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March 24, 1915.

SEC. OF WAR  
MAR 27 1915

Hon. Arthur Yager,  
Governor of Porto Rico,  
(Through the Bureau of Insular Affairs,  
War Department)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of October 16, 1914:

May I ask what action, if any, was taken by the Legislative Assembly, recently adjourned, upon the recommendations you proposed to make to it concerning the survey by the Insular Government of the forested Insular lands adjoining the east boundary of the Luquillo National Forest as well as the transfer of these lands to the United States to be administered as a part of such National Forest?

In his letter of March 3 to the Forester of this Department the Commissioner of the Interior submitted an estimate of the work yet to be done by the Insular Division of Public Lands in segregating the Federal land from that privately owned within the present Forest boundary. This indicates the probable completion of the work by the end of the present calendar year. We shall then be prepared to undertake its administration yet I shall be reluctant to do so until some definite action along the lines previously suggested has been taken by the Insular Government.

Very truly yours,

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*A. J. Johnston*  
Secretary.

April 14, 1915.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 24th ultimo, I desire to state that the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico at its last session did not take any action concerning the survey and transfer to the Federal Government of the forested Insular lands adjoining the east boundary of the Luquillo National Forest. Their failure to take action, however, was not due, I am confident to any unwillingness on the part of the legislators to agree to the arrangement which has been suggested to place these lands in the hands of the United States Government for the purpose of having regular foresting operations carried out on these lands in connection with the Luquillo National Forest. They were so busy with other things that this matter failed for lack of time during the last days of the session.

I am confident that all responsible parties in Porto Rico are heartily in favor of cooperating with the Federal Government in every possible way to secure the immediate reforestation and development of all the available forest lands which belong to both Governments in this part of the Island of Porto Rico. At the next session I shall take up this matter promptly with the legislators, and I think I can secure what-

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ever action may be necessary to accomplish this purpose. Meanwhile, through the Office of the Commissioner of the Interior, I will do everything possible to promote the survey of all of these lands and so expedite the matter as much as possible.

Very truly yours,

Governor.

Honorable D. F. Houston,  
Secretary of Agriculture,  
Washington, D. C.

(Through the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Dept.)