

327/46

2261

SGH/JCG

Strasbourg, 21st March 1963.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the Political Committee of the Assembly of the Council of Europe has currently on its agenda the question of the situation in Spain.

The Rapporteur of the Committee is Mr. Sven Gustafson, a Liberal member of the Swedish Parliament. He has given considerable attention to the report published by the International Commission of Jurists in November 1962 called "Spain and the Rule of Law".

In this connection, he has received the attached informative note, dated 24th December 1962, from the Spanish Government. I do not know whether the Commission has seen this document and, if so, what has been their reaction, but I would be obliged if you could let me know whether you have any remarks to make on it and especially on the points which are underlined.

There are also certain other points on which I would like your guidance. I have been told that some members of the Commission, namely Mr. Urban, Lord Shawcross, Mr. Fournier, Mr. Bettiol, Mr. Joseph T. Thorson, Mr. Alafritz and Mr. Boules, have said they regretted the publication of the report. I wonder if you are able to confirm or deny this. Moreover, I am also told that the Congress of the International Commission of Jurists "decided to disregard the report" at its meeting in Rio de Janeiro after the publication of the report. Perhaps you will be so kind as to let me know, if this is possible, what is the position in this respect.

./.

The Administrative Secretary,
International Commission of Jurists,
6, rue du Mont-de-Sion,
GENEVA.

Finally a question of detail. The report "Spain and the Rule of Law" mentions, on page 55, a report published in 1961 by the Ecumenical Council of Churches. I have enquired about this report from the Ecumenical Council of Churches and they say that they have never published a substantial report exclusively concerning religious freedom in Spain. They add, however, that chronicles on Spain have been published in the Ecumenical Review and I would ask you, therefore, if it is possible for you to say which precise document is referred to on page 55 of your report.

I shall be most grateful to have your views on these various points and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

S.C. Hunt
Counsellor,
Office of the Clerk
of the Assembly

Enc.