REMARKS OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JOHN A. CARVER, JR.,
AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE PETROCHEMICAL PLANT
AT GUAYAMA, PUERTO RICO, SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1966

The plant which will rise on this site will
constitute a monument to the industry, the aggressiveness and the ingenuity of the Government of Puerto Rico. It is also a tribute to the imagination and
industrial skill of one of our major American corporations and the great confidence it has in the economic future of this Commonwealth. Here government and
industry are cooperating so that the Puerto Rican
people may participate fully in the Great Society that
President Johnson has set as the goal for our generation.

The United States Department of the Interior
has had a long and friendly association with this island
and its people. While the approval of the Commonwealth
Constitution in 1952 terminated our direct supervision
over Puerto Rico's governmental affairs, our interest in its welfare and development has continued undiminished. We are particularly alert to our responsibilities in making Puerto Rico's rich cultural history a part of America's culture by assisting in the preservation and interpretation of your historic landmarks.

It was most appropriate, therefore, that the Department of the Interior should have played a small but critical part in making this project possible. Let me emphasize, however, that we cannot claim credit beyond that of having exercised a legal discretion vested in the Department under the Oil Import Control program. But you may rest assured that once the need for that decision became apparent there was never any doubt that it would be resolved in favor of Puerto Rico's welfare.

My function today, therefore, is to bring you
congratulations and warm wishes for success from
President Johnson and Secretary Stewart Udall and
to share personally with you the immense satisfaction
that must come from seeing this project started in
a physical way. My participation as a representative
of the United States Government does not change the
essential nature of the undertaking, nor the relation-
ship between the principal parties. This undertaking
is still in the best "bootstrap" tradition of Puerto
Rico's phenomenal economic development. Your own
government has taken the initiative and extended the
incentive needed to attract the capital, the technology
and the managerial competence for the creation of a
new industry to supply thousands of productive jobs.

Today we turn a few spades of earth; tomorrow
will bring the sounds and the visible evidence of
construction. But the ultimate success of this
endeavor can only be measured many months hence when Puerto Rican workers take up their duty stations in creating new products for the economy in return for secure employment at decent wage levels. This is the real object of the effort. Its success depends entirely upon the continued dedication of both the Commonwealth and the Phillips Petroleum Company in carrying out the agreement that made this ceremony possible. I think no one need remind either the Commonwealth or the Company, the real parties in interest, that their continued cooperation, good will, and faithful performance is the essential ingredient of success.

On behalf of the Federal Government, and more particularly the Interior Department, I congratulate the leadership of this Commonwealth for the enterprise it has displayed on behalf of its citizens.
To Phillips we voice deep appreciation for its willingness to invest in Puerto Rico's future. And to the people of the island, I extend best wishes and express ultimate confidence that you will realize the full benefit of this cooperative effort.