES is also struggling with DNRE and the PR Planning Board for his permits. The Navy has been most supportive of this project, offering Mr. Connelly property next to Puerto Ferro for his facility should he obtain all the necessary permits for his shrimp farm. However, he recently received a shutdown from the Planning Board, sighting an objection from DNRE. This should be a continuing story, for Mr. Connelly is appealing that decision.

BILI VIEQUENSE is a new project with has tremendous potential and may be the first thing going in the short term. The Navy will be leasing 30-50 acres of land to this company for the growing of quenepa trees whose fruit will be processed into

"Bili" in a Vieques factory. The Agriculture Extension Service on Vieques is a prime supporter and facilitator of this project.

ALOE VERA FARM is a project that is progressing well. Land on the NAF will be leased for the cultivating of this plant and then extracted in a Vieques plant facility for use by various U.S. and foreign companies. The potential for this project is extremely high.

MULTI-TENANT PRIDCO BUILDING for use by smaller companies is a project that I picked up from Fabian Martinez, who fought very hard during his time to have this implemented. According to sources at PRIDCO, they are nearly ready to start the division of the old "Artais" building into four smaller units.

LIVING MACHINE WATER RECLAMATION feasibility study done by Dr. John Todd several months ago at Navy expense is nearly completed. The initial report is that the Vieques sewage treatment plant outputs water into the ocean that is nearly ideal for use in agricultural fields. This water has the capability of being "recaptured" and used to irrigate fields. The method of recovery and transportation was what Dr. Todd studied while on Vieques in February. Dr. Todd commended the Vieques plant, stating that it is one of the best run treatment facilities he has ever been witness to. Congratulations.

TOURISM PROJECTS. The "Casa de Playa" hotel project on the north shore property near the airport is about to begin. This project, as reported by the San Juan Star, is endorsed by the Williams Hospitality group which now manages the Conquistador hotel in Fajardo and several of the large hotels in San Juan. Great and wonderful things should come from this project, including many jobs.

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs) are buoys placed below the water to attract "bait fish" those smaller fish that bigger fish eat for lunch. The Navy has been working with DNRE for several months now on the development of FADs to be placed around Vieques. This will be a pilot study which if successful, may help the fishing population of all of Puerto Rico by placing FADs at other locations as well.

That's it for right now. There actually are more projects, but I'm running out of space to explain them here. If you'd like to participate in the development of these projects which will provide jobs for you or your neighbor, please let me know. I may be reached at: LCDR M.K. McCloskey, Vieques Economic Development, U.S. Navy Compound, 405 Ponce De Leon Ave., Box 1, San Juan, P.R. 00905



**La Casa del Estudiante**  
de Miguel A. Bonano  
**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
Calle Carlos LeBrun 741-0017



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

12 APR 1986



Honorable Rafael Hernandez Colon  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
La Fortaleza  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936

Dear Governor Hernandez:

I am writing to ask for your personal attention to a very important project that is being developed as part of our cooperative effort to improve the economy of Vieques.

Last year my Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) funded the ~~Smithsonian Institution's~~ Marine Systems Laboratory (MSL) to conduct a feasibility study for Caribbean king crab "farming" in Vieques, using recent breakthroughs in mariculture technology. The study identified one suitable site, located on U.S. Navy property.

The Navy determined that use of the site would not interfere with its operations. As a leading proponent of the Vieques development program, it quickly offered full support for a crab mariculture project. I understand that the project was highlighted in communications to you from RADM Diego E. Hernandez just before he left his position as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Caribbean, last June and that it is being actively promoted by his successor, RADM William J. O'Connor.

During the last few months, a private non-profit organization, The ~~Mariculture Institute~~, was created to facilitate the commercial application of MSL's technology. It has joined with the ~~Foundation for Marine Arts and Sciences~~, a Puerto Rican non-profit organization, to develop a mariculture project in Vieques that should create up to 100 jobs.

Although the project is important for employment generation and economic diversification in Vieques, ~~there are wider ramifications.~~ The new technology has attracted intense interest from government and business around the world. Demonstration projects are being conducted by the MSL in several Caribbean locations. The Vieques project will include R&D to improve the technology and test its applicability to some 100 marine species. Puerto Rican marine biologists will be the first in the world to be trained in the new technology outside of the MSL. This should permit Puerto Rico to exercise a leadership position in training and technical assistance in the Caribbean and worldwide.

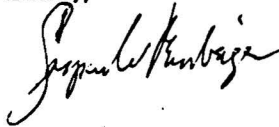
The Vieques project will build on Puerto Rico's strong reputation in marine sciences. Eventually it could result in the development of new sites, new skills, and new products; in short, an entirely new industry that would benefit everyone.

To date the crab mariculture project has received exceptional support from your Right to Work Administration, and from your Department of Natural Resources, including the Corporation for Marine Resource Development. Full implementation and long-term success will require top level involvement, expeditious attention, and close coordination from a broad spectrum of Puerto Rican government and business organizations.

I am sure you appreciate the importance of this project, and I ask that you ensure it receives the strong support it deserves. You may rely on our continued assistance in gaining similar attention from government and business on the U.S. mainland.

Please accept my kindest regards, as well as my thanks for the very enthusiastic and effective help that the Vieques program has received from everyone in the Government of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Pumbaga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

cc: J. Goodrich, Under Secretary of the Navy  
J. Fuster, Resident Commissioner, Puerto Rico  
M. Santiago, Mayoress of Vieques

**ECONOMIC  
ADJUSTMENT  
PROGRAM  
FOR  
VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO**



**President's Economic Adjustment Committee  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301**

**February 1986**

OCT 84 - Navy contracts for update of Vieques environmental impact studies and preparation of a land management plan for its properties. (\$485,000).

NOV 84 - Layout is completed for first Vieques promotional brochure for industrial and tourism development.

DEC 84 - Dandie Corporation makes presentation to DLA. Requests support for a \$1.6 million project under the Defense Department's Industrial Modernization and Improvement Program (IMIP).

FEB 85 - GLIE Farms contracts with local farmer to conduct test plantings of herbs. Tenneco Corporation technician visits Vieques to conduct soil samples for planned GLIE Farms herb farm.

MAR 85 - At OEA request, Smithsonian Marine Research Laboratory submits proposal for mariculture feasibility study.

MAR 85 - U.S. Geological Survey technicians provide results of aquifer study to VEDC.

MAR 85 - VEDC and PRIDCO inspect PRIDCO properties in La Esperanza. Deficiencies in current use under lease are identified.

MAR 85 - VEDC and Puerto Rico Economic Development Administration conduct extensive labor availability survey. Confirms at least 750 people looking for jobs.

APR 85 - OEA contracts with Smithsonian Institution for mariculture feasibility study (\$6000).

APR 85 - Navy procurement team from Charleston Naval Supply Center visits Vieques to explore contracting possibilities.

APR 85 - Smithsonian research vessel in Vieques. Study conducted.

JUN 85 - Smithsonian submits report to OEA. A site is identified which is suitable for a mariculture demonstration using Caribbean King Crab.

JUN 85 - Economic Analysis Division of the Puerto Rico Economic Administration releases report, "Characteristics of Unemployment in Vieques," based on the survey work.

JUN 85 - Puerto Rico Economic Development Administration completes preliminary plans and environmental assessment for jewelry industrial park.

MAY 85 - Application for HUD UDAG funds is submitted for Puerto Real hotel and convention center project.

JUN 85 - Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corporation (PRIDCO) provides 11,500 sq.ft. of industrial space under lease to Vieques Graphics.

JUN 85 - Ceremony held in Vieques to formally announce Sparatec contract with General Dynamics.

JUN 85 -OEA, Navy and Smithsonian representatives meet with Puerto Rico's Secretary of Natural Resources. He agrees to fund a Caribbean crab mariculture project in Vieques.

JUN 85 - Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) shuts down Vieques Air Link.

JUL 85 - VEDC Director visits Washington to promote projects with federal agencies. high level meetings are arranged by OEA in its role as staff to the President's Economic Adjustment Committee. (EAC).

AUG 85 - Municipality of Vieques submits application to HUD for \$2.5 million UDAG grant for waste treatment plant essential for jewelry manufacturers' industrial park.

AUG 85 - Crown Air initiates commuter service to Vieques.

AUG 85 - Puerto Rico Land Administration makes 200 acres available for lease to GLIE Farms for aromatic herb project.

AUG 85 - VEDC solicits technical assistance from an independent New England fisherman who has achieved notice for bringing in high catches with modern boat and state-of-the-art electronic gear.

AUG 85 - Institute for Fishing opens

SEP 85 - Newport News Shipbuilding and GLIE Farms enter formal joint venture for Vieques herb farm.

SEP 85 - Newport News Shipbuilding agrees to joint venture with GLIE Farms of Bronx, N.Y. to create a 200-acre herb farm and packaging house in Vieques. The project is a result of the "Top Ten" program. It will create 40 jobs to start, growing to 75. It could reach 200 jobs, if fully successful.

# Integrated Renewable Resource Management for U.S. Insular Areas



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
**Office of Technology Assessment**  
Washington, DC 20510-8025

the United States rights to convert certain well-defined areas in Palau into bases or training areas. Implementation of such plans presumably depends on the evolving situation in the Philippines and/or the pace and level of Soviet military activities in the area.

2. A major air base for dispersed operations may be constructed on Tinian as a backup to Andersen AFB on Guam. However, there are no indications of any serious moves by DOD to do this over the next several years.
3. KMR might be expanded or an alternative range developed to allow testing of the MX missile. Preliminary surveys during the late 1970s identified the CNMI as a possible site for a "mini-KMR." As yet there is no evidence that DOD plans either action.

### **Ecological and Economic Effects of the Military Presence**

Views regarding the effects of the U.S. military on the islands are mixed. Many islanders welcome the economic and job benefits derived from the presence of military bases. Others cite the loss of valuable lands, negative cultural impacts (e.g., undermining of traditional values), attraction of undesirable elements, inflation, overcrowding of schools, degradation of water quality, and restrictions on economic growth.

#### **Pacific**

Guam's local government concedes the critical importance of bases there to U.S. security interests, but contends that much of the land presently occupied is redundant to principal missions. U.S. military authorities strongly disagree, citing the need to be prepared for several major contingencies, including the phasing down or replacement of key facilities in the Philippines. DOD currently is reassessing its land requirements on Guam, but is unlikely to recommend a reduction of these requirements. However, some lands held for military purposes contain large areas of natural habitat, for which DOD ownership has provided de facto protection to wildlife populations.

The operations at KMR have a profound effect on local inhabitants and ecology. Water availability, quality, and wastewater disposal all pose problems. The concentration of 8,000 Micronesians on the 66-acre island of Ebeye is an extreme example of the U.S. military's impact. Ebeye is severely overcrowded; acute socioeconomic problems and sub-

standard housing, medical facilities, schools, and related amenities have resulted.

Most of the residents of Ebeye migrated there from the "outer" Marshall islands, drawn by well-paying jobs at KMR or because relatives work there. Most are denied access to base facilities, although these restrictions have been relaxed over the past several years. Ebeye has been the recipient of a number of U.S. programs and funds, most of which have been funneled into infrastructure such as a desalination plant and a sewage treatment facility.

#### **Caribbean**

Naval forces in Puerto Rico have been extremely helpful to local authorities during and after major storms and flooding by providing transport, medical assistance, and earth-moving equipment. Naval forces at Roosevelt Roads also conduct a number of civic action projects locally. DOD also increased defense contracting in Puerto Rico from \$187 million in fiscal year 1983 to \$417 million for the first 11 months of 1985.

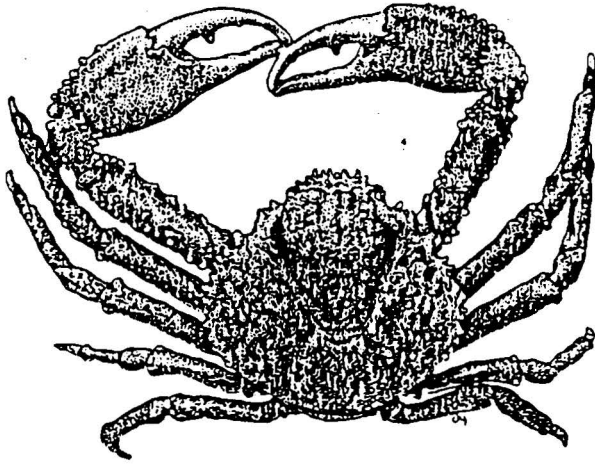
Under a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Navy (USN) and the Government of Puerto Rico, DOD has undertaken a number of measures to improve the welfare of the people of Vieques, through the provision of medical equipment, supplies for local hospitals, assistance in public works construction, and a concerted effort to attract American industries to the island resulting thus far in 366 new jobs. In addition, it contracted with the Smithsonian Institution to provide a major study of the mariculture potential of that island. This has led to the creation of some 400 jobs.

Most environmental problems resulting from U.S. military activities on U.S.-affiliated islands appear to have resulted from the lack of understanding or awareness of procedures, or from insensitivity on the part of individual military officers, rather than from the absence of relevant policies or directives. Military officers generally lack the time, staff, and training to handle resource protection responsibilities, and the military has been slow to comply with some local environmental regulations.

### **Procedures To Consider Environmental and Land-Use Issues in Extant Military Installations and Activities**

The U.S. military has a variety of procedures to consider environmental and land-use issues in its island operations, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and three DOD

PROPUESTA DE ADIESTRAMIENTO EN  
MARICULTURA Y DESARROLLO COMERCIAL DEL  
CANGREJO GIGANTE DEL CARIBE  
(CARIBBEAN KING CRAB)



INSTITUTO DE LAS ARTES Y CIENCIAS MARINAS DE  
PUERTO RICO, INC.

MARINE SYSTEMS LABORATORY  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico

Departamento del Trabajo y Recursos Humanos

*Administración del Derecho al Trabajo*  
AREA PROGRAMAS ESPECIALES

### RESUMEN EJECUTIVO

#### PROPUESTA:

Adiestramiento para la Crianza y Desarrollo Comercial del Cangrejo Gigante del Caribe (Caribbean King Crab).

#### DESCRIPCION:

El Departamento de la Defensa de los Estados Unidos, a través de la Oficina de Ajuste Económico, auspició el Laboratorio de Sistemas Marinos del Smithsonian Institution en Washington D.C., para realizar estudios de las aguas que rodean la Isla de Vieques.

Se determinó que la bahía conocida como Ensenada Honda, en la costa Sureste de Vieques, es el sitio ideal para el cultivo y desarrollo del Cangrejo Gigante del Caribe y las turbaş de algas marinas, como su alimento principal. Se comprobó que el peso, sabor, tamaño y calidad del Cangrejo, compara muy favorablemente con el "Alaskan King Crab".

A estos efectos el Sr. Dennis Farrier, Director Ejecutivo del Instituto de Maricultura y Consejero Especial del Laboratorio de Sistemas Marinos del Smithsonian, coordinó con el Lcdo. Roberto Alonso, Director del Instituto de las Artes y Ciencias Marinas de P.R., el adiestramiento de cinco (5) Biólogos y veinte (20) Maricultores.

Resumen Ejecutivo  
Página -2-

Este proyecto contribuirá enormemente a la producción de mariscos para el mercado local generando una producción anual promedio de 1.5 millones de cangrejos que producirán ventas anuales de seis (6) millones de dólares.

Se crearán además cien (100) nuevos empleos directos que contribuirán al desarrollo económico de Puerto Rico.

PROPONENTE:

Instituto de las Artes y Ciencias Marinas de Puerto Rico

LOCALIZACION DEL CENTRO DE ADIESTRAMIENTO:

Facilidades Smithsonian Institution

- a) República Dominicana
- b) Grand Turk
- c) Vieques

COMPROMISO DE AUTOEMPLEO:

60% de los participantes quedarán establecidos en autoempleo.  
(Los cinco biólogos quedarán empleados por el Instituto).

DURACION:

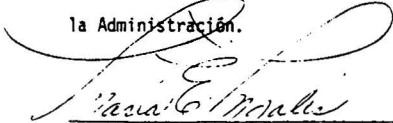
- a) Biólogos - 18 meses
- b) Maricultores - 6 meses (incluido en el período de los 18 meses de adiestramiento)

Resumen Ejecutivo  
Página -3-

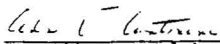
DESGLOSE DE COSTOS:

Partida	Costo Adiestramiento 5 Biólogos (18 meses)	Costo Adiestra- miento 20 Técni- cos (6 meses)
Matrícula	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 94,500.00
Personal Docente	67,293.00	7,500.00
Coordinador y Asesores	35,748.00	17,874.00
Facilidades Físicas	9,456.00	5,400.00
Dietas	16,920.00	15,600.00
Hospedaje a Participantes	6,000.00	3,385.00
Transportación Aérea	17,815.00	2,385.00
Mantenimiento de Estructura Físicas	1,800.00	1,800.00
Materiales a Participantes	1,415.00	20,550.00
Equipo	1,415.00	38,000.00
Costo total	<u>203,511.00</u>	<u>209,909.00</u>
Costo por participantes	<u>40,702.00</u>	<u>10,495.00</u>
Gran total		<u>\$413,420.00</u>

La A.D.T. proveerá los fondos para el Pago por Necesidades de  
Servicio (NBP) a los participantes de acuerdo a lo establecido por  
la Administración.

  
Firma Técnico

19 mayo, 1986  
Fecha

  
Firma Director del Área

19 de mayo de 1986

## KING CRAB, ALIVE AND WELL KING CRAB PROGRAM, COMATOSE



### Caribbean King Crab Overshadows Adult West Indian Stone Crab

The King Crab pictured above weighed four pounds and had a claw-span of two feet, nine inches. It was caught off Esperanza and was eaten in a salad by the Times staff. Delicious! As was the Stone Crab, or Juey Dormido.

And there's more where they came from. Cheché knows where. Cheito knows where and so does Tofin and so do we.

Last year Dr. Walter Adie of the Smithsonian Institution and his crew of scientists aboard the research vessel Marsys Resolute determined that Vieques was a suitable location for King Crab mariculture. Not surprising, really, when one considers the fact that the Caribbean King Crab (or *Mythrax spinosissimus* as the biologists prefer) is a year-round resident and always has been, even before food stamps and grant moneys.

Anyway the Smithsonian's Marine Systems Laboratory came up with what appeared to be the perfect program. Utilize their Algal Turf technology to raise the big crabs in captivity. Create a hatchery, train local biologists and fishermen. Parcel out sections of a huge crab ranch in Ensenada Honda which the Navy was

willing to relinquish. Provide 100 jobs and train a cadre to export the technology to the hungry nations and convert Vieques into the Caribbean center for Marine Studies. Not to mention making available a great supply of delicious, organic seafood for local consumption and for export.

Everybody loved it. It made sense. Corporations were formed, foundations contacted, clout letters circulated, scientist-educators recruited, proposals printed and the government agencies jockeyed for position. It was so good everybody wanted in.

Classes were to begin last August. Then, make it September or October, etc. Now the whole thing's "on hold." There is no official commentary. One outfit blames the "delay", on unscrupulous consultants, another says the crabs won't eat enough here, someone else says there's a hassle over who should pay who's airline tickets. Meanwhile there's no project for Vieques although over one million U. S. dollars have been pumped into crab projects in four foreign-flag islands in the Caribbean.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. As far as the signatures that were included by the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, they will also be made part of the record with the testimony.

First of all, I would like to talk to Dr. Rivera Castano. In your testimony, you talked about the needs for the future. Now, do you perceive this reclamation of land only as a first step towards getting the other land?

Dr. RIVERA-CASTANO. Yes, sir. We feel that this is the first step in order to get the whole island for the Viequeans. We need this right now to start the development, because once we start the developing of the island, once we start the recuperation of the socioeconomic indices of Vieques, we will also be in a good position to develop the rest of the island and eventually we will have the whole island for us.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Let me suggest that the reason I—one of the first reasons I filed the bill only regarding the 8,000 acres in the west, first of all, because it is the closest to Puerto Rico and the use of it is much more difficult to justify national defense, national interests, much more difficult, and so we have seen today, the Navy was unable to prove that they need it for national defense.

Dr. RIVERA-CASTANO. Right.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. So I am not so sure that it will help our cause for the time being to be talking about getting all the lands. When it comes down to a vote, if we get this bill passed in the next year or the next two-year term, if it comes down to a vote, I am not so sure that talking about this being a first step to getting the rest will help in getting the votes we need.

I just want you to keep that in mind. The reason now, the best way to get this land is because it is very difficult for the Navy to establish that it is in the national interest, and once we get that, from then on, we see what happens. Just as a comment.

Are there any other comments that you wish to make for the record besides your testimony?

Dr. RIVERA-CASTANO. No. I hope that—as you mentioned before, this bill will be reintroduced in January and we will keep in touch with your office and all the Congressmen that sponsored this bill, because we really would like to help in any way possible to help this bill to be approved by Congress and eventually signed by the President before the term this year—next Congress adjourns.

We will be—the committee is—we have a lot of—many experts and we have many consultants in the area of the development and planning and economic development, and we are willing to use and help both your office and the office of the mayor in order to prepare the plan that is required by the bill in order to develop the area.

So we, the committee, are ready and most interested in helping this bill.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. We appreciate your offer to help and I think it is important that we take into consideration the interest and the desires of the people of Vieques and their suggestions, and you certainly should be consulted and taken into consideration and asked to contribute to the study and to the report.

[Carlos Ventura speaking Spanish.]

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. If there are no more witnesses, I want to thank all of you here for your testimony, for all the help you have given us in giving us the facts and evidence and information for this record. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 5:40 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

## APPENDIX

OCTOBER 4, 1994

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

*Partido Popular Democrático*



October 5, 1994

The Honorable Ron de Lugo  
Chairman,  
Subcommittee on Insular  
and International Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your invitation to testify at the Subcommittee public hearing scheduled for October 4, on H.R. 3831. As you know, unfortunately I was unable to travel to Washington on that occasion. However, I prepared the written testimony accompanying this letter, which I am now filing at your office and asking that it be made part of the printed record of said hearing.

Thank you again for your keen interest in Puerto Rican affairs and for all that you have done to further the bests interests of our people.

Sincerely,



Celeste Benítez

Vieques, and promised to play an active role in the creation of jobs for its residents.

In spite of this agreement, economic hardship for the people of Vieques has become endemic. While the 1990 U.S. Census fixes the per capita income of residents of Puerto Rico at \$4,185 a year, the equivalent figure for Vieques is \$2,605: only 62% of the Island-wide totals. The median level of income per household in Puerto Rico in 1990 was \$8,895; in Vieques, the equivalent figure was \$5,864: 66% of the Island-wide median. Those same Census figures state that the average income per household in Puerto Rico was \$13,777; in Vieques the average income per household was only \$8,335: only 60% of the Island-wide figures.

As a result of the depressing reality these statistics describe, whereas in Puerto Rico 55% of all families live under the poverty level, in Vieques the equivalent figure is 70%: seven out of ten Vieques families live under the poverty level.

These figures clearly demonstrate that the 1983 agreement between the Navy and the Commonwealth government did not meet the expectations that the agreement had created. By signing it, the Navy recognized that its presence in Vieques limits the growth of the Island's economy. Now it is time for all parties involved to recognize that a new development plan is needed, and that the transfer of land from the Navy to the municipal government must be part of any initiative seeking to create jobs and a better quality of life for the people of Vieques.

The Navy's occupation of two-thirds (68%) of the Island's surface area during the 1940's dealt a fatal blow to the sugar cane industry, then the mainstay of Vieques' as well as of Puerto Rico's economy. At first, the Navy employed laborers who used to work in the cane fields to build the military installations. However, once the

installations were built, the workers were left unemployed. This brought about the migration of unemployed "viequenses" to the islands of St. Croix and Puerto Rico, as well as to the U.S. mainland.

However, the circumstances that moved the Navy to occupy two-thirds of Vieques during the 1940's are not present today. Gone are the days of the Second World War and the German threat; gone also are the days of the Cold War and the communist threat. With the collapse of the Soviet empire and the easing of east-west tensions, the United States has reduced its military operations, and is closing military bases in the U.S. and abroad. It is in the light of these developments that we must evaluate this bill.

We Puerto Ricans recognize and support the important role the U.S. Navy plays in the protection of our country and of our democratic system. Committed to the principle of common defense, one of the pillars of the Commonwealth relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, thousands of Puerto Ricans have served and continue to serve as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Thousands of our countrymen have fought gallantly in all of the armed conflicts in which the United States has participated since World War I, offering their lives in the defense of the values and the interests that bind both our peoples together.

H.R. 3831 does not propose to transfer all the land the Navy possesses in Vieques to the municipal government. It would only transfer 8,000 acres in the western part of the island, where the Navy has built an ammunitions depot. The Navy would retain the eastern part of the island, where military maneuvers are performed. Moreover, this bill has no effect whatsoever on the Roosevelt Roads base in Ceiba.

The proposed transfer would allow the inhabitants of Vieques to develop their own economy,

without having to leave the island in search of jobs and a better quality of life. Part of the 8,000 acres could be used to grow crops and raise cattle needed for local consumption. The fishing industry would also benefit from having better land access to the sea and to areas and fisheries now reserved for the exclusive use of the Navy.

Furthermore, contrary to the eastern side of the island, used extensively for military exercises, the Navy has used the western side mainly to house an ammunitions depot. As a result, the land to be transferred continues to possess its natural beauty, making it an excellent location for the development of tourism. The municipal government could join forces with the Commonwealth government and the private sector to develop eco-tourism projects on the island.

Finally, by building a new port in the western side of the island, the travel time to and from Puerto Rico would be shortened. As a result of lower transportation costs, residents of Vieques would benefit from a lower general price index, and lower production costs could serve as an incentive for business investment. The new port would also benefit tourism, making Vieques more accesible to visitors.

But the proposed transfer is not only about economic growth and jobs. It is also about improving the living standards and the quality of life of the people of Vieques. The positive economic impact of the land transfer should reduce the intolerably high number of families living below the poverty line. Moreover, the transferred land would be available to provide residents with basic services which are now inadequate or nonexistent: housing, schools, hospitals, libraries, child care centers, parks and recreation facilities, to mention only some of the possible uses identified in the bill.

Because it would bring about long-awaited justice and hope for the people of Vieques, I strongly urge

this Subcommittee to vote favorably on this bill. Due to the fact that this 103rd. Congress is about to expire, I strongly urge Resident Commissioner Romero Barceló to resubmit this bill early enough in the next Congress, so that it may have a better chance than H.R. 3831 to become law.

Once again, we commend Subcommittee Chairman De Lugo for his life-long efforts devoted to helping my fellow countrymen obtain the justice we, as a people, deserve. Please receive the very best wishes for continued happiness and success from a grateful Puerto Rico.

###

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER ONE

**Mr. De Lugo:** In 1973 after years of protest by the people of Culebra and the Puerto Rican government as well [as] members of the House and Senate, the NAVY agreed to cease its operations in Culebra. The Secretary of Defense directed the NAVY to relocate its range facilities to an uninhabited islands of Monito and Desecheo in the Western part of Puerto Rico. The Military Construction Appropriations for FY 74 contained 12 million dollars to facilitate the move.

Why was this plan not carried out? What happened to the appropriation?

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** The Navy was required to cease all target operations on the island of Culebra in 1975. A condition imposed by Congress was that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico would provide a suitable alternative site, utilizing Commonwealth territory. The objective was to replace Culebra, not Culebra and Vieques (which was an active exercise location before that time). To date, no suitable alternatives for Culebra have been offered or identified by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The only alternatives ever proposed to replace Culebra have been unacceptable for many reasons.

— One alternative was two islands in the Mona Passage between Puerto Rico and the coastline of the Dominican Republic, the islands of Monito and Desecheo. These are totally unsuitable because they are located near major ocean shipping and air traffic corridors, and because of their proximity to Borinquen Airport. In addition, the topography and size of the islands make them unfit for use as target complexes, and both islands are 160 miles distant from Roosevelt Roads — too far away for substantial air exercise capabilities because of increased fuel consumption and reduced time on target, thus making it unsuitable as a target complex.

— Another alternative offered was Dog Island, 10 miles from Anguilla. Dog Island is a possession of Great Britain, not Commonwealth land as Congress directed, and is closer to the islands of three other nations than Vieques is to Puerto Rico. Dog Island is 140 miles from Roosevelt Roads, and as the case of Monito and Desecheo, would be too far away for air exercises.

We are still researching the disposition of the FY 74 \$12 million appropriation. Upon our conclusion of this investigation, we will forward that information to the Subcommittee.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER TWO

Mr. De Lugo: After President Nixon terminated the NAVY's use of Culebra by executive order in 1974 a joint DOD and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Committee was formed (as the Armed Forces Committee Report of February of 1981 states) to find an alternative site for Culebra.

This joint Committee was reconstituted in 1977. Were any recommendations made for an alternative site?

It is clear that Vieques was not supposed to be an alternative site for Culebra. Under what authority did the NAVY, in effect, relocate Culebra operations to Vieques?

Rear Admiral Christensen: I do not have at my disposal minutes of the joint DOD/Commonwealth Committee that you refer to as being active in 1977. As such, I am unable to provide a reasonable answer to that question.

In regard to the transfer of operations from Culebra to Vieques, I do not believe that to be the case. As mentioned in the previous answer, target operations on Vieques had been ongoing long before the talk -- or action -- of closing the range on Culebra. Also, it was the intent of Congress to keep range operations on Puerto Rican territory; but a suitable alternative was not found. Therefore, the operations on Culebra were closed and Vieques operations remained ongoing.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER THREE

**Mr. De Lugo:** In his 1979 First Circuit Court Appeal then Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo argued that the NAVY violated acts of Congress by transferring military activities from Culebra to Vieques. To avoid the lawsuit the NAVY signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1983.

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** In that a copy of then Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo's argument before the First Circuit Court of Appeals is not available, and in that the suit was settled by virtue of the MOU, signifying that both parties to this MOU agree to settle and drop their suits through this document, the arguing of this point is rather moot.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER FOUR

**Mr. De Lugo:** Under Section I on Community Assistance of this Memorandum the NAVY agreed to continue "an ongoing effort to seek out and encourage civilian industry to locate their operations on the island."

Can you tell this Subcommittee how many industries has the NAVY been able to establish in Vieques since the signing of this Memorandum?

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** Since the signing of the 1983 MOU, the Navy and the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense have been actively engaged in attempting to relocate industries to the island of Vieques. Even before the MOU, the Navy was active in seeking new employment opportunities for the residents of Vieques, especially in the apparel industry.

The following is a list of some of the companies the Navy had a role in attracting to Vieques:

**Navy had MAJOR role**

Sun Ray Setting

A jewelry firm from Puerto Rico.

Vieques Graphics

A printing operation set up by Sperry Corporation.

Sparatec

A defense contractor doing work for Grumman.

SBG

"South Bronx Greenhouse," a producer of herbs.

Artis Industries

A start-up wire harness firm and proposed manufacturer of automatic weather reporting devices.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER FOUR (CONT.)

NAVY/OEA In support  
role

Seamstress Cooperative  
Vieques Bee Farm

A local contract sewing company.  
Producer of commercial worker and queen  
honey bees, and honey

Shanklyn Farm  
Vieques Mesquite

Producer of fruits and farm products  
Producer of wood fuels from local woods

Industry

A&A Machine Shop

A start-up firm doing local machining and  
eventually government contract work under a  
BOS contract

Codreman

Shark fishing and packing company

Recent NAVY  
promotions

Agro Vieques

1,000 acres of Navy land leased at no cost  
for cattle grazing and hay production

Alce Vera Farm

Leasing of over 200 acres of Navy land for  
the growing of the alce vera plant. Leaf  
extraction to be performed in industrial  
facility in town of Vieques.

Bili Viequense

A 50 acre "canepa" orchard on Navy lands.  
"Canepa" (or honeyberry) to be processed in  
an industrial facility in the town of Vieques.

Hotel development

Navy recently brokered a hotel  
development project in the south Vieques  
town of Esperanza with the Commonwealth  
Tourism Department and Land  
Administration.

Bio-Luminescent Bay  
Preservation

Navy leading the effort with Puerto Rico  
Department of Natural and Environmental  
Resources over the long-term preservation of  
the Vieques bio luminescent bay.

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 QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
 QUESTION NUMBER FOUR (CONT.)**

The following table lists why some of the larger of the companies noted above have not survived:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>REASON FOR FAILURE</u>
Dandle Corporation	Already on Vieques before MOU. Navy work with DLA resulted in awarding of DOD contract. Was disbarred from government contracts totally in 1987 following contract bribery attempt. No diversification to civilian contracts. Loss of 175 jobs.
SunRay Settings	Internal management problems and labor relations problems. Firm relocated to the Dominican Republic. Loss of 45 jobs.
Vieques Graphics	Parent support firm Sperry was merged into Unisys. New parent company management closed facility. Loss of 12 jobs.
Sparatec	Firm suffered severe damage following Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and was never able to make a comeback. Also, the Grumman Corporation designated a new firm to replace them, "Vieques Electronics," but it never got off the ground due to non-competitive prices. Loss of 38 jobs.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER FOUR (CONT.)

SBG

Internal management problems resulted in their filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Loss of 50 full-time and 75 part-time jobs.

Artais

With the FAA tumdown of Artais' automated weather reporting system, the start-up firm never materialized on Vieques. Loss of 11 jobs.

Codremar

Firm had difficulty securing fishermen for their operation. Loss of 15 jobs.

The problem with Vieques economic development has not, nor will ever be, a lack of effort on the part of the Navy. Rather, it is the non-economically competitive environment that exists as a result of the Puerto Rican infrastructure.

Simply stated, it is very difficult to establish and then hope to keep a business on Vieques because their costs of operation, especially if transportation-intensive, are just too high. The price of shipping raw materials and finished products to and from Vieques via the Puerto Rican ferry system is not consistent with the rest of Puerto Rico. There also exists problems with the costs of electricity, fresh water supply, limited phone service and high phone tolls, lack of on-island support facilities (necessitating trips to the main island for the littlest necessity). These are all very negative factors which directly influence a business' decision to locate on Vieques.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER FIVE

Mr. De Lugo: The M.O.U. also provides it was agreed that "the NAVY will work with Commonwealth agencies and groups to seek grants, start up funds and financial assistance from other federal departments for use on Vieques and make every meaningful effort within its power to obtain full employment on the island."

What federal agencies has NAVY worked with to ensure the "full employment on the island"?

Why is unemployment still at 50 percent?

Rear Admiral Christensen: Over the years of the MOU, many Federal agencies, as well as agencies from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, have been involved in Vieques economic development. Most notable of these has been the Farmers Home Administration, who continues to assist Vieques to date. Other agencies involved in the effort include the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Transportation through the Federal Aviation Administration. In addition, numerous divisions and departments within the Department of Defense have been involved, including the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (COMSPAWARSYSCOM), and the DOD, Navy, and Army Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business.

As can be seen, there has been a very concerted effort on the part of the Department of Defense to assist the island economy of Vieques. However, the one thing we could not do was to manage the business units which we helped establish there. We also could not change the rules for government contracting and awarding, nor could we influence the outcome of grant proposals or other forms of government assistance.

Many times individuals or firms operating on Vieques would not qualify for grants, and many times the "prospect firm" which we were attempting to locate there never became a full-fledged "client." Many firms would not follow-up to our requests for a commitment or a business plan, and with constant protests and anti-Navy sentiments running throughout the Island, our prospects were skeptical of investing in a place with such political unrest.

Overall, however, our unemployment figures from the Puerto Rico Department of

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QUESTION NUMBER FIVE (CONT.)

Labor indicate that Vieques is on par, or for our latest figures of June, 1994, even better off than the rest of Puerto Rico, on average (unemployment rate of 14.7%). Although, as stated at the 4 Oct 94 hearing, the validity of these numbers may be questioned, they are derived from the same criteria applied Puerto Rico-wide and thus have some proportionality to the rest of Puerto Rico. An "unofficial unemployment rate" is not a reliable means of determining the level of a problem and in that it is derived in a non-scientific manner, should not be used as the determinant figure for the disposition of government policy.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER SIX

Mr. De Lugo: In his testimony, Carlos Ventura Melendez of the Vieques Fishermen Committee, states that although the Job Training Partnership Act authorized [\$]413,000 to train biologist and farmers for the Vieques Project in May, 1987, the money never reached Vieques but instead it was diverted to Granada and other islands in the Caribbean.

How could this happen if the NAVY was working with Federal agencies to assist Vieques?

Rear Admiral Christensen: {{ We're checking with the Department of Labor }}

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER SEVEN

Mr. De Lugo: Section I on Community Assistance [says] the Navy agreed that "the close working relationship begun during the negotiation of this memorandum of understanding will be continued through a stronger liaison program."

Has this happened?

What is the status of this liaison program?

Rear Admiral Christensen: The liaison program is still ongoing, but it has evolved several stages since its first inception. Our current liaison program continues through an active duty Lieutenant Commander who has as his primary duty government liaison and the implementation of the terms of the MOU. Specifically, he is a trained economic developer and is the only member of the American Economic Development Council (the national certifying organization of economic developers) in Puerto Rico. He has actively pursued many prospects and is the originator of many of the agricultural projects now underway. He also was the broker for the Esperanza hotel development project which should create many long-term direct and indirect employment opportunities for Vieques.

Prior to this effort, several efforts were underway. The most previous was the Vieques Task Force, which existed from 1989 until 1992. This organization was made up of the Navy, the Municipality of Vieques, the Commonwealth Economic Development Administration ("FOMENTO"), the DOD Office of Economic Adjustment, and many Commonwealth Cabinet members and agency heads. Meetings were held on Vieques, in San Juan, and in Washington to discuss the ongoing efforts of the group, who's objective was to create new jobs for Vieques following the devastation of Hurricane Hugo. The Vieques Task Force was dismantled after its last meeting in Washington in August, 1992, at the request of the Mayor of Vieques following her re-election in November, 1992.

The Navy continues to have very close relations with FOMENTO, who's lead we follow in the pursuit of economic development projects for the island of Vieques.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER EIGHT

**Mr. De Lugo:** The Memorandum states, "It is anticipated that the Management Advisory Committee herein created will serve as a focal point for land use/environmental concerns and cooperative working relations will be developed among NAVY officials and their Commonwealth counterparts."

Can you report on the status of this Committee?

Where are the reports?

Where are the recommendations made by the Management Advisory Committee?

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) commenced its functions in January 1984. The MAC initiated its operations by identifying the boundaries of the conservation zones and assisting the Navy in the development of a forestry program at the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD). The MAC has met at least once per year since 1984. Navy personnel contact MAC members regularly throughout the year to follow-up on particular projects (e.g. forestry program, sea turtle conservation project). The reports are contained in the minutes of each meeting.

The recommendations made by the MAC are contained in the minutes of the meetings and subsequent letters. The Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) for naval facilities at Vieques Island compiled the recommendations from 1984 through 1986. This Plan is being currently updated and will be submitted to the MAC for review and approval. The new LUMP will be ready by June 1995.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER NINE

Mr. De Lugo: In Section II on Land Use under the Memorandum of Understanding, "the NAVY agrees to develop and provide financial support for a forestry program on its Vieques lands."

What is the status [of] this program and has it had any impact [on] the economy of Vieques?

Rear Admiral Christensen: Following the recommendations of the Management Advisory Committee, the Navy initiated a forestry program in October 1985 in coordination with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service. A 100-acre plot at the Martineau track was planted with approximately 20,000 seedlings of two species of mahogany trees. In 1991, another 50-acre plot was planted with over 5,000 mahogany seedlings in the Playa Grande track.

The impact on the economy thus far has been on the people employed to plant the seedlings and provide maintenance. The cumulative cost of this project to date is approximately \$389,847.

Since the mahogany trees will take approximately 20 years to reach a merchantable size, the Navy requested the U.S. Forest Service to prepare a Forestry Management Plan to determine the possibility of using existing tree stands for commercialization. The Forest Service conducted a tree survey and prepared the Plan. The Plan identifies areas containing existing trees within the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment which can be harvested. This Plan will be integrated to the new Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) for naval facilities at Vieques. The new LUMP will be ready by June 1995.

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QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER TEN

**Mr. De Lugo:** The Memorandum also states that "The NAVY will continue to take necessary steps for the protection of the people of Vieques from mishaps involving the use of live ordnance and high-powered aircraft flying adjacent to the populated areas of Vieques."

However, on October 24, 1993, an FA-18 Hornet combat plane dropped four 500-pound bombs just one mile from a residential area during a training exercise.

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** On 24 October 1993, an F/A 18 Hornet did drop bombs outside of the live impact area. A thorough investigation was performed by the squadron and wing commanders involved in the incident. The findings of this investigation revealed that the incident was a direct result of human error by the pilot, who violated several standard range procedures.

The misguided bombs impacted in the Vieques "Eastern Maneuvering Area" (EMA) on Navy lands, approximately 5 kilometers from populated areas. The EMA is about 12 Kilometers long and provides a buffer, or safety zone, between the live impact area and the populated areas of the island.

Range procedures for the use of the live impact area of Vieques are long and stringent. Ingress and egress routes are standardized, and voice calls and clearances to arms follow safety procedures established over many years. As in all Navy exercises, safety is the prime consideration, both for the pilots, ground crews, and the surrounding civilian community. All conceivable efforts are made to eliminate possible errors, including human error, through the use of standard rules and procedures. Lessons learned from this incident have been incorporated into these procedures and have increased our vigilance in detecting any future procedural deviations.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON: PUERTO RICO LAND TRANSFER  
H.R. 3831  
4 OCTOBER 1994  
QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER ELEVEN

**Mr. De Lugo:** Could you provide this Subcommittee with more specifics on the cost of relocation from Vieques to Roosevelt Roads and how the 300 million dollars was calculated?

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** Costs associated with moving the magazine area at the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) to the Eastern Maneuvers Area (EMA) were estimated to be \$300 million. It should be emphasized that this cost was associated with moving from western Vieques to eastern Vieques Island and not to Roosevelt Roads. It would not be feasible to move the magazine to Roosevelt Roads because there is not enough real estate available without closing down Air Operations (the airfield) or the family housing area. If the magazines were moved to Roosevelt Roads, additional (significant) cost would be associated due to the purchasing of acreage from the residents of Ceiba, plus costs for relocating hundreds of residents. The estimated cost to move the NASD facilities to Roosevelt Roads is closer to \$600 million.

The \$300 million dollar cost estimate for the intra-Vieques relocation was taken from the P-164 which is an official detailed inventory of Naval Shore Facilities, published by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters and updated annually. It shows the Current Plant Value (CPV) of all Naval Station facilities. The CPV is derived from the actual construction costs of facilities at the time of construction, appreciated to today's dollars. These costs do not include real estate value.

The estimate does include building an ammunition off-load pier, causeway, and breakwater adjacent to the new ammunition depot since cross-town ammunition movements from the existing pier would not be possible. The distance from the new magazines, safety factors, security and Explosive Safety Quantity Distance (ESQD) arcs would not permit the existing pier to be used adjacent to a populated area. This pier would also be required if the magazines were to be moved to Roosevelt Roads. However, sufficient land space would have to be purchased to have a sufficient ESQD at Roosevelt Roads as well.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON: PUERTO RICO LAND TRANSFER  
H.R. 3831  
4 OCTOBER 1994  
QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER ELEVEN (CONT.)

The \$300 million dollars is broken down as follows:

(a) Site preparation, utilities, and earth-work	\$ 15,000,000
(b) Facilities (barracks, galley, shops, utilities, security, magazines, office space, lighting, and weapons handling area)	\$178,000,000
(c) Ammunition Pier, causeway, and breakwater	\$100,000,000
Sub-total:	<u>\$293,000,000</u>
(d) Misc. and contingency	\$7,000,000
Total	<u>\$300,000,000</u>

This estimate does not include the environmental assessment, restoration, clean-up (if required), and closure/turn-over costs associated with excessing the existing NASD. These costs could not be estimated until an Environmental Assessment (EA) is performed. Typically, an EA of this magnitude costs \$200,000. Also, an EA would have to be performed for the location of the new NASD site.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON: PUERTO RICO LAND TRANSFER

H.R. 3831

4 OCTOBER 1994

QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER TWELVE

**Mr. De Lugo:** During questioning by Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barcelo it was ascertained that only 60 of the 130 magazines would have to be relocated to Roosevelt Roads in order to meet national security requirements. What would be the cost of the relocation?

**Rear Admiral Christensen:** There is not sufficient acreage to move 60 magazines to Roosevelt Roads without closing the airfield or the housing areas or purchasing substantial acreage from the Ceiba or Naguabo citizens. Provided 60 vice 130 magazines were moved to the EMA of Vieques Island the costs associated are estimated at roughly \$265 million. While the number of magazines would decrease by half, the costs would not see a proportionate decrease. This is due to the pier relocation and the same infra-structure would be required as presently needed to support 60 active magazines.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON: PUERTO RICO LAND TRANSFER

H.R. 3831

4 OCTOBER 1994

QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER THIRTEEN

Mr. De Lugo. When could this acreage be turned over to the municipality of Vieques?

Rear Admiral Christensen: At present, the vast majority of lands outside the EQSD arcs on the NASD are conservation zones maintained as part of the 1983 MOU. Other parcels are being used for agricultural development projects or for other military purposes.

In regard to the conservation zones, access to these properties can be made by either boat or to their landward perimeters through the northern NASD gate and magazine roadways. Nearly all of the roads leading along the perimeters of the conservation zones were either washed away or destroyed by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Public access to these zones has been restricted for both conservation and security reasons. First, only dirt roads could be carved into conservation zone lands and only where former roads may have existed. But since many of the bridges and culverts along the roadway are no longer there, a substantial effort would have to be made to open these accesses once again. Because our effort has been on conserving endangered species habitats and nesting grounds, the decision was made not to perform this reconstruction, but rather allow nature to simply follow its course without the intrusion of man.

Second, roadway accesses to the perimeters of the conservation zone areas are through magazine storage areas which are not now fenced. These magazine areas are now off limits to the public for security and safety reasons. Entry and exits by the public are in violation of regulations and are not permitted.

If it were determined that a better steward of these lands could be appointed, the following would be necessary prior to their being excessed or transferred:

- (a) A geographic survey would need to be performed.
- (b) An Environmental Baseline Study would need to be performed.
- (c) A security fenceline and perimeter road were built for the new property line.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON: PUERTO RICO LAND TRANSFER  
H.R. 3831  
4 OCTOBER 1994  
QUESTION FOR THE RECORD  
QUESTION NUMBER THIRTEEN (CONT.)

The fenceline and perimeter road are estimated at \$850,000 using Naval Construction Force assets. This cost would be in excess of the Navy's authorized cost limits for new construction work and would, therefore, be a Military Construction (MILCON) Project. The MILCON appropriated funding process would require approval by Congress. The land could be excessed in the year 2003.

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, DC 20515-6201**

October 6, 1994

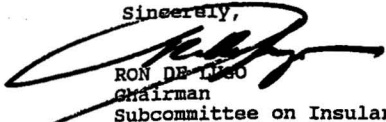
Mr. Carlos Ventura  
Committee Pro Rights of  
Vieques Fishermen  
Calle Bromelias 393  
Barrio Esperanza  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

Dear Mr. Ventura:

Attached are the questions on H.R. 3831 addressed to you as the representative of the Vieques Fishermen before the Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs, one of which was addressed to you by the Resident Commissioner and the others which are questions from the Chair. Please send your response to these questions in English to the Subcommittee before October 18th for the record.

We appreciate you travelling a long distance to participate in this important hearing and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



RON DE LEO  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Insular and  
International Affairs

Questions for the spokesperson of the Committee Pro Rights of Vieques Fishermen for the record of the Subcommittee on Insular and International Affairs hearing to authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico to the Municipality of Vieques.

1. Are the crabs you are referring to in the Crab Farm program what we know as "jueyes" [a type of crab]? Because this type of crab takes a long time to grow.
2. Have any NAVY officials met with you or your group to discuss your problems and any possible solutions? Could you describe those meetings?
3. I am concerned that in your statement you cite the destruction of turtles and their nesting areas, while the Navy points with pride to all their efforts to protect the turtles. Could you please give us more details?
4. Could you please give this committee more details about the Crab Farm project which you state never materialized?

**COMMITTEE PRO RIGHTS of VIEQUES FISHERMEN**  
**Calle Bromelias 393**  
**Barrio Esperanza**  
**Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765**

10/15/94

Hon. RON DE LUGO  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on Insular and  
 International Affairs

Dear Mr. De Lugo:

This is answer to your query of October 6, 1994.

1.) Crabs— The crab of reference is the sea crab *Mithrax spinosissimus*, commonly called the West Indian Spider Crab, but most recently promoted as the Caribbean King Crab. It is not known here as "jueyes", which we understand to be land crabs (*Cardisoma quahimi*).

*Mithrax* could take three years in the wild to reach a weight of eight pounds with a leg span of six feet, but this would be an unwieldy blue plate special. West Indies Mariculture King Crab Farm harvests these animals at about seven months in their soft shell phase. At this age, one batter-fried (*tempura*) crab constitutes a luncheon entree at a first class hotel.

2.) Navy meetings — For years, the fishermen have made approaches to the military officials in relation to the effects of maneuvers on the marine ecology, the fishing gear, the economy of both fishermen and other residents of Vieques. To name a few: Lt. Alec De La Serda, Lt. Villareal (whom we took aboard during fishing trips), and more recently Lt. Robert Lagos, Lt. Richardson Rodríguez, Lt. Cmdr. Leyda Hilera and we even wrote to Admiral Ernest Christensen. During these meetings, we explained negative effects, they said they understood and expressed interest in helping us. No such promise has been carried out. We have also written recommendations for solutions to existing problems but we have never received a positive answer. (See attached letters)

Claims filed against the Navy for destroyed gear have proven more time-consuming and costly than building new equipment — and without benefit of just compensation. At a press conference in August, 1994 we published an ultimatum to the Navy in which we hold them responsible for whatever action we may be forced to take in defence of our livelihood. (See attached Ultimatum) Immediately, Admiral Christensen contacted City Hall to arrange a meeting. At this meeting he said he would provide real solutions to the fishermen's problems with maneuver operations.

Our committee accepted the meeting on the condition that we would bring our legal counsel and that the meeting should be open to the local press. That way we could have a guarantee of whatever agreements might be reached, since in the past, promises have been broken.

The meeting never materialized because, according to the Admiral's secretary, if the press were present the meeting would not be an honest one. Since then we have been out of touch, although Navy activities continue to threaten the very existence of both trap and line fishermen and divers.

3.) Turtles — In the first place, I have seen dead turtles, both on Navy land and floating in the water (during and after maneuvers). So have many other fishermen. Several, including myself are willing to testify under oath.

Navy efforts can never be completely successful as long as nesting beaches are used as targets and for amphibious invasions. Furthermore a tank can crush the buried eggs which were not visible to observer patrols particularly if the eggs were laid at night. It is also impossible for a ship captain to change course in time to avoid collision with a floating turtle or manatee. Some of those vessels require a mile to stop or turn.

4.) King Crab Project — This was referred to in Appendix 8 of my statement to your committee on October 4, 1994. A 400-page report by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) titled "Integrated Renewable Resource Management for U.S. Insular Areas" states that the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) resulted in the creation of some 400 jobs in mariculture in Vieques. Unfortunately this is not true, not a single job was created.

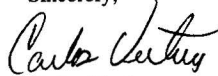
(See attached documents: Economic Adjustment Program on Crab Project and letters to OTA from Vieques Marine Labs)

Worse still, the crab project was not the only no-show project. Where is the shrimp farm, the shark factory, the automatic electronic fishboat and OTEC?

Mr. De Lugo will remember OTEC: Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion. It was scoped for Vieques in the 1970's but installed instead in St. Croix. Vieques never gets the projects.

Thanks for your attention, and at your service if you need any further information...

Sincerely,



Carlos Ventura  
Spokesman

Letters

Related to answer 2

28 de enero de 1993

Tnte. Richardson Rodríguez  
N. A. V. Y.  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

Distintuido Teniente Richardson:

El propósito para el cual nosotros los pescadores de nazas del sur de Vieques le solicitamos una reunión es para dialogar y llegar a un acuerdo justo, debido a que hemos estado teniendo grandes pérdidas de artes de pesca cada vez que hay una maniobra en estas áreas.

Estas artes de nazas representan el pan de cada uno de los pescadores y sus ayudantes. La mayoría de nosotros ha tenido que incurrir en deudas como préstamos bancarios y otros para hacer las artes y luego de las ganancias de la pesca es que se saca para todos los compromisos que tenemos como jefes de familia (comida, agua, luz, gas, teléfono, pago de banco, etc.).

El que el área esté restringida y, por otro lado, el arte de nazas esté destruido, significa la pérdida de unos ingresos totalmente necesarios y la posibilidad de verse el crédito afectado.

Hemos hecho muchas reclamaciones anteriormente y las mismas han sido infructuosas; nunca fueron contestadas.

Por otro lado, la maniobra actual fué notificada un día después de haber comenzado, haciendo imposible que nosotros los pescadores tomásemos medidas preventivas y así evitar en lo posible la pérdida de los artes. Tan es así, que civiles que estaban en las áreas de playa con autorización tuvieron que ser evacuados por el personal de seguridad.

A pesar de que en ocasiones anteriores hemos mantenido el arte de nazas fuera de las áreas destinadas a las prácticas militares, igualmente hemos sufrido pérdidas debido a que las embarcaciones han navegado fuera del área destinada a las maniobras, destruyendo así el arte de pesca. Vienen navegando pegado a la costa desde la parte oeste de la isla hasta llegar al área.

Consideramos que las demarcaciones de las áreas restringidas son exageradas e incluso restringen área civil. Nosotros sugerimos que las embarcaciones naveguen fuera de la plataforma y luego al llegar al área a ser utilizada entren a las playas. De esta forma no destruirían los artes de pesca.

TNTE. RICHARDSON RODRIGUEZ  
28 DE ENERO DE 1993  
PAGINA 2

Preferimos evitar el daño a los artes, aunque la Marina aceptase pagar cada vez que destruyera alguno, ya que el tener que volver a hacer nuevo arte significa el cese de unos ingresos y pérdida de tiempo mientras se construye el mismo.

Debido a lo que representa este asunto para nosotros, los pescadores de nazas del sur de Vieques necesitamos que se tome acción a la mayor brevedad posible.

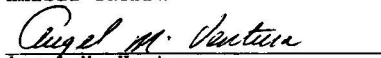
De nuestros reclamos no ser atendidos con la seriedad y prontitud que merece, nos veremos obligados a acudir con los mismos a otros medios donde sean escuchados y atendidos.

Esperamos su cooperación en este asunto.

Atentamente,

  
Carlos R. Ventura

  
Anibal Guerra

  
Angel M. Ventura  
Portavoces Grupo de Pescadores

## Navy Drops Napalm on Vieques

R. Rabin

In October of 1992, on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, U.S. Navy pilots conducted large scale bombing practice including the use of live napalm. Napalm is an incendiary material of gelatinous phosphorous that burns everything around it and adheres to skin. Between 1963 and 1968, the United States dropped nearly one hundred thousand tons of napalm on Vietnam. Just one ton of this explosive will burn all the vegetation in an area equivalent to one and a half football fields, in seconds. Puerto Rican scientists and environmentalists are trying to determine the ecological impact of the napalm bombing on Vieques.

During a period of two weeks of practice the Navy, besides napalm, dropped twenty tons of live bombs over the target area of Vieques. The island of Vieques is 33,000 acres large of which 26,000 are occupied by the Navy. According to the newspaper, *El Navegante*, published by the Navy at the Roosevelt Roads base, seven "intruder" bombers attacked targets in Vieques. A spokesman for the Navy indicated that it "costs the squadron only half as much to fly to Puerto Rico as to travel to the West Coast (California) to bomb", saving money on gas. It also said that there is "no need to wait on line for access to the bombing area" and that "two weeks (of practice in Vieques) is the equivalent of two months of training at the Cherry Point, North Carolina base.

The people of Vieques have suffered more than half a century of abuse under the US Navy, which expropriated three quarters of the island in the 1940's. Since then Vieques has been a victim of both economic as well as physical destruction.

For over fifty years the Navy has carried out bombings and other military practices on the eastern part of Vieques, a zone which before the military presence provided the means of survival for thousands of families. Large stretches of coconut, mangroves with rich supplies of crabs and other fish, salt mines for local use and export, large and small sugar farms like those at Campaña, Ensenada Honda and Campo Asilo made the eastern part of the island crucial for the economic and social life of the people.

During the 1970's Vieques' fishermen, with the support of a large sector of the people on the island as well as on the main island of Puerto Rico, mounted a strong and well organized offensive to end the bombing and began the process of rescuing lands from the Navy's grasp. That struggle of men and women "fishing for their dignity," bore important fruits. This heroic gesture broke the veil of silence and fear that the Navy and their "stooges" had tried - and are still trying today - to impose on the people of Vieques.

The militant protest on water and land against the Navy's presence that were organized between 1978 and 1980 attracted world attention to this small island. The theme of Vieques was discussed in local and world press and was heard in the White House (in Washington and San Juan) and in the United Nations.

The pressure by the Viequense/Puerto Rican people forced the U.S. Congress to carry out a series of public hearings in 1980 to investigate the Navy's activities in Vieques. After much testimony by prominent Navy and US government officials, functionaries of the Puerto Rican government, - including then governor, Carlos Romero Barceló - and members of the Vieques community both for and against the Navy's presence, the U.S. Congressional Committee delivered its opinion that the Navy should abandon the island of Vieques and look for another place to carry out its maneuvers.

The Cold War has ended, and according to President Bush, we live in a "new world order." Nevertheless, the Navy has not left Vieques, but rather continues to control three-quarters of the island, strangling any possibility for real growth, and continues massive ecological destruction of the island. For Bush, a "new world order." For Vieques, the same old bombings. How long?

(Published in CLARIDAD, November 1992)

# Marine aviators train locally with live ordnance

By Lance Cpl. Daniel Hontle

The "Bengals" of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 224, took to the skies at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, on Oct. 15, for Rum Runner '92, a two-week heavy-weapon deployment for hands-on training with live ordnance.

The deployment was refresher training for combat-proven A-6E Intruder veterans, and afforded younger pilots the experience to train with weapons they normally can't use flying from their home base at Cherry Point, N.C.

The mission began with a long-range strike on Vieques Island, approximately 8 miles south of the naval station. Seven intruders launched from Cherry Point for the 1,100-mile journey and aerial-refueled from KC-130 tankers from Cherry Point's Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 and New York-based Marine reserve squadron, VMGR-452. Upon arrival, the aircrafts hit simulated surface-to-air missile sites located at the Vieques range with MK82 26-pound practice bombs.

Maintenance and flightline crews set up makeshift shops in tents near the main runway, where they inspected aircraft frames after the initial flights.

"We tried to anticipate every emergency that could come up, then made sure we brought enough equipment to handle those situations," said Cpl. Patrick Lombardi. "224 fire control technician. Fortunately, there were no emergencies and the exercise

went very smoothly.

Once the missions began, 12 ordnance technicians from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 (MALVS 14) set up a bomb construction facility near the airfield. MALVS 14 Marines built MK82 500-pound and MK83 1,000-pound live bombs, as well as napalm bombs and practice Shrike and Sidewinder missiles. After each load of bombs was assembled and transported to the flightline, 224 ordnance technicians loaded them onto the wings of the aircraft and det the arming devices.

Besides precision bombing, the deployment also gave the intruder pilots aerial dogfighting practice. The "Bengals" flew combat maneuvers against the "Redtails" of F4A Composite Squadron EIGHT (VC 8), the A-4 Skyhawk aggressor squadron at Roosevelt Roads.

Lt. Col. Harry Spies, 224 squadron commander, said VC 8 provided invaluable training to his squadron throughout the missions, even though the "Bengals" will phase out their A-6E intruders by 1993 to receive the new F/A-18D Hornet aircraft. From there, the squadron will be redesignated as an all-weather fighter attack squadron and will relocate to MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

The same tactics of aerial combat and bombing carry over to any aircraft, said Spies. "VC 8 flies a different aircraft, but can simulate any type of threat we're likely to encounter, allowing us to maintain our squadron readiness."

The "Bengals" chose Puerto Rico



Visiting "Bengals" - The "Bengals" of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 224 recently visited Roosevelt Roads for a two-week heavy-weapon deployment for hands-on training with live ordnance. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel Hontle)

as the site for their final deployment for its cost effectiveness and its low-tempo live bombing ranges.

"It costs the squadron half as much to fly here (Puerto Rico) as it does to travel to the west coast live bombing ranges, so we saved a lot of money on fuel," said Spies. "We also didn't have to wait in line for bombing times. In two weeks we received the equivalent of two months' worth of training at Cherry Point."

The "Bengals" dropped nearly 20 tons of live ordnance on the Vieques range, including Shrike and Sidewinder missile shoots to sea-based emitters, and conducted the naval station's first

live napalm drop in almost 10 years.

While on the training missions, 224 was called upon to assist in a real-life search and rescue mission. A craft had crashed 190 miles southwest of the naval station and a Coast Guard cutter was alerted, but an aerial surface search was still necessary.

Two intruders were prepped within one hour of the alert and were ready for take-off before the Navy made a last-minute decision to use F-3 aircraft already on the scene. Navy officials commended 224's ability to react to the situation quickly.

"224 concluded the exercise and returned home Oct. 29.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS TRAINING FACILITY  
FPO MIAMI 34051

*Fue colocada la  
notificación un día después de comenzar  
las maniobras 1130 A.M. Logimar*

21 DE ENERO DE 1993  
AFWTF: 35/NA  
3531  
NUMERO DE SERIE: 050

NOTIFICACION A PESCADORES Y OTRAS PERSONAS QUE NAVEGAN EN LAS AGUAS  
COSTANERAS ALREDEDOR DE VIEQUES.

POR ESTE MEDIO SE INFORMA A LOS PESCADORES Y OTRAS PERSONAS INTERESADAS  
QUE LA MARINA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS LLEVARA A CABO EJERCICIOS NAVALES  
EN VIEQUES SEGUN AREAS INDICADAS Y LOS MISMOS PODRIAN SER PELIGROSOS  
A PERSONAS O EQUIPO DE PESCA.

EL MAPA ADJUNTO INDICA LAS AREAS DE OPERACION SEGUN EL ITINERARIO  
Y SE CONSIDERAN PELIGROSAS PARA PERSONAS O EQUIPO DE PESCA.

EL ITINERARIO QUE SIGUE CUBRE EL PERIODO DESDE EL DIA  
25 DE ENERO AL 31 DE ENERO 1993

DIA	AREA DE PELIGRO	HORAS DE OPERACION
LUNES, 25 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 7:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
MARTES, 26 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 9:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
MIERCOLES, 27 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 7:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
JUEVES, 28 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 7:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
VIERNES, 29 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 9:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
SABADO, 30 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 7:00 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 11:00 DE LA NOCHE
DOMINGO, 31 DE ENERO	A, B, C, D	DESDE LAS 11:30 DE LA MANANA HASTA LAS 12:30 DE LA MANANA

DIA	AREA RESTRINGIDA	HORAS DE OPERACION
LUNES, 25 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MARTES, 26 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MIERCOLES, 27 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
JUEVES, 28 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
VIERNES, 29 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
SABADO, 30 DE ENERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
DOMINGO, 31 DE ENERO	NINGUNA	NINGUNA

ESTA NOTIFICACION PODRA LEERSE EN:  
VIEQUES - TABLON DE ANUNCIOS DEL CORREO; LA ALCALDIA; ENTRADA CAMPAMENTO  
GARCIA; CUARTEL DE ISABEL SEGUNDA Y ESPERANZA; ASSOCIACION DE  
PESCADORES DE 1. SEGUNDA; LORIMAR MARKET (ESPERANZA);  
EL FIDIECOMISO DE CONSERVACION E HISTORIA DE VIEQUES (ESPERANZA).  
LAJARDO - AUTORIDAD DE LOS PUERTOS

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS TRAINING FACILITY  
FPO MIAMI 34051

27 DE ENERO DE 1993  
APWTF; 35;NA  
3531  
NUMERO DE SERIE: 063

NOTIFICACION A PESCADORES Y OTRAS PERSONAS QUE NAVEGAN EN LAS AGUAS  
COSTANERAS ALREDEDOR DE VIEQUES.  
POR ESTE MEDIO SE INFORMA A LOS PESCADORES Y OTRAS PERSONAS INTERESADAS  
QUE LA MARINA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS LLEVARA A CABO EJERCICIOS NAVALES  
EN VIEQUES SEGUN AREAS INDICADAS Y LOS MISMOS PODRIAN SER PELIGROSOS  
A PERSONAS O EQUIPO DE PESCA.  
EL MAPA ADJUNTO INDICA LAS AREAS DE OPERACION SEGUN EL ITINERARIO  
Y SE CONSIDERAN PELIGROSAS PARA PERSONAS O EQUIPO DE PESCA.  
EL ITINERARIO QUE SIGUE CUBRE EL PERIODO DESDE EL DIA  
01 DE FEBRERO AL 07 DE FEBRERO 1993

DIA	AREA DE PELIGRO	HORAS DE OPERACION
LUNES, 01 DE FEBRERO	B,C	DESDE LAS 12:00 DEL MEDIO DIA HASTA LAS 9:00 DE LA NOCHE
LUNES, 01 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MARTES, 02 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MIERCOLES, 03 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
JUEVES, 04 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
VIERNES, 05 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
SABADO, 06 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
DOMINGO, 07 DE FEBRERO	E,H	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)

DIA	AREA RESTRINGIDA	HORAS DE OPERACION
LUNES, 01 DE FEBRERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MARTES, 02 DE FEBRERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
MIERCOLES, 03 DE FEBRERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
JUEVES, 04 DE FEBRERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)
VIERNES, 05 DE FEBRERO	1	DESDE LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE HASTA LAS 12 DE LA MEDIANOCHE (PERIODO DE 24 HORAS)



<b>CLAIM FOR DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH</b>		<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please read carefully the instructions on the reverse side and supply information requested on both sides of this form. Use additional sheet(s) if necessary. See reverse side for additional instructions.			<b>FORM APPROVED</b> OMB NO. 1105-0008 EXPIRES 4-30-88	
1. Submit To Appropriate Federal Agency:			2. Name, Address of claimant and claimant's personal representative, if any. <i>(See instructions on reverse.) (Number, street, city, State and Zip Code)</i>			
3. TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN		4. DATE OF BIRTH	5. MARITAL STATUS	6. DATE AND DAY OF ACCIDENT		7. TIME (A.M. OR P.M.)
8. Basis of Claim (State in detail the known facts and circumstances attending the damage, injury, or death, identifying persons and property involved, the place of occurrence and the cause thereof) (Use additional pages if necessary.)						
<b>9. PROPERTY DAMAGE</b>						
NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER, IF OTHER THAN CLAIMANT <i>(Number, street, city, State, and Zip Code)</i>						
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROPERTY, NATURE AND EXTENT OF DAMAGE AND THE LOCATION WHERE PROPERTY MAY BE INSPECTED. <i>(See instructions on reverse side.)</i>						
<b>10. PERSONAL INJURY/WRONGFUL DEATH</b>						
STATE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EACH INJURY OR CAUSE OF DEATH, WHICH FORMS THE BASIS OF THE CLAIM. IF OTHER THAN CLAIMANT, STATE NAME OF INJURED PERSON OR DECEDENT.						
<b>11. WITNESSES</b>						
NAME			ADDRESS <i>(Number, street, city, State, and Zip Code)</i>			
<b>12. (See instructions on reverse) AMOUNT OF CLAIM (in dollars)</b>						
12a. PROPERTY DAMAGE		12b. PERSONAL INJURY		12c. WRONGFUL DEATH		12d. TOTAL <i>(Failure to specify may cause forfeiture of your rights.)</i>
I CERTIFY THAT THE AMOUNT OF CLAIM COVERS ONLY DAMAGES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY THE ACCIDENT ABOVE AND AGREE TO ACCEPT SAID AMOUNT IN FULL SATISFACTION AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THIS CLAIM						
13a. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT <i>(See instructions on reverse side.)</i>				13b. Phone number of signatory		14. DATE OF CLAIM
<b>CIVIL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM</b> The claimant shall forfeit and pay to the United States the sum of \$2,000 plus double the amount of damages sustained by the United States. <i>(See 31 U.S.C. 3729.)</i>				<b>CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM OR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS</b> Fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both. <i>(See 18 U.S.C. 287, 1001.)</i>		

# PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

This Notice is provided in accordance with the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3), and concerns the information requested in the letter to which this Notice is attached.

A. *Authority:* The requested information is solicited pursuant to one or more of the following: 5 U.S.C. 301, 28 U.S.C. 501 et seq., 28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq., 28 C.F.R. Part 14

B. *Principal Purpose:* The information requested is to be used in evaluating claims.

C. *Routine Use:* See the Notices of Systems of Records for the agency to whom you are submitting this form for this information.

D. *Effect of Failure to Respond:* Disclosure is voluntary. However, failure to supply the requested information or to execute the form may render your claim "invalid".

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete all items - Insert the word **NONE** where applicable

A CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WHEN A FEDERAL AGENCY RECEIVES FROM A CLAIMANT, HIS DULY AUTHORIZED AGENT, OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE AN EXECUTED STANDARD FORM 95 OR OTHER WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT, ACCOMPANIED BY A CLAIM FOR MONEY DAMAGES IN A **SUM CERTAIN** FOR INJURY TO OR LOSS OF PROPERTY, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DEATH ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED BY REASON OF THE INCIDENT. THE CLAIM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCY WITHIN **TWO YEARS** AFTER THE CLAIM ACCRUES.

Any instructions or information necessary in the preparation of your claim will be furnished, upon request, by the office indicated in item #1 on the reverse side. Complete regulations pertaining to claims asserted under the Federal Tort Claims Act can be found in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 14. Many agencies have published supplemental regulations also. If more than one agency is involved, please state each agency.

The claim may be filed by a duly authorized agent or other legal representative, provided evidence satisfactory to the Government is submitted with said claim establishing express authority to act for the claimant. A claim presented by an agent or legal representative must be presented in the name of the claimant. If the claim is signed by the agent or legal representative, it must show the title or legal capacity of the person signing and be accompanied by evidence of his/her authority to present a claim on behalf of the claimant as agent, executor, administrator, parent, guardian or other representative.

If claimant intends to file claim for both personal injury and property damage, claim for both must be shown in item 12 of this form.

The amount claimed should be substantiated by competent evidence as follows:

(a) In support of the claim for personal injury or death, the claimant should submit a written report by the attending physician, showing the nature and extent of injury, the nature and extent of treatment, the degree of permanent disability, if any, the prognosis, and the period of hospitalization, or incapacitation, attaching itemized bills for medical, hospital, or burial expenses actually incurred.

(b) In support of claims for damage to property which has been or can be economically repaired, the claimant should submit at least two itemized signed statements or estimates by reliable, disinterested concerns, or, if payment has been made, the itemized signed receipts evidencing payment.

(c) In support of claims for damage to property which is not economically repairable, or if the property is lost or destroyed, the claimant should submit statements as to the original cost of the property, the date of purchase and the value of the property, both before and after the accident. Such statements should be by disinterested competent persons, preferably reputable dealers or officials familiar with the type of property damaged, or by two or more competitive bidders, and should be certified as being just and correct.

(d) Failure to completely execute this form or to supply the requested material within two years from the date the allegations accrued may render your claim "invalid". A claim is deemed presented when it is received by the appropriate agency, not when it is mailed.

Failure to specify a sum certain will result in invalid presentation of your claim and may result in forfeiture of your rights.

## INSURANCE COVERAGE

In order that subrogation claims may be adjudicated, it is essential that the claimant provide the following information regarding the insurance coverage of his vehicle or property.

15. Do you carry accident insurance? ☐ Yes if yes, give name and address of insurance company (Number, street, city, State, and Zip Code) and policy number. ☐ No

16. Have you filed claim on your insurance carrier in this instance, and if so, is it full coverage or deductible?

17. If deductible, state amount

18. If claim has been filed with your carrier, what action has your insurer taken or proposes to take with reference to your claim? (It is necessary that you ascertain these facts)

19. Do you carry public liability and property damage insurance? ☐ Yes, give name and address of insurance carrier (Number, street, city, State, and Zip Code) ☐ No



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
 COMMANDER FLEET AIR, CARIBBEAN  
 PSC 1008  
 FPO AA 34051-8000

5880  
 Ser NO2L/ 338  
 30 Apr 93

Sr. Carlos R. Ventura Melendez  
 Bromelias #393  
 Bo. Esperanza  
 Vieques, P.R. 00765

Estimado Sr. Melendez:

Su reclamacion por perdidas de trampas de pescado y langosta (Forma SF-95), fechada 3 de Febrero de 1993, fue recibida en esta oficina para ser procesada.

La investigacion de su reclamacion esta por concluir, pero es necesario informacion adicional. Por favor, envienos la siguiente informacion y documentos:

- fecha, hora y localizacion exacta donde fueron puestas y tiempo (dias, horas, etc.,) dentro del agua;
- descripcion de las trampas (incluyendo dimensiones, material usado, tamaño, largo, tipo de sogas, tipo de marcador (boya) y tamaño);
- edad y condicion de las trampas (cada una individual, si es posible)
- si fueron compradas, someta recibo de compra, incluya lugar de compra y costo;
- si fueron hechas por usted, prueba de que usted es el dueño y recibos del material usado.

Por favor diriga su correspondencia a la siguiente direccion:

Staff Judge Advocate  
 Commander Fleet Air Caribbean  
 Building 598B  
 U. S. Naval Station  
 Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, P.R. 00735

Esta documentacion es necesaria para poder procesar su reclamacion y debe ser provista dentro de los proximos treinta dias. Si no le es posible obtener esta informacion dentro del tiempo estipulado, favor comunicarse a este oficina, telefono 865-4262 para una extension del tiempo limite. Tan pronto recibamos esta informacion y documentos, su reclamacion sera completada.

Muchas gracias por su asistencia en este asunto.

Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. K. Cranfill".

T. K. CRANFILL  
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy  
Staff Judge Advocate  
By direction of the  
Commander

72/uray/1993

Recibi del Sr. Carlos R. Ventura los documentos con información requerida por T.K. Crayfill para completar solicitud o reclamación de:

1. Carlos R. Ventura Meléndez
2. Gilberto Cercino Ortiz
3. Amibal Cercino Maldonado
4. José A. Guerra Figueroa
5. Esteban Ruiera Guershard
6. Angel M. Ventura Meléndez
7. Carmelo Rosa Jones
8. Julio M. Ulanaga
9. Carlos García Martínez -

Raydo J. Heller

LCDR USN

OIC NASD VIEQUES

22 May, 93

3 de diciembre de 1993

Rear Adm. Ernest Christensen  
U.S.M. Commander  
Navy Fleet Air, Caribbean  
Box 3037  
Roosevelt Roads  
Ceiba, P.R. 00635

Estimado Admirante Christensen:

Por este medio me dirijo a usted como pescador y portavoz de los pescadores de nazas del sur de Vieques.

En enero del año en curso, el Sr. Richardson Rodríguez, Tnte. Comandante de la N.A.F. en Vieques, aceptó reunirse con los pescadores luego de innumerables peticiones hechas a través del Municipio.

En dicha reunión se discutieron o ventilaron los problemas y las pérdidas sufridas por los pescadores de nazas del área sur de Vieques a consecuencia de las maniobras que allí realiza la Marina de Guerra de los Estados Unidos (Ver Anejo 1).

Como resultado de dicha reunión, el Tnte. Richardson le pidió a los pescadores que cumplimentaran la Forma SF-95 para la reclamación de las pérdidas, ya que él entendía la seriedad del asunto. Luego de enviar las reclamaciones y esperando fueran procesadas con prontitud, se nos hizo esperar tres meses para recibir el 4 de mayo de 1993 una carta del Licenciado T.K. Cranfill (Ver Anejo 2), donde explicaba que el proceso de investigación de la reclamación estaba por concluir, pero que era necesaria una información adicional. Dicha información fué sometida y entregada en persona en las manos de la Tnte. Leyda Hilera, el 22 de mayo de 1993 (Ver Anejo 3). La Tnte. Hilera se mostró muy deseosa de ayudarnos y se comprometió a entregar personalmente la información sometida por los pescadores al Licenciado T.K. Cranfill. Desde entonces han pasado 6 meses y aún no hemos recibido más noticia en relación a nuestras reclamaciones.

Una vez más, somos torturados y hecados a menos por parte de la Marina de Guerra de los Estados Unidos. Desde la década de los 40 el pueblo de Vieques ha sido torturado. La primera tortura lo fué la expropiación y desde entonces seguimos siendo torturados por las constantes maniobras, tanto por aire, mar y tierra. El bombardeo de barcos, artillería y aviación lo menos que hacen es interrumpir la paz, tranquilidad y el sueño de los ciudadanos viequeses.

Por otro lado, los pescadores somos torturados por partida doble, ya que también dependemos de la pesca para llevar el sustento a nuestros hogares y para cumplir con otros compromisos económicos y de crédito, los cuales son afectados al perder las

REAR ADM. ERNEST CHRISTENSEN  
3 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1993  
PAGINA 2

artes de pesca. Para añadir más angustia a nuestros pesares, la Marina ha estado restringiendo áreas de pesca desde 1975 hasta el presente para ser utilizadas para sus maniobras (Ver Anejo 4).

Pero parece que no es suficiente; también se dá a la tarea de irrumpir de forma negligente, irresponsable y abusiva en áreas que ella misma determina como no restringida y que representan refugios para las artes o nazas durante las maniobras. De esta manera, destruyen artes de pesca que nos han costado gran esfuerzo, tanto personal como económico, ya que la gran mayoría recurre a préstamos personales para poder hacerse de equipo y materiales. Luego se hacen las reclamaciones y no sucede nada.

Para qué la Marina de Guerra de los Estados Unidos nos hace perder el tiempo en cumplimentar unas reclamaciones y luego de mucho esperar nos vuelven a pedir información adicional con la promesa de que es lo que hace falta para completar las mismas y luego todo queda en nada? Una vez más la Marina miente. Ya estamos cansados de tantas mentiras, injusticias y falta de respeto a nuestros derechos. ¿Cómo es posible que la Marina de Guerra de los E.U. sea vista a nivel mundial como héroes por la liberación de Kuwait, si a nosotros los pescadores nos tienen presos en nuestra propia tierra entre áreas restringidas y líneas imaginarias que no debemos sobrepasar? Entendemos que las áreas restringidas son exageradas porque hasta restringen áreas civiles durante las maniobras anfibia. Esta actitud constituye una forma más de tortura para nosotros.

Por otro lado, la Marina de Guerra de los E.U. participó en una gestión humanitaria en Somalia para garantizar que llegaran unos víveres a unos seres humanos humildes y necesitados, por lo cual los felicitamos. ¿Pero, qué pasa con nosotros? ¿Quién nos garantiza que llegue el pan a nuestros hogares? Nadie. Porque esa misma Marina que liberó a Kuwait y llevó ayuda a Somalia nos destruye nuestros instrumentos del trabajo y no los repone. Además, nos amenaza con arrestarnos y llevarnos a la Corte Federal y hasta encarcelarnos si sobrepasamos esas líneas imaginarias puestas por ella. De esto existe evidencia, porque así ocurrió en los años 1978 - 1980.

Como hemos expuesto antes, no es nuestra intención que la Marina nos pague el arte perdido cada vez que hace maniobras. Aunque sólo lo han hecho una vez, cuando el Oficial de enlace lo era el Tnte. Villareal. Es nuestro interés principal el que si se demarcan áreas, que suelen ser justas, se respeten esas demarcaciones y que no se destruyan las artes, ya que no hay dinero

REAR ADM. ERNEST CHRISTENSEN  
3 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1993  
PAGINA 3

que pague el tiempo que pierde el pescador en volver a construir otro arte; además de muchos otros inconvenientes que causa la pérdida de los mismos.

También tenemos que tomar en consideración el daño que causa a la ecología la pérdida de los artes, de la cual la Marina es responsable. La Marina es responsable de que las nazas destruyan un recurso natural tanpreciado como lo son los peces y mariscos. De esta manera se afecta la producción por años, ya que todas las especies marinas que entren a las nazas perdidas morirán y servirán de carnada o cebo a otros que corren la misma suerte hasta que la naza sea destruída por el tiempo. Y estas nazas son hechas con materiales garantizados a durar alrededor de cinco anos. ¿Se imaginan ustedes cuántas especies son destruídas para nada? ¿Se han puesto a pensar de qué va a vivir el pescador cuando su arte es destruído? ¿De qué va a vivir mientras construye un nuevo arte? ¿De dónde obtendrá el dinero para construir otro arte y cumplir con sus compromisos de crédito? ¿De qué va a vivir mientras se llevan a cabo maniobras y no puede salir a pescar?

En muchas ocasiones tiene que recurrir a realizar trabajos temporeros o chiripas para poder lidiar un poco con la amarga situación. Incluso algunos desisten de seguir pescando. ¿Será ese el fin que persigue la Marina; eliminarnos como clase trabajadora? Todo parece indicar que así es. Pues hace 9 meses que llegó a la Oficina del Lic. T.K. Cranfill unas reclamaciones por daños de artes destruídas y al momento no se tienen noticias. Sin embargo, se han llevado a cabo varias maniobras adicionales desde entonces al presente.

Es meritorio señalar que el día 22 de noviembre de 1993, a las 6:30 A.M., un barco tipo porta-helicóptero cruzó áreas que los pescadores utilizan para la pesca destruyendo nazas. Así tambien, el día 2 de diciembre se llevó a cabo un desembarco anfibio en horas de la mañana. Esto sin notificación previa, ya que no se han colocado en los lugares acostumbrados los itinerarios de las actividades a realizarse desde el 22 de noviembre al presente. Al preguntar en el Gate del Campamento García se me notificó que el mismo no se ha emitido.

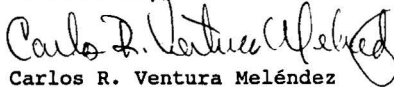
Una vez más la Marina es negligente. ¿Hasta cuándo vá a seguir la tortura y la mentira a los pescadores y al pueblo de Vieques? BASTA YA. No estamos dispuestos a seguir soportando ésto por más tiempo.

REAR ADM. ERNEST CHRISTENSEN  
3 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1993  
PAGINA 4

Esperamos tener una contestación definitiva a las reclamaciones ya hechas a la mayor brevedad posible. No nos dejen un año más en espera de unas migajas que muy poco alivian nuestro pesar.

Sin nada más sobre el particular, queda de usted

Atentamente,



Carlos R. Ventura Meléndez  
Pescador y Portavoz  
Pescadores de Nazas del Sur  
Calle Bromelias #393  
Bo. Esperanza  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

CC: Hon. Pedro J. Roselló González  
Gobernador de Puerto Rico  
La Fortaleza

Hon. Augusto Sánchez Fuentes  
Representante Distrito de Carolina  
El Capitolio

Hon. Manuela Santiago Collazo  
Alcaldesa  
Municipio de Vieques

Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló  
Comisionado Residente en Washington



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
 COMMANDER FLEET AIR, CARIBBEAN  
 PSC 100B  
 FPO AA 34051-8000

5690  
 Ser N02L/022  
 11 Jan 94

Mr. Carlos R. Ventura Melendez  
 Bromelias Street #393  
 Bo. Esperanza  
 Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

Dear Mr. Melendez:


This is in response to your letter of 3 December 1993 regarding the status of your claim for loss of fish traps.

The review of your claim should be completed soon. Several claims filed contemporaneously with yours have been reviewed and settlement offers sent out. The time lag in the processing of your claim is due to the large number received at one time and the necessity of translating the documents, validating receipts, and valuing the lost traps.

Inquiry into the issue you raised concerning the lack of notice regarding naval activities during the period of 22 November through 2 December 1993 indicates that, although notices were issued, they were not posted as required. This omission is regrettable and action has been taken to ensure the timely posting of the notices in the future. The United States Navy will continue to make every effort to provide notice to those effected by its activities and to ensure that the inconvenience caused thereby to Viequesens is minimal.

In closing, however, I would like to state that I encourage anyone with valid cause to file a claim against the Navy for any inadvertent damage which may be caused by our activities. That said, I would also ask you in the future not to include within such claims either your political philosophy or any other disingenuous, poorly written and/or inflammatory rhetoric.

Sincerely,

  
 ERNEST E. CHRISTENSEN  
 Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
 Commander



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
 COMMANDER FLEET AIR, CARIBBEAN  
 PSC 1008  
 FPO AA 34051 8000

5890  
 Ser NO2L/ 1111  
 22 Dec 93

Sr. Jose Anibal Guerra  
 361 Bromelas  
 Bo. Esperanza  
 Vieques, P.R. 00765

Estimado Senor Guerra:

Hemos recibido su planilla numero 95, en la cual usted reclama danos por la perdida de las 16 trampas de pescado y langosta supuestamente ocasionados por las operaciones de la Marina de los Estados Unidos de America operando en la costa sur de la Isla de Vieques durante el periodo del 24 al 30 de enero de 1993. Esta oficina esta autorizada a procesar reclamos de almirantazgo contra los Estados Unidos de America, envolviendo personal de la Marina y su actividades en el Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico.

Este asunto ha sido investigado a fondo. Estamos preparados a ofrecerle la cantidad de \$250.00 como compensacion total de sus perdidas, debido a que usted no ha podido establecer positivamente ser el dueño de las trampas reclamadas. Si usted esta dispuesto a aceptar esta cantidad en satisfaccion total y acuerdo final de todos los reclamos que usted pueda tener ahora y en un futuro como resultado de este incidente, por favor firme el acuerdo de transaccion y devuelvalo a esta oficina. Adjunto encontrara un sobre pre-dirigido para su uso.

Esta oferta terminara y sera nula e invalida el dia 31 de enero de 1994. Al recibir el acuerdo de transaccion firmado, recibira su pago prontamente.

Gracias por su cooperacion.

Sinceramente,

T. K. CRANFILL,  
 Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy  
 Commander Fleet Air Caribbean  
 Staff Judge Advocate

Incluso:  
 Acuerdo de transaccion  
 (Settlement agreement)  
 Sobre pre-dirigido

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
ACUERDO DE TRANSACCION

Dear Sir:  
Estimado Senor:

---I, Jose Anibal Guerra, undersigned, hereby agree to-----  
---Yo, Jose Anibal Guerra, el abajo firmante, por la presente---  
accept the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) in---  
acuerdo aceptar la suma de Dos Ciento y Cincuenta dolares-----

full satisfaction and final settlement of any and all claims I--  
(\$250.00) para satisfacer totalmente y como transaccion final de  
now have or in the future may have against the UNITED STATES OF--  
toda y cualquier reclamacion que ahora tenga o en el futuro-----

AMERICA and its agents and employees, arising from the alleged--  
pueda tener contra los ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA y sus agentes y

loss of 16 fishtraps caused by U.S. Navy vessels operating off--  
empleados, alegadamente surgiendo por la perdida de las 16-----

the southern coast of the Island of Vieques during the period of--  
trampas de pescado y langosta por las operaciones de la Marina---

January 24 through January 30, 1993.-----  
de los Estados Unidos de America operando en la costa sur de la--

-----  
Isla de Vieques durante el periodo de el 24 al 30 de enero de---  
-----  
1993.-----

---In consideration for the payment of the sum stated above, I---  
---En consideracion del pago de la suma arriba indicada,-----

will indemnify and hold harmless the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and  
indemnizo y relevo de responsabilidad a los ESTADOS UNIDOS DE---

its agents and employees from any and all claims, actions, or---  
AMERICA y sus agentes y empleados de toda y cualquier reclamacion

proceedings which may hereafter be asserted or brought by or on--  
accion, o procedimiento que pueda en lo adelante seraseverada o--

behalf of any person or entity to recover for damages arising out  
iniciada por o en beneficio de cualquier persona o entidad para--

of or related to the matters alleged in the claim filed by-----  
recuperar por danos que surgen de o relacionados con los asuntos--

myself.-----  
 que se alegan en la reclamacion radicada por mi.-----

-----  
 (CLAIMANT)(RECLAMANTE)

-----  
 (DATE)(FECHA)

-----  
 (WITNESS)(TESTIGO)

12 de enero de 1994  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

**T.K. Cranfill**  
**Lieutenant Commander U.S. Navy**  
**Commander Fleet Air Caribbean**  
**Staff Judge Advocate**

**Estimado Sr. Cranfill:**

Nuevamente nos dirigimos a usted con el propósito de solicitarle una reconsideración de la oferta hecha por el Navy a través de usted, en relación a la reclamación hecha por nosotros por la pérdida de artes de pesca o trampas para pescado y langostas (nazas). Consideramos que la oferta hecha por usted es injusta ya que la misma apenas cubre el costo de una de las trampas o nazas. El costo de cada trampa ya fue especificado en la forma de reclamación.

También le estamos pidiendo que tome en consideración el lucro cesante promedio que ha tenido cada pescador desde el momento de la pérdida hasta el presente (alrededor de 50 semanas). El mismo fluctúa entre los \$2,800.00 y \$10,400.00 según sea el caso de cada pescador.

Es por tal motivo que creemos que la oferta de \$250.00 a cada pescador sin importar la cantidad de artes perdidas es injusta.

**Esperamos tener una contestación que beneficie a ambas partes dentro de los próximos 30 días. De no recibir contestación nos veremos en la obligación de acudir a otros foros para que nuestros reclamos sean escuchados, entre los cuales no descartamos la prensa local e internacional.**

**Sin nada más sobre el particular y agradeciendo de antemano cualquier gestión al respecto queda de usted.**

**Pescadores de Nazas del Sur de Vieques.**

**Carlos R. Ventura  
Portavoz Pescadores**

**José Aníbal Guerra  
Portavoz Pescadores**

**Angel M. Ventura  
Portavoz Pescadores**



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER FLEET AIR, CARIBBEAN

PSC 1008

FPO AA 34051-8000

5890

Ser NO2L/180

11 Mar 94

Sr. Jose Anibal Guerra  
361 Bromelas  
Bo. Esperanza  
Vieques, P.R. 00765

Estimado Senor Guerra:

Este comando ha recibido su carta, sin fecha, pidiendo una reconsideracion de la oferta de transaccion hecha por la Marina de los Estados Unidos de America.

La cantidad ofrecida como compensacion en su caso, es una cantidad firme. Esta basada sobre el hecho que a pesar que su reclamacion indica sus trampas fueron hechas a mano y solamente tenian 3 meses al tiempo de su perdida, usted no puede proveer evidencia para comprobar su posesion de trampas. Las reclamaciones por perdida de propiedad personal hechas en contra de el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos no pueden ser pagadas sin evidencia que compruebe que es propiedad del reclamante. A pesar de que usted no a podido establecer completamente su reclamacion, los Estados Unidos hace esta oferta de buena voluntad para reemborsarle \$250.00 dolares por la perdida alegada.

Si usted decide aceptar esta oferta, por favor firme el acuerdo de transaccion adjunto en la carta enviada por este comando anteriormente y devuelvala.

Sinceramente,

T. K. CRANFILL  
Lieutenant Commander  
JAGC, U.S. Navy  
Commander Fleet Air, Caribbean  
Staff Judge Advocate  
By direction

**Grupo Pro Derechos Pescadores de Vieques**

Calle Bromelias 393  
 Barrio Esperanza  
 Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765  
 (809) 741-2220

9 de agosto de 1994

**COMUNICADO DE PRENSA**

Nosotros los pescadores viequenses denunciarnos publicamente que una vez más hemos sido objeto del abuso y atropello por parte de la Marina de Guerra de E.U. Durante las más recientes maniobras militares en la Isla, sufrimos gran pérdida económica como clase trabajadora por la destrucción de la mayor parte de los artes de pesca (nazas) y por el grave daño a la vida marina en el área.

Durante años nos hemos dirigido a los representantes de la Marina, hasta el propio Almirante Christensen, llegando hasta sugerirles alternativas para llegar a un acuerdo, sin resultado. También nos hemos dirigido a personas de alto mando en el gobierno para que intervengan en el asunto pero estos han hecho caso omiso a nuestro pedido.

Ya nuestra paciencia se acabó y nos negamos a seguir siendo atropellados. Exigimos que se respeten nuestros derechos y por tal razón **le estamos dando un ultimátum a la Marina y la hacemos responsable de cualquier situación que pueda surgir en un futuro inmediato o a largo plazo como consecuencia de su actitud negligente en este asunto.** Así como también responsabilizamos a las personas en el gobierno a quienes nos hemos dirigido para pedirles su intervención en este problema.

Nosotros los pescadores viequenses le decimos a la Marina, "¡Basta Ya!" y exigimos justicia.

Carlos Ventura  
 José Aníbal Guerra  
 Víctor Meléndez

GRUPO PRO DERECHOS PESCADORES DE VIEQUES  
 Calle Bromelias 393  
 Barrio Esperanza  
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 (809) 741-2220  
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15 de agosto de 1994

COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

Una asamblea extraordinaria de pescadores la cual había sido convocada por el Grupo Pro Derechos de Pescadores de Vieques rechazó unánimemente reunirse con representantes de la Marina si estos no cumplían con acuerdos previos.


La asamblea de pescadores Viequeses fue convocada de emergencia para el pasado fin de semana para oír de sus representantes un informe de los gestiones hechas por estos en los últimos tiempos y la posibilidad de asistir a una reunión convocada por la Marina.

En su informe a los pescadores, sus representantes explicaron con lujo de detalles todas las gestiones hechas durante los pasados años ante la Marina de Guerra de los E.U. Señalan los pescadores, que es ahora, cuando ellos se han organizado solidamente, cuando le someten un ultimatum a la Marina y se va a discutir el caso de Vieques y de la Marina en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos que quieren por fin oírlos.

Los pescadores Viequeses exigen la presencia de la prensa y representación de asesores legales como condición para llevar a cabo la reunión solicitada por la Marina. Los representantes de la Marina los cuales originalmente habían aceptado rechazaron que estuviera presente la prensa y acusaron a los pescadores de no ser honestos en sus planteamientos.

"Obviamente, señaló uno de los pescadores, la Marina quiere hacer nuevamente un entrampamiento, como lo hizo hace mas de diez años al gobierno de Puerto Rico."

Como punto final en la concurrida asamblea de pescadores se le ordenó a su liderato a que implemente cualquier acción ya sea en mar o tierra cuando asi lo estimen pertinente.

Victor Melendez   
 Anibal Guerra (Fdo.)  
 Carlos Ventura (Fdo.)  
 Portavoces, CPDPV

Documents

Related to answer 4

# Integrated Renewable Resource Management for U.S. Insular Areas



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Washington, DC 20510-8025

the United States rights to convert certain well-defined areas in Palau into bases or training areas. Implementation of such plans presumably depends on the evolving situation in the Philippines and/or the pace and level of Soviet military activities in the area.

2. A major air base for dispersed operations may be constructed on Tinian as a backup to Andersen AFB on Guam. However, there are no indications of any serious moves by DOD to do this over the next several years.
3. KMR might be expanded or an alternative range developed to allow testing of the MX missile. Preliminary surveys during the late 1970s identified the CNMI as a possible site for a "mini-KMR." As yet there is no evidence that DOD plans either action.

### **Ecological and Economic Effects of the Military Presence**

Views regarding the effects of the U.S. military on the islands are mixed. Many islanders welcome the economic and job benefits derived from the presence of military bases. Others cite the loss of valuable lands, negative cultural impacts (e.g., undermining of traditional values), attraction of undesirable elements, inflation, overcrowding of schools, degradation of water quality, and restrictions on economic growth.

#### **Pacific**

Guam's local government concedes the critical importance of bases there to U.S. security interests, but contends that much of the land presently occupied is redundant to principal missions. U.S. military authorities strongly disagree, citing the need to be prepared for several major contingencies, including the phasing down or replacement of key facilities in the Philippines. DOD currently is reassessing its land requirements on Guam, but is unlikely to recommend a reduction of these requirements. However, some lands held for military purposes contain large areas of natural habitat, for which DOD ownership has provided de facto protection to wildlife populations.

The operations at KMR have a profound effect on local inhabitants and ecology. Water availability, quality, and wastewater disposal all pose problems. The concentration of 8,000 Micronesians on the 66-acre island of Ebeye is an extreme example of the U.S. military's impact. Ebeye is severely overcrowded; acute socioeconomic problems and sub-

standard housing, medical facilities, schools, and related amenities have resulted.

Most of the residents of Ebeye migrated there from the "outer" Marshall islands, drawn by well-paying jobs at KMR or because relatives work there. Most are denied access to base facilities, although these restrictions have been relaxed over the past several years. Ebeye has been the recipient of a number of U.S. programs and funds, most of which have been funneled into infrastructure such as a desalination plant and a sewage treatment facility.

#### **Caribbean**

Naval forces in Puerto Rico have been extremely helpful to local authorities during and after major storms and flooding by providing transport, medical assistance, and earth-moving equipment. Naval forces at Roosevelt Roads also conduct a number of civic action projects locally. DOD also increased defense contracting in Puerto Rico from \$187 million in fiscal year 1983 to \$417 million for the first 11 months of 1985.

Under a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Navy (USN) and the Government of Puerto Rico, DOD has undertaken a number of measures to improve the welfare of the people of Vieques, through the provision of medical equipment, supplies for local hospitals, assistance in public works construction, and a concerted effort to attract American industries to the island resulting thus far in 366 new jobs. In addition, it contracted with the Smithsonian Institution to provide a major study of the mariculture potential of that island. This has led to the creation of some 400 jobs.

Most environmental problems resulting from U.S. military activities on U.S.-affiliated islands appear to have resulted from the lack of understanding or awareness of procedures, or from insensitivity on the part of individual military officers, rather than from the absence of relevant policies or directives. Military officers generally lack the time, staff, and training to handle resource protection responsibilities, and the military has been slow to comply with some local environmental regulations.

### **Procedures To Consider Environmental and Land-Use Issues in Exant Military Installations and Activities**

The U.S. military has a variety of procedures to consider environmental and land-use issues in its island operations, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and three DOD



## Vieques Marine Laboratories

F-153 Esperanza Beach  
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico 00765  
809 • 741-8508

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5/3/94

ALISON L. HESS  
Co-Project Director/Senior Associate  
Food & Renewable Resources  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Congress of the United States

Dear Ms. Hess,

First, I'd like to thank you for your prompt assistance in obtaining the available information on the aquaculture issue in U.S. Insular Areas, particularly, for us, in Vieques. Some of this information has been quoted by us in communications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *et al.* (See included documents.)

The OTA report "Integrated Renewable Resource Management for U.S. Insular Areas" does indeed make several specific references to mariculture in Vieques.

Unfortunately, one of these references contains a glaring error of fact, which has long constituted a sore spot and a setback for the people of Vieques.

On page 378, under the section heading **Caribbean**, the second paragraph contains the lines:

" In addition, it (DoD) contracted with the Smithsonian Institution to provide a major study of the mariculture potential of that island (Vieques). This has led to the creation of some 400 jobs."

The first sentence is true. The second is completely off the wall and I can bear witness to that. In 1986 I was contracted to run that project but must testify with regret, that it never got off the ground in Vieques and not a single job was created here, although Federal monies were utilized to initiate Caribbean King Crab Projects in at least four foreign-flag islands in the area.

Perhaps I can take advantage of this time to ask your assistance in seeking support for a similar project in Vieques using marine shrimp as the primary stock animal.

Page 2 — OTA

For several years we have worked on streamlined revisions of the earlier King Crab concept and have produced a smaller version, more uniquely suitable for this island. Smaller bay, smaller animals, a completely local work force, local headquarters/laboratory and local consumption of product.

- The Navy has offered the site and actively promoted the concept in the press.
- The Smithsonian has sent us a marine biologist to coordinate a series of conservation projects with their Marine Systems Laboratory.
- The Municipal Government has endorsed us and included our shrimp farm/marine lab in its island development plan as a scientific/educational facility to create jobs and attract eco-tourism.

The idea is to provide renewable food resources and to re-populate a fished-out area.

But this non-profit project has been de-railed in the labyrinth of bureaucratic permit processing and has met extraordinary resistance from certain environmental technocrats.

Meanwhile the local supermarkets offer long dead, frozen shrimp from places like Bangladesh, Taiwan and Ecuador at \$13.50 per pound on an island where we could supply them alive at \$4.50.

Thanks for your attention,

Sincerely,



Charlie Connelly

cc: Mayor of Vieques  
 Senator Kennedy, OTA Board Chairman  
 Governor of Puerto Rico  
 P.R. Resident Commissioner in Congress

**VIEQUES MARINE LABORATORIES**  
**F-153 Esperanza Beach**  
**Vieques Island, P.R. 00765**

10/4/94

ALISON L. HESS  
 Co-Project Director/Senior Associate  
 Food & Renewable Resources  
 Office of Technology Assessment  
 Congress of the United States

Dear Ms. Hess,

*Tempus* does indeed *fugit*.. But thanks for the aquaculture address list.

To answer your question about JTPA participation — I have included some pertinent documents. How, exactly JTPA works in the States, I don't really know, but apparently in Puerto Rico they provide certain funds to be administered by the PR Labor Department's Right to Work Administration, or "ADT" (*Administración del Derecho al Trabajo*).

At the time when DoD was pushing the Smithsonian toward the local DNR, we, at the Institute of Marine Arts and Sciences were training students to make a living in the sea. The training was in part funded by JTPA through ADT.

We understand that DNR began to fudge on the Smithsonian Crab project (probably in part because they were beginning to phase out their marine resources company "CODREMAR".

It was natural then that the Smithsonian people should approach us, who were already in Vieques with staff, school buildings, boats, equipment and an about-to-graduate matriculum of 55 young people with basic training in marine biology, fishery techniques, diving, etc. It was equally natural that ADT would welcome the chance to fund a more sophisticated out-grow program in such distinguished company.

Yes, there were serious clout letters from Defense and the Navy. In apparent direct response to one such letter from Caspar Weinberger, the then Governor of Puerto Rico launched a million dollar series of TV commercials touting the underwater projects. The governments, the agencies and even the political parties made hay of all this avant-garde projects propaganda.

Unfortunately none of it came true for Vieques and no one seems to have any convincing explanation why the much touted Memo of Understanding hasn't been able to produce a single job in ten years.

Thanks for your attention,

Sincerely,



Charlie Connelly

**VIEQUES MARINE LABORATORIES**  
**F-153 Esperanza Beach**  
**Vieques Island, P.R. 00765**

**Background Intro**

*(Submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers, San Juan on March 10, 1994, with other technical information and the newly revised Water Quality Monitoring Plan as approved by DNR & USF&WS)*

A letter to us (and published report) dated 25 February, 1994 from Co-Project Director Alison L. Hess of the Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress, OTA) has prompted us to include some pertinent background data.

I will quote from the 400-page OTA report titled Integrated Renewable Resource Management for U.S. Insular Areas:

**Marine Shrimp.** — (Quote, p.255) Potential exists in Puerto Rico for farming marine shrimp (*Penaeus sp.*), but few large coastal tracts are available. Farms would need to include hatcheries with facilities for maturation of brood stock since no wild stocks occur in the area (underlining ours) Adaptive research ... would be advisable.

**Seaweed Cultivation.** — (Quote, p. 253) The Smithsonian Institution's Marine Systems Laboratory has been active in mariculture research in Caribbean reefs. Research efforts have led to development of techniques for algal turf farming on artificial surfaces. While the harvested algae has a variety of purposes a primary interest exists in using it as a food source for the Caribbean king crab (*Mythrax spinosissimus*). ... The U.S. Navy has given tentative approval despite the project's siting in a naval training area on Vieques. The techniques involved in Caribbean king crab mariculture also may be applicable to culture of other marine species.

**Summary.** — (Quote, p. 257) Freshwater and saltwater pond culture, culture in net pens, cages and intertidal or subtidal culture (on or off the substrate) are all applicable to tropical environments and species of the U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

**Caribbean.** — (Quote, p.378) Under a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Navy (USN) and the Government of Puerto Rico, DoD has undertaken a number of measures to improve the welfare of the people of Vieques... In addition it contracted with the Smithsonian Institution to provide a major study of the mariculture potential of that island.

**Our Comments**

**Synopsis:**

1. No wild shrimp stocks occur in the area.
2. The place is right.
3. The research has been done.
4. Algal turf technology is suitable for species other than crab
5. Cages are suitable

Page 2

In 1986, after active participation in the planning stages for the Crab Mariculture project I was named project coordinator. I would direct the activities of and instruct five marine biologists, 20 mariculturists and some 100 "sea farm hands". The job also entailed coordinating between the Smithsonian's Marine Systems Lab (MSL), the Institute of Marine Arts & Sciences, the USN, Vieques Economic Development Corp., Aquacorp, several foundations and Government agencies.

A \$413,420.00 training proposal was approved by the Right-to-Work Administration (Job Training Partnership Act) in May, 1986.

However, \$1.5 million in funding from US Agency for International Development was diverted to mariculture projects on other foreign flag islands in the Caribbean on the basis that Vieques was, after all, US soil. So mariculture never got off the ground in Vieques.

Since that time we have endeavored to revive the concept, albeit on a small enough scale so that the main office remains in Vieques, that the created jobs are truly local jobs and that local consumers have first pick of our fresh seafood. And though the shrimp project is only pilot size, it is designed to provide the island with a valid scientific/educational facility to attract eco-tourism in the form of investigators, students and teachers. As such, this facility is included in the municipal master plan for island development.

We have the location, the research, the technology, the project, and on-going contact with the Smithsonian and other interested scientific organizations and mariculture specialists, as well as SeaGrant College programs and both foreign and domestic universities.

Thanks for your attention,

Sincerely,



C.R. Connelly

# **ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM FOR VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO**



**President's Economic Adjustment Committee  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301**

**February 1986**

**CRAB CHRONOLOGY**  
**VEDCO (Vieques Economic Development Corp.)**  
**(Office of Economic Adjustment)**

MAR 85	At OEA request, Smithsonian Marine Research Lab submits proposal for mariculture feasibility study
APR 85	OEA contracts with Smithsonian Institution for study (\$6000)
APR 85	Smithsonian research vessel in Vieques. Study done.
JUN 85	Smithsonian submits report to OEA. A site is identified which is suitable for a mariculture demonstration using Caribbean King Crab.
JUN 85	OEA, Navy and Smithsonian representatives meet with Puerto Rico Secretary of Natural Resources. He agrees to fund a Caribbean King Crab mariculture project in Vieques.
JUL 85	Smithsonian submits proposal for mariculture demonstration project to Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources.

Data from Appendix B

To achieve full economic diversification in Vieques, it will be necessary to identify projects that can produce jobs and income from marine resources development. Some of the projects which have emerged in the first two years of the economic adjustment program are described below.

**King Crab Mariculture:** During the last several years, the prestigious Marine Systems Laboratory (MSL) of the Smithsonian Institution has attracted international attention through its success with mariculture research in the reefs of the Caribbean.

Mariculture is the cultivation of marine animals or plants for human use. It has been used for centuries in various parts of the world. In recent years, there has been an increasing worldwide demand for seafood and increasing technological innovation. This has led to more interest in commercial aquaculture and substantial increase in production. Annual worldwide output of aquaculture products exceeds 6 million metric tons, nearly 10 percent of world fishery output.

It is now known that the extraordinarily high productivity of tropical reefs is mostly derived from many species of small marine plants known as turf algae. MSL researchers have developed methods for inexpensively cultivating these turfs on artificial surfaces at sea. When harvested, many uses of this plant material are possible. Funding has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) to teach fishermen techniques for the cultivation of algal turfs to be used as food for the breeding of the Caribbean King Crab (*Mynthrax spinosissimus*). Demonstration projects are underway in the Turks and Caicos

Para obtener una total diversificación económica en Vieques, es necesario detectar los proyectos que puedan producir empleos e ingresos procedentes del desarrollo de recursos marinos. Algunos de los proyectos que han surgido en los dos primeros años del programa de desarrollo económico se describen a continuación.

**Criadero de Cangrejo King:** Durante los últimos años el prestigioso Laboratorio de Sistemas Marinos (MSL) de la Institución Smithsonian ha atraído la atención internacional por su éxito en la investigación de maricultura en los arrecifes del Caribe.

El nombre de "maricultura" significa la cría de animales o plantas marinas para uso humano. Se ha llevado a cabo durante siglos en varias partes del mundo. En los últimos años ha aumentado la demanda mundial de pescado a la par que de técnicas innovadoras. Esto ha llevado a un mayor interés en maricultura comercial unido a un aumento considerable de la producción. La creación anual de productos para la maricultura excede los 6 millones de toneladas métricas, casi un 10% de la producción pesquera.

Actualmente se sabe que la productividad extraordinariamente alta de los arrecifes tropicales se debe en su mayor parte a una especie de pequeñas plantas marinas conocidas como algas de turba. Los investigadores de MSL han desarrollado métodos para cultivar económicamente estas turbas en superficies artificiales en el mar. Una vez cosechadas pueden utilizarse para diversos usos. La Agencia de Desarrollo Internacional (AID) de los EE.UU. ha proporcionado fondos para enseñar técnicas de cultivo de estas algas a los pescadores con el fin de emplearlas como comida para el cangrejo King del Caribe (*Mythrax spinosissimus*). Se están preparando proyectos de

Islands, the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Grenada.

The Caribbean King Crab is indigenous to the Caribbean, but has not been exploited commercially because it is nocturnal and lives in lower reefs. Similar in size and taste to the Alaskan King Crab, its high market value makes it a good alternative for the restaurant market, as the Alaskan King Crab fishery is now in decline. A picture of the Caribbean King Crab is shown below:

demonstración en las islas Turks y Caicos, República Dominicana, Antigua y Granada.

El cangrejo King del Caribe es oriundo del Caribe, pero no ha sido comercialmente explotado porque es un animal nocturno que vive en los arrecifes más bajos. Es semejante en tamaño y gusto al cangrejo King de Alaska. Su alto valor de mercado lo hace una buena alternativa para el mercado de restaurantes, dado que el cangrejo King de Alaska está en declive. El dibujo que sigue muestra el cangrejo del Caribe.

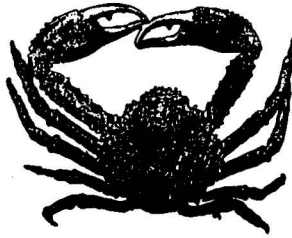


Figure 9. Caribbean King Crab  
Figura 9. Cangrejo King del Caribe

A typical Caribbean King Crab weighs four pounds and has 1 1/2 pounds of meat. The meat is sweet tasting, similar to lobster, and not as stringy as most crab meat. The crab can be hatched from eggs easily reared in captivity, and its food can be inexpensively grown in the manner described above.

Un cangrejo King del Caribe pesa 4 libras y tiene 1 1/2 libras de carne. La carne es de un sabor dulce, parecido al de la langosta y no es tan fibroso como la mayor parte de la carne de cangrejo. El cangrejo puede obtenerse de los huevos, puede criarse fácilmente en cautividad y lo que come se puede cultivar de forma económica como se describe antes.

Following a survey of the Vieques shoreline sponsored by OEA, the MSL submitted a proposal to assist the Puerto Rico Marine Resources Agency (CODREMAR) to develop a Caribbean King Crab mariculture demonstration project. The only site in Vieques that had the proper conditions is a bay called Ensenada Honda, which is shown in the map in Section I. Although it is located within the training area, the Navy has given its tentative support to the project.

Recognizing a good opportunity, the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources has committed to fund the demonstration. The project will probably be undertaken with the participation of CODREMAR technicians and about 12 scientists and students from the Marine Sciences School of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. If the demonstration site selected is a viable one, the MSL believes it may have the potential to create employment for 100 people.

Project implementation would require a change in the delimitation of restricted Navy areas. This would provide an indirect community benefit by opening a significant amount of southeastern coastal waters which were previously off limits to local fishermen.

The mariculture techniques employed for the crabs can also be used to raise other kinds of sea life. Through the demonstration, Vieques can lead the way for Puerto Rico's participation in this new area of "high tech" marine resource development. Later it may be possible to identify suitable sites on the shores of the main island, so that a sizeable and profitable new Puerto Rican industry can be built.

Siguiendo un estudio de la costa de Vieques patrocinado por la OEA, el MSL sometió una propuesta para ayudar a la Corporación de Desarrollo de los Recursos Marinos de Puerto Rico (CODREMAR) a desarrollar un proyecto de demostración de cría de cangrejo King del Caribe. El único lugar de Vieques con las condiciones adecuadas es la bahía llamada Ensenada Honda, señalada en el mapa de la Sección I. Aun cuando esté situada en área de entrenamiento, la Marina Norteamericana ha dado su apoyo tentativo al proyecto.

Viendo una buena oportunidad, el Departamento de Recursos Naturales de Puerto Rico se ha comprometido a subvencionar la demostración. El proyecto se llevará probablemente a cabo con la participación de técnicos de CODREMAR y unos 12 científicos y estudiantes de la Escuela de Ciencias Marinas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Mayagüez. Si el lugar es apropiado, la MSL cree que tendría posibilidades de emplear a 100 personas.

La puesta en marcha del proyecto requeriría un cambio en las delimitaciones para el uso de áreas pertenecientes a la Marina Norteamericana. Esto produciría un beneficio indirecto a la comunidad abriendo un número considerable de costas del sudeste que estaban antes vedadas a los pescadores.

Las técnicas de maricultura empleadas para los cangrejos pueden emplearse también en la cría de otros animales marinos. Con esta demostración, Vieques puede abrir el camino a la participación de Puerto Rico en esta nueva área de "alta tecnología" en el desarrollo de recursos marinos. Más tarde podrían encontrarse lugares apropiados en las costas de la isla grande que podrían ser el medio de crear una nueva y provechosa industria en Puerto Rico.

**Empacadora del Caribe Inc.:** This company has proposed a demonstration pilot project for shark catching, processing and packing via a sea-going plant. It would create 12 permanent jobs with the potential to expand to 30. The floating packing house would serve a fleet of up to 40 independent fishermen. The company has already obtained the fishing/packing vessel and most of the freezing equipment has been constructed. The Navy has tentatively agreed to allow the company to use one acre of waterfront property, the deep water facilities and the Mosquito Pier.

**Institute for the Marine Sciences:** A new training entity, the Institute for the Marine Sciences, has been opened in a refurbished small guest house near the village of Esperanza. It is run by four teachers and provides on-the-job training for its first class of 35 young people from Vieques. The program is operated with \$175,000 of federal Job Training and Partnership (JTPA) funds, administered by the Puerto Rico Right to Work Administration. It has \$75,000 from other sources. The students get paid while they are being trained. This first class will be graduated in January 1986, at which time advanced and other classes will be conducted. Present funding ensures operation for at least 18 months.

**Empacadora del Caribe:** Esta compañía ha propuesto un proyecto piloto de demostración para la pesca del tiburón, su elaboración y empaquetado por medio de una planta flotante. Crearía 12 puestos permanentes de trabajo con la posibilidad de extenderse a 30. La planta empaquetadora flotante serviría a una flota de hasta 40 pescadores independientes. La compañía ha adquirido ya el barco para pesca y empaquetado y se ha construido ya la mayor parte del equipo de congelación. La Marina Norteamericana está casi de acuerdo en permitir a la compañía el uso de un acre de aguas de su propiedad y las instalaciones de aguas profundas en el muelle Mosquito.

**Instituto de Ciencias Marinas:** Una nueva entidad de entrenamiento, el Instituto de Ciencias Marinas, ha sido abierta en una pequeña hospedería restaurada cerca del pueblo Esperanza. Está dirigido por cuatro profesores y proporciona clases de aprendizaje del oficio a su primera clase de 35 jóvenes de Vieques. El programa opera con \$175,000 de fondos federales para Aprendizaje Profesional y Asociación (JTPA) bajo la administración de la Administración de Derecho al Trabajo de Puerto Rico. Dispone también de \$75,000 de otras agencias fuentes. Los estudiantes cobran mientras aprenden. Los estudiantes recibirán su diploma en enero de 1986 y al mismo tiempo empezarán clases avanzadas y otras. Los fondos actuales aseguran la duración de la operación por 18 meses por lo menos.

Insular and International Affairs Subcommittee  
Long worth House Office Bldg. Room 1626  
Washington D.C. 20515  
Tel. (202) 225-9297  
Fax: (202) 225-5255

Ref: Transfer of 8,000 acres  
of Navy land to the municipality  
of Vieques island  
11 October 1994

Att: Ms. Daisy Minter

## *Just Another Political Plot*

My name is Jose Julio Diaz and this testimony is to express my point of view about the transfer of 8,000 acres of Navy land to the municipality of Vieques.

In 1948 Puerto Ricans elected a governor for the first time. Inmediatly the use of English as a language of instruction was prohibited in the public school system. Since then, teachers in Puerto Rico can teach English but they can't teach "in English". This 46 year old political plot of the three political parties has been a discriminatory policy against the use of the English language in the public school system and it is still in effect today. There shall be no law under the American flag that prohibit an American citizen to receive education in the English language.

This policy does not affect private schools where 99 % of high ranking government officials and legislators send their children to receive the education that they have been denying to the rest of the people of Puerto Rico.

A second political plot was carried out in 1952 when the political parties got together and created the Constitution of the Commonwealth. In the process they designed the Constitution in a way that gave themselves the power and control of the destiny of the whole Puerto Rican society. Since then, everything is decided by the political parties. They consult the people only when they have a specific political agenda.

The political parties of Puerto Rico interact mainly around two specific things: the ideological motivation of status and the manytimes irrational love for the party. The parties spend millions of taxpayers money every year just to promote love for the party, the sense of unity and the commitment and obligation to preserve that unity. For this reason no members of local political parties dare to defend the position of the U.S. Navy in this case.

A third political plot concerns the U.S. Navy. The politicians of the three political parties have been making a political issue of this situation. They are making a simple mathematical equation; *“getting the Navy out = votes from Vieques residents = good will for the party from the rest of the population”*. In the political spectrum of local politics everything seems to be more important than national defense.

They don't ask for the closing of the army post Fort Buchanan, in San Juan or the Navy Base at Roosevelt Roads or the closure of the many National Guard Units in Puerto Rico because they produce thousand of jobs and inject millions of dollars into the economy. Unfortunately, that is not the case of Vieques which is only a firing range. Because it does not produce jobs or money they should get out. What kind of American citizens are we?.

The return of 8,000 acres will definitely improve the economy of the island but not in the way and magnitude that the parties are trying to demonstrate. The rhetorical strategy is to blame the Navy for all the problems of Vieques. They are giving the impression that if the Navy goes, Vieques will become a paradise. People likes to hear this kind of thing.

There is nothing further from the truth. We need to remember 15 years ago when the use of Culebra Island was a political issue promoted by nationalist forces. There were many demonstrations, marches, pickets, newspaper articles, speeches and all kind of rhetoric to get the Navy out. Fifteen years later the island of Culebra is not the paradise that it was supposed to be. Only on weekends does it receive some visitors, but never more than before. Only a few more people live on the island and a lot more garbage is produced.

More than that, politicians and hundreds of followers do not visit Culebra island because there is no excuse to go there. Now they go to Vieques and spend all their money there. If the Navy gives the land to the municipality, Vieques will lose its main tourism attraction in the same way Culebra did; politicians will not visit the island anymore.

The give-away of those 8,000 acres of land will cause a lot more ecological damage to the environment in civilian hands than in military hands. When a bomb explodes it kills or wounds everything that is alive around it at the moment. In a few days or weeks everything goes back to normal.

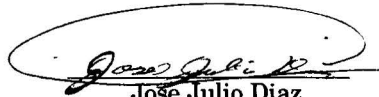
When a tourist or a resident wants to get rid of an old tire or wants to change the dirty oil of his car, in some cases it is thrown on the ground. In both circumstances the damage take years to heal. If the civilian authorities learn about it, nothing ever happens. In Puerto Rico environmental laws are seldom enforced. If a military person do that and is caught, he or she will face disciplinary action. If the damage is of great magnitude, it could mean a court martial or even time in prison.

If the Commonwealth and the big cities of Puerto Rico with huge budgets can not handle their environmental affairs, why should we believe that the small municipality of Vieques will do it? Irreversible ecological damage will be done if the land is given to civilians.

There is another important item I want to address. The fact (if it is a fact) that the 8,000 acres of land are not necessary for the national defense at this moment, logically it does not mean that it could not be absolutely necessary in the future. Giving away the land will be an irreversible action that the whole nation could regret 10, 20 or maybe 100 years from now.

Our founding fathers were very clear when they wrote in the preamble of our Constitution the words "and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity". Assurance to future generations that they will have a strong defense is our responsibility today, not tomorrow.

What we have now is due to the wisdom and vision of past generations. It is our turn to demonstrate, two hundred years later to future generations that we knew the real meaning of those two words.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to read "José Julio Díaz".

José Julio Díaz  
Cond. De Diego 444, Apt. 1901  
Rio Piedras, P.R. 00923  
Tel. (809) 759-8186, Fax: (809) 752-6789  
11 October 1994

**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
 (Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques)  
 APARTADO 1424  
 VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO 00765  
 (809) 741-8651

3 de septiembre de 1994

**Petición en apoyo al Proyecto de Ley 3831, El Proyecto para la Transferencia de Terrenos de Vieques de 1994**

Nosotros, ciudadanos de la Isla de Vieques, Puerto Rico, apoyamos el Proyecto de Ley 3831, conocido como el Proyecto para la Transferencia de Terrenos de Vieques de 1994, sometido al Congreso de los Estados Unidos por el Comisionado Residente de Puerto Rico, Honorable Carlos Romero Barceló. Este proyecto exige la devolución al Gobierno Municipal de Vieques de los terrenos ocupados (aproximadamente 8,000 cuerdas) por la Marina de Guerra de E.U. en la parte Oeste de nuestra isla. Entendemos que la devolución de los terrenos expropiados por la Marina en la década de 1940 es indispensable para el futuro desarrollo socio-económico de nuestro pueblo.

**Petition in support of HR 3831, Ley for Transfer of Lands in Vieques of 1994.**

As citizens of the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, we support HR 3831, known as the Vieques Land Transfer Project of 1994, presented to the United States Congress by the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico, Hon. Carlos Romero Barceló. This project demands the transfer to the Municipal Government of Vieques, of lands occupied (approximately 8000 acres) by the U.S. Navy in the Western third of our island. We believe the return of lands expropriated by the Navy in the 1940's is an indispensable step for the future social and economic development of our people.

**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
(Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques)

Nosotros, los abajo firmantes, nos subscribimos al texto acompañante de la Petición en Apoyo al Proyecto de Ley 3831, Proyecto para la Transferencia de Terrenos de Vieques de 1994.

We, the undersigned, subscribe to the text of the accompanying Petition in Support of HR 3831, Vieques Land Transfer Project of 1994.

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**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
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~~4 Pulque 1012 Pulque Monte Santo Viguer~~

David Rodriguez Rodriguez Monto ~~sent~~

2 July Day Day 11 August 1963

Lesang, Rani, Sauri, Manti, Panti

Angel Rodriguez Rodriguez Monte Santo Jueves 20 de Mayo 1975

Juan Ramon Romas monte santo de virgen  
OP.

Juan Salgado Rivera BO Puerto Rico PR 00763

~~A. liliifera~~ *montana* *Crucif.* *As. mont. liliifera* *Crucif.*

Quinto Camacho Camacho Romero Santo Agustin PA  
(16)

James M. in 2th Baron Boston Virginia

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Cladonia kerawala Pers. ex Unger, P. 00765

Assunta Lavelle Basela Brook Boston

Rafael A. Ramoiz Ba. Ed - Valencia, P.R.

Juan Carlos Antonio Bujapungu, P.R. 00765

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**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
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<i>Orquídea Santiago</i>	<i>Bd. Esperanza Vieques P.R.</i>
<i>Yvonne DuBouche</i>	<i>Bd. Pueblo Nuevo Vieques, P.R.</i>
<i>Nelson Canales Edet</i>	<i>Bd. Destino Vieques P.R. Rico</i>
<i>Julio Olivero</i>	<i>Bd. San Mateo</i>
<i>Rafael Olivero</i>	<i>Bd. Esperanza</i>
<i>Carman Ortiz</i>	<i>Bd. Esperanza</i>
<i>Genoveva Marino</i>	<i>Esperanza</i>
<i>Patricia Rodríguez</i>	<i>Bd. Santa Fe</i>
<i>Celestino Otero</i>	<i>Bravos de Boston</i>
<i>Ramón Otero</i>	<i>Bravos de Boston</i>
<i>Isabel Otero</i>	<i>Bravos de Boston</i>
<i>Tuella Otero aponte</i>	
<i>Isabel Monell</i>	
<i>José Amador</i>	<i>- Vieques, P.R.</i>

**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
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<i>Elia Garcia Pineda</i>	<i>P.O. Box 314 Vieques, P.R. 00765</i>
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<i>Camacho Cruz Felix</i>	<i>Br. Esperanza</i>
<i>Alicia Davis</i>	<i>B. ESPERANZA</i>
<i>Johnny Ramos</i>	<i>Bo Pueblo</i>
<i>Rafael</i>	<i>B. ESPERANZA</i>
<i>Fernando Velazquez</i>	<i>Box Pueblo Nuevo</i>
<i>Rafael Lopez</i>	<i>Calle Magnolia 417</i>
<i>Alexander San Luis</i>	<i>Calle Gladys 455</i>
<i>Ella Guisard</i>	<i>Calle Gladys 458</i>

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Patricia Camacho Cedeño, Venezuela P.R.

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Joe Bonilla Cruz P.R.H.A. yieques P.R.

Joe R. 1/10/00

Quang Dai, Trung Dung, Santa Maria, 1998-00

Paul P. Lopez Vicques Santa Maria

Internal Affairs Secy. Gen. R.R. Lister

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Polio Case De Maria Barrio mont. Santa

Prison J. Howard - Maria Montez - Santa

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<u>Emilia Rodríguez Canella</u>	<u>Calle Canal</u>
<u>Emilia Santiago</u>	<u>24 de Feb. 00765</u>
<u>Amira Vázquez Aponte</u>	<u>Bo P.R.A</u>
<u>Miguelina Diez Ray</u>	<u>Bda. Luperón</u>
<u>Isabel Incarnación</u>	<u>Apto. 944</u>
<u>Emilio Serrano López</u>	<u>Vieques, P.R.</u>
<u>Oradina Orenta López</u>	<u>Bda. Fuente Virgen, D1</u>
<u>Gerardo S. Jairo</u>	<u>Villa Barú</u>
<u>Esteban Salazar</u>	<u>Estacion Pz Julia Nava</u>
<u>José Luis Ortiz</u>	<u>Villa Barú</u>
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<u>Carlos Hernández</u>	<u>Vieques, P.R.</u>
<u>Carmona J. Carlos Vega</u>	<u>Vieques, P.R.</u>

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<u>Doracdo Cruz</u>	<u>Vieques, P.R.</u>
<u>Lobriel Alcega Hernández</u>	
<u>Ramón Silva Comma</u>	
<u>Seán Tams Mojica</u>	<u>Bo. Santa María</u>
<u>Juan García Bonano</u>	
<u>Amiguel Santiago</u>	
<u>Victor Manuel Meléndez</u>	
<u>Agnes María Santiago</u>	
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<u>Yanuel Guadalupe Torres</u>	<u>Santa Maria Vieques P.R.</u>

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<u>Wilfredo López Montañez</u>	

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David Canozallo 1/2 mortero  
Elio T. G.

Rosa A. King Bo. Bravos de Boston  
Matiel Cordero Bo. Seguelon

Luis M. Monel Bo. Las Maiz

Edgardo J. Rodriguez Rivera Bo. PRBA

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<u>Girimo Velázquez</u>	<u>Brisas de Cayey</u>
<u>Eduardo Vaizquez</u>	<u>Edif. 18 Apto 235 (0063)</u>
<u>Eduardo J. Rivera</u>	<u>Bot 1036 - Cidea PR. 00738</u>
<u>Urbano J. Rivera</u>	<u>Barrio Villa Borinquen</u>
<u>Myelia N. Rodriguez</u>	<u>Bo. Martine, Vieques, P.R.</u>
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<u>Carmen Rivera</u>	<u>Bo. Lequellon</u>
	<u>Vieques, P.R.</u>
<u>Agapito Belasco</u>	<u>Las Marias</u>
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Angelina Sancho Calle Peticiones 100

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<i>Julia R. Pérez</i>	
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Alma Ortiz Rodríguez - Bo. Esperanza

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<u>Chiquito Odoris Balis</u>	<u>Calle La Llave 2245 Esperanza Vieques</u>
<u>Rosa M. Diaz</u>	
<u>Rubén de la Hoz</u>	
<u>Josefina David Rivera</u>	<u>Box 660 Vieques P.R.</u>
<u>Guadalupe Smith</u>	<u>Calle Antonio D. Mollada # 334, Vieques</u>
<u>Dalia Montalbán Aguirre</u>	<u>Calle Antonio D. Mollada</u>
<u>Rosa G. Balis</u>	<u>Bo. Monte Santo</u>
<u>Marta Belardo</u>	<u>Bo. PRRA Vieques, P.R.</u>
<u>Victor S. De la Cruz</u>	<u>Bo. Monte Santo Vieques P.R.</u>
<u>Pedro F. Montalban Lora</u>	<u>Calle Antonio G. Mollada #334 Vieques</u>
<u>Victor E. Belardo Gale</u>	<u>Calle 1 C-3-Urb. Isabel Vieques P.R.</u>
<u>Zulma L. Rivera</u>	<u>Calle 1 C-3-Urb. Isabel 2 Vieques P.R.</u>

**We, the signers of this document, subscribe to the text of the accompanying Petition in Support of HR 3831, Vieques Land Transfer Project of 1994.**

Address

Bo. Com Buzón D. 40 Vieques

11                      12                      13                      14

Bo Canon Buzon D-40 Vegas

Bo. Esperanza

Bo. Esperanza

**COMITE PRO RESCATE Y DESARROLLO DE VIEQUES**  
(Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques)

Nosotros, los abajo firmantes, nos subscribimos al texto  
acompañante de la Petición en Apoyo al Proyecto de Ley  
3831, Proyecto para la Transferencia de Terrenos de  
Vieques de 1994.

We, the signers of this document, subscribe to the text of the  
accompanying Petition in Support of HR 3831, Vieques Land  
Transfer Project of 1994.

Nombre  
Name

Dirección Postal  
Address

<i>Luz E. Rivera</i>	<i>Vieques Puerto Rico</i>
<i>Camilo Mat</i>	<i>Vieques P.R.</i>
<i>Bernie Romero</i>	<i>Vieques - P.R.</i>
<i>Aracelis Lopez</i>	<i>Vieques P.R.</i>
<i>Yvonne Morgan</i>	<i>Rio Piedras, P.R.</i>
<i>Rosendo</i>	<i>Rio Piedras, P.R.</i>
<i>Rafael</i>	<i>471 Magnolia Vieques, P.R. 00765</i>

Jose Lopez Berniely P.O. Box 873 Calle Balneario #33

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1990 CP-2-53

CENSUS '90



1990 Census of Population  
Social and Economic  
Characteristics

**Puerto Rico**

Section 1 of 2

*Vieques Unemployment*

**ATTN: CENSUS CONTACT PERSON**

Honorable Carlos Romero-Barcelo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-5401  
ATTN: Administrative Assistant

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE  
(301) 763-6300

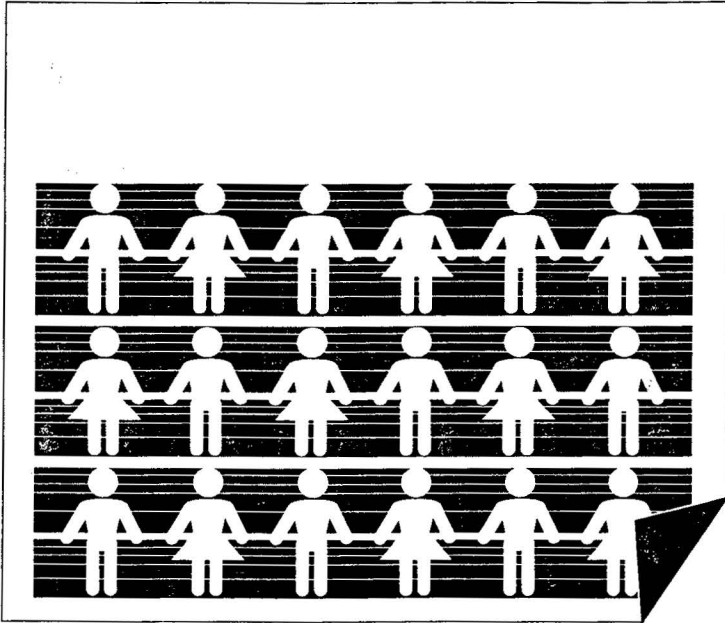


Table 2. Summary of Labor Force and Commuting Characteristics: 1990—Con.

(Data based on sample and subject to sampling variability; see text for definitions of terms and meanings of symbols; see text)

Puerto Rico Urban and Rural and Size of Place Outside and Outside Metropolitan Area Metropolitan Area Urbanized Area Municipio Municipio Subdivision and Place (2,500 or More Persons) Suburban (1,000 or More Persons)	Persons 16 years and over—Percent in labor force			Domestic children under 6 years in families and subfamilies			Employed persons 16 years and over						Workers 16 years and over		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Percent of total work force	Percent of total work force	Percent of total work force	Percent of total work force	Percent of total work force	Mean travel time to work (minutes)
<b>MUNICIPIO SUBDIVISION AND PLACE—Con.</b>															
Barrio Arroyo	50.8	44.6	37.4	35.7	35.6	39.6	47.4	77.9	59.9	18.1	49.0	11.9	16.1	24.9	40.1
Barrio Arroyo	40.7	47.5	34.6	44.6	33.8	27.7	21.8	68.0	44.3	23.7	45.6	21.0	12.6	8.1	24.1
Barrio Arroyo	41.2	51.7	31.6	28.7	25.8	24.9	25.8	73.9	44.9	28.0	34.7	23.3	8.9	12.2	28.5
Barrio Arroyo	43.2	56.6	35.5	44.0	38.0	28.4	27.7	65.9	41.0	24.9	46.7	13.7	15.9	3.2	34.0
Barrio Arroyo	43.1	54.8	32.4	47.6	31.7	21.7	27.4	63.3	41.4	21.9	46.3	10.1	16.2	—	18.9
Barrio Arroyo	43.7	57.1	30.6	32.3	29.9	27.9	27.2	73.0	53.2	19.8	37.9	21.4	18.8	4.0	20.2
Barrio Arroyo	46.3	54.0	39.6	43.8	37.0	31.8	17.8	76.4	42.9	23.2	42.0	23.5	19.9	6.3	22.8
Barrio Arroyo	41.9	51.2	34.2	35.3	30.1	41.4	17.7	79.5	44.7	34.8	54.6	19.9	11.9	7.0	21.8
Barrio Arroyo	46.2	57.5	36.6	35.7	27.0	44.5	22.5	70.6	43.1	27.5	33.5	17.4	16.3	8.7	21.4
Barrio Arroyo	36.5	48.0	24.6	33.4	45.5	45.5	18.4	63.5	43.1	19.8	37.8	17.0	15.3	5.0	21.2
Barrio Arroyo	47.3	61.9	34.6	49.2	40.1	24.4	22.6	74.2	45.9	28.3	31.0	26.4	11.0	12.6	21.1
Barrio Arroyo	47.8	56.3	38.7	47.2	38.9	50.6	19.3	78.9	51.3	27.6	28.4	14.6	25.4	14.0	37.1
<b>BARCELONA</b>															
Barrio Arroyo	44.1	55.9	33.2	42.2	36.3	42.7	27.7	76.1	49.0	27.1	33.2	22.4	13.0	10.0	17.7
Barrio Arroyo	33.3	44.1	27.1	22.3	15.6	35.1	35.8	66.7	43.4	23.3	38.7	13.7	7.6	19.3	17.0
Barrio Arroyo	40.2	49.9	32.8	22.6	40.6	40.6	19.8	41.7	35.6	6.1	56.8	—	30.3	14.1	—
Barrio Arroyo	36.7	48.4	24.1	17.1	15.5	43.6	29.7	64.4	40.3	21.1	35.1	20.6	14.4	28.4	17.2
Barrio Arroyo	44.6	52.7	37.1	46.0	36.4	54.7	21.0	74.3	44.3	30.1	31.6	26.1	20.8	4.4	19.6
Barrio Arroyo	49.1	56.3	33.0	56.4	44.4	63.3	33.3	68.5	37.7	28.8	32.9	17.8	15.3	2.9	16.1
Barrio Arroyo	40.8	55.9	37.2	52.0	42.2	100.0	18.4	63.5	41.0	22.2	19.2	11.7	2.6	12.4	—
Barrio Arroyo	46.3	56.4	37.4	58.1	53.3	54.1	38.4	67.8	36.2	31.4	34.7	17.2	16.9	3.1	17.9
Barrio Arroyo	43.9	54.3	34.4	45.0	38.7	50.3	23.0	73.3	45.2	28.1	29.5	21.4	17.5	10.5	21.7
Barrio Arroyo	38.5	46.9	31.6	36.4	39.0	39.0	22.7	71.6	40.3	31.3	33.2	14.7	15.2	16.1	16.9
Barrio Arroyo	49.7	59.7	42.1	56.7	25.0	67.3	23.2	68.4	37.4	21.1	28.3	13.3	9.4	17.7	13.8
Barrio Arroyo	44.1	53.3	36.4	55.1	37.1	55.1	23.3	66.4	37.5	28.9	31.8	12.8	2.8	24.0	—
Barrio Arroyo	34.7	42.2	29.6	30.3	26.1	34.1	27.6	72.6	41.1	31.5	32.0	11.8	20.0	13.0	18.7
Barrio Arroyo	43.9	52.7	36.1	41.4	33.6	31.8	26.7	75.6	44.7	31.0	45.8	19.1	14.5	19.6	21.4
Barrio Arroyo	33.9	46.1	22.4	16.3	13.1	15.4	25.4	75.8	56.3	19.4	35.2	21.8	14.8	20.5	22.1
Barrio Arroyo	36.5	47.5	27.7	19.4	8.9	18.2	16.7	74.6	40.2	24.4	57.2	22.5	—	—	18.8
Barrio Arroyo	44.0	53.0	35.8	50.1	45.3	50.7	23.7	74.1	47.2	26.9	33.2	20.1	18.2	10.4	26.9
Barrio Arroyo	44.4	51.2	38.9	55.7	44.0	47.6	26.6	75.1	43.2	32.8	34.9	21.5	15.4	7.5	23.4
Barrio Arroyo	43.6	51.9	38.9	49.0	40.5	45.3	26.6	73.8	42.0	26.6	33.6	16.7	16.7	4.3	18.4
Barrio Arroyo	43.6	49.1	39.0	38.0	46.6	30.0	29.2	74.0	39.9	34.1	36.8	18.9	16.8	4.8	23.4
Barrio Arroyo	49.2	58.6	40.9	49.0	38.1	45.4	22.2	76.4	45.1	31.2	30.5	20.7	19.4	8.8	20.7
Barrio Arroyo	49.5	54.5	36.8	43.0	32.6	35.8	25.8	75.9	44.5	31.5	32.1	18.6	19.3	8.1	20.1
Barrio Arroyo	47.6	58.5	38.9	39.3	30.7	35.0	29.7	70.0	41.3	28.7	34.9	15.3	19.5	6.5	18.6
Barrio Arroyo	29.1	49.1	30.2	40.3	30.7	26.9	22.2	78.0	51.5	26.5	30.3	16.7	18.9	4.3	18.4
Barrio Arroyo	47.0	55.1	40.3	32.3	40.5	50.6	24.8	80.7	41.4	29.2	28.1	23.8	21.7	14.8	20.1
Barrio Arroyo	42.5	57.1	28.8	30.4	25.5	37.9	28.4	73.6	51.6	22.0	39.0	12.2	16.6	11.3	24.8
Barrio Arroyo	45.2	59.3	33.2	37.5	36.7	34.5	23.1	79.5	52.6	26.9	43.0	13.1	14.3	9.5	21.5
Barrio Arroyo	46.1	57.1	36.0	44.8	49.5	28.9	20.7	80.7	52.4	38.3	43.8	11.2	15.8	10.7	20.9
Barrio Arroyo	42.6	67.5	25.0	20.8	7.5	44.4	31.4	74.5	53.6	21.0	49.8	20.6	8.2	4.5	23.6
Barrio Arroyo	47.1	57.1	38.1	46.5	41.6	49.4	19.8	80.4	48.2	32.3	29.2	25.5	17.8	9.0	20.7
Barrio Arroyo	47.7	52.4	44.0	37.9	44.4	64.2	19.3	80.3	39.5	40.8	34.9	18.4	17.6	4.6	17.2
Barrio Arroyo	48.7	57.6	42.2	41.2	37.0	34.4	16.9	81.7	44.2	37.5	34.9	16.1	17.8	6.2	16.9
Barrio Arroyo	44.4	48.8	41.9	59.3	56.0	58.4	16.6	74.4	32.8	41.6	33.2	18.4	15.0	1.1	16.7
Barrio Arroyo	42.4	54.4	30.8	38.0	30.8	46.9	30.0	76.3	50.1	26.2	39.0	17.0	17.3	10.8	23.9
Barrio Arroyo	47.7	56.1	41.1	56.9	46.9	83.5	36.3	72.8	42.1	30.7	41.4	17.7	11.4	7.7	18.4
Barrio Arroyo	53.1	62.2	45.6	58.9	53.7	88.7	25.7	63.1	39.7	23.9	39.9	11.7	16.4	4.9	16.3
Barrio Arroyo	46.4	51.1	43.1	72.3	51.5	82.6	34.4	84.9	42.1	42.1	43.9	23.2	7.0	8.5	18.3
Barrio Arroyo	43.9	57.1	31.5	35.9	36.7	34.3	23.5	76.1	51.6	24.5	24.8	25.0	16.6	9.6	26.6
Barrio Arroyo	43.7	56.8	32.9	44.8	40.7	49.6	23.7	78.5	50.0	28.5	29.3	22.9	12.8	10.3	29.2
Barrio Arroyo	43.8	54.3	32.3	44.3	50.0	79.3	20.3	75.1	48.9	26.7	34.9	16.2	8.2	7.7	37.4
Barrio Arroyo	43.4	59.1	30.9	26.5	33.0	21.3	26.8	81.9	51.1	30.8	23.7	29.6	—	—	17.3
Barrio Arroyo	44.0	55.1	34.2	43.6	39.3	43.5	19.5	73.5	45.7	27.8	25.7	31.0	14.7	14.4	21.1
Barrio Arroyo	38.7	50.2	29.3	45.7	41.2	54.5	21.4	65.9	39.0	27.0	28.1	29.0	10.9	11.4	19.4
Barrio Arroyo	35.7	45.6	27.4	38.7	21.4	42.2	11.9	59.4	38.2	23.2	34.5	25.0	3.8	12.9	21.8
Barrio Arroyo	39.5	51.5	29.7	48.2	47.5	59.3	23.7	67.8	39.8	28.0	23.2	30.1	12.7	11.1	19.0
Barrio Arroyo	45.7	54.5	37.6	48.1	42.0	51.5	20.1	73.0	44.7	28.3	28.6	24.4	19.3	9.8	18.8
Barrio Arroyo	38.3	45.4	32.1	42.8	37.9	45.8	26.7	64.6	39.5	27.1	29.2	20.8	13.2	13.7	16.6
Barrio Arroyo	45.4	36.4	32.1	66.1	71.8	31.3	28.4	57.6	35.9	21.7	29.7	12.5	11.5	8.3	17.4
Barrio Arroyo	44.1	54.2	39.2	52.9	43.4	72.1	26.2	73.8	44.1	29.7	27.7	22.1	13.5	14.7	14.4
Barrio Arroyo	33.7	46.1	23.4	28.4	24.1	32.0	26.9	64.2	37.5	26.7	19.8	25.2	10.9	19.7	15.3
Barrio Arroyo	31.4	47.7	30.9	32.0	17.9	31.2	14.0	65.8	34.9	29.0	25.8	28.3	13.8	14.7	14.4
Barrio Arroyo	34.5	35.2	33.3	54.2	43.8	19.7	22.3	66.5	35.9	30.7	40.5	14.0	14.2	10.3	15.9
Barrio Arroyo	29.7	48.6	31.4	31.8	30.7	54.4	25.0	57.6	38.4	19.7	29.4	24.8	14.7	15.6	18.4
Barrio Arroyo	45.7	56.9	35.9	41.4	34.6	42.1	26.3	71.7	47.7	27.8	30.5	15.0	15.5	10.4	21.5
Barrio Arroyo	43.6	53.3	38.0	43.9	38.3	34.0	24.8	70.0	41.7	29.2	31.2	14.7	14.1	8.0	19.3
Barrio Arroyo	44.1	52.3	37.4	43.4	36.6	31.7	26.8	68.8	40.6	28.2	32.7	15.3	14.1	8.8	19.4
Barrio Arroyo	44.5	57.3	34.1	39.8	28.9	29.2	25.2	73.9	43.2	30.7	35.9	13.5	13.7	13.2	20.6
Barrio Arroyo	42.5	53.2	34.8	46.4	43.3	43.4	17.7	72.9	42.7	30.2	27.4	14.4	14.3	5.2	19.3
Barrio Arroyo	48.2	58.3	39.1	49.8	46.0	63.8	21.0	78.2	45.5	32.7	26.4	33.1	16.8	4.5	21.5
Barrio Arroyo	50.9	53.7	46.6	61.7	74.7	73.1	18.1	80.4	42.6	37.7	33.8	28.8	15.3	4.5	20.1
Barrio Arroyo	48.7	70.5	29.1	14.1	13.8	42.6	21.7	80.7	46.9	33.8	30.9	21.5	16.8	2.7	19.7
Barrio Arroyo	46.3	57.1	34.0	41.2	33.7	50.7	30.9	74.3	49.7	24.6	44.2	17.6	18.0	10.6	21.7
Barrio Arroyo	46.6	59.1	33.4	39.8	31.4	46.8	31.9	74							

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE Report 1974 458

## ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS RANGE RELOCATION

Senator BELLMON. On page 8, the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training in Puerto Rico, you have a request for \$12 million to relocate weapons ranges in Culebra, and can you explain the basis now for this request?

Admiral ISELIN. Yes, sir. The Secretary of Defense directed the Navy in May of this year to relocate its range facilities from Culebra to the Desecheo/Monito area, which is really on the other side of Puerto Rico. In order to accomplish that, we will require funding for the project which was introduced by the Senate Armed Services Committee based on the decision that had been made by the Secretary of Defense.

Senator BELLMON. This is primarily for acquisition of real estate or for construction?

Admiral ISELIN. Both for real estate and construction. We do have some refinements—that is, since the time this figure appeared—it looks as though we would need something in the neighborhood of \$14½ million rather than the \$12 million contained in the project introduced by the Senate Armed Services Committee, if we do it under what we call normal procedures, which would take us to the middle of 1976 to complete. If it is necessary to accelerate the construction, those costs would go up to approximately \$19 million.

I am not asking for those amounts but only indicating that we really don't have a final figure, just a ball park figure, probably on the low side.

Senator BELLMON. Is the real estate you are acquiring presently owned by private interests or some other government entity?

Admiral ISELIN. I will ask Mr. Markon to answer.

Mr. MARKON. The real estate interests are owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. One of the islands is already under Federal ownership, but what we are acquiring, or what we need in addition to what is owned by the Federal Government is owned by the Commonwealth.

Admiral ISELIN. And it would be on a no-cost basis.

Senator BELLMON. The reason I raised the question: Is there no presently U.S. Government-owned property that is suitable for this purpose?

Commander KIRKPATRICK. There is only one island, Desecheo, and it is not sufficient to accommodate the range facilities currently existing on Culebra.

Senator BELLMON. So it is necessary to take over more property?

Commander KIRKPATRICK. Yes.

Senator BELLMON. Will it be inhabited property where you move lots of people?

Commander KIRKPATRICK. Desecheo is uninhabited, and Moito is not inhabited.

Senator BELLMON. There will not be civilians?

Commander KIRKPATRICK. Not on those two pieces of property. There could be a safety area reaching out in the Mona area, but it still does not require relocation.

## AMENDMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR AUTHORIZATIONS

Senator BELLMON. On page 21, there are several cost overruns.

Commander KIRKPATRICK. Yes, sir.

in 1974  
SEC. of DEFENSE DIRECTED THE  
NAVY TO MOVE TO Desecheo + Monito  
AND NAVY DID NOT DISAGREE

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