## American G.I. Forum of Albuquerque No. 1

G. I. Forum Headquarters 621 Gabaldon, N. W.

Albuquerque New Mexico



January 7, 1961

Honorable Dennis Chavez United States Senator Senate Office Building Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Chavez:

This is a not of gratification from us concerning your recent endorsement of Mr. Vicente Ximenes for a foreign service assignment as per the Albuquerque Tribune. We, the undersigned, wholeheartedly support yoursentiments toward Mr. Ximenes and are in complete agreement of his qualifications.

Not only the Spanish speaking people of New Mexico, but of the entire southwest, are greatly indebted to Mr. Ximenes. For the past ten years, Mr. Ximenes has been dedicated to the well being of our community and is one of our fine leaders that truthfully understands the existing problems.

Therefore, we feel that he will be an asset to our country.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for having spoken well of Mr. Ximenes. We feel confident that you, with your influence and ability, will do everything possible to see that Mr. Ximenes is designated to a job to a job of importance where his abilities and know how will be utilized.

Thank you and God bless you.

Respectfully yours,

Felix E. Salinas, Chairman Albuquerque Forum No. 1

(The above is a copy of the night letter sent by the Albuquerque Forum,)

Honorable John F. Kennedy President of the United States of America White House Washington, D. C.

Dear President:

It has been brought to our attention that Vicente T. Ximenes, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is being considered for an important position in your administration. It is our desire to endorse him for a post that would be commensurate with his background and his qualifications.

As an organizer and leader of the American GI Forum, Mr. Ximenes has demonstrated leadership and administrative ability. As a student and a professor of economics, he has contributed a considerable amount of his time to the completion of business research projects affecting the economy of New Mexico and of the Southwest.

It is well-nigh impossible to measure the high esteem in which he is held among the Spanish speaking people of the United States. He has contributed immensely toward-the betterment of their lot in many areas where they were considered as second-class citizens and has won for them the recognition they deserve. In New Mexico, his spare moments are all devoted to projects which have for their goal the betterment of the community. To those of us who have observed him in action, it is like witnessing the full realization of democracy in action, since it is only within a democracy that such refined talent can be cultivated. He is indeed a credit to our democratic ideals and possesses the courage to struggle for their ultimate fruition. He does not cringe when the honor of our democracy is at stake.

Mr. Ximenes campaigned extensively for you and we feel certain that he contributed immensely towards a Democratic victory. He never failed to bring to the attention of the voters of New Mexico your high ideals and your intention of utilizing the talents of the Spanish speaking people of the United States for the improvement of our relations with Latin America. It is our sincere conviction that Mr. Ximenes possesses the rare qualities that can prove instrumental to you in realizing the plans you had in store for the Spanish speaking. Integrity, courage and competency in the field of economic research are but a few of the salient qualities of Mr. Ximenes. If New Mexico is to receive creditable recognition within the present administration, no one could be considered more worthy of this honor. Mr. Ximenes has earned the respect of the citizens of New Mexico and other states through self-sacrifice and untiring, constant work.

It is common knowledge among-well informed quarters that our Government has failed to capitalize on its Latin-American manpower potential. Failure to utilize their talents has, in the opinion of competent observers, brought our relations

## Re:Vicente T. Ximenes Appointment

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with Latin American countries to the verge of disaster. This is a problem which stands out on the threshold of the New Frontier. With men of Mr. Ximenes' calibre, a solution can be found for this problem. If recognition is given to the Spanish speaking people of New Mexico in the person of Mr. Ximenes, we hope it will not be in the form of a picayunish assignment for he is worthy of the noblest assignment, one that will make the light of his talents shine brightly in the eyes of our Latin American observers.

Latin America has been looking to us for leadership and if recognition is given to those who have blood and cultural ties with its denizens, they will consider it a true demonstration of leadership in the fulfillment of our democratic ideals. They are anxious to combat the cancer of Communism intelligently and courageously. – Well informed Latin American students who have attended our American Universities as representatives of their countries have often bemoaned the softness of previous American administrations in making concessions to Communist countries. They have been searching for leadership that will dispel the curse of Communism from our hemisphere and from the world. We do not hesitate to recommend Mr. Ximenes as the type of personality who possesses the quality of leadership that can stand up to any Communist shenanigans. He is well equipped to expose the fallacy of their ideology.

The development of under-developed areas in Latin America could very well – prove to be the complete frustration of Communist Russia's plans to gain a foothold in our hemisphere. It is needless to say that Communism thrives where the standard of living is at its lowest level. Mr. Ximenes has devoted many years to research in the field of economics and has evolved plans which, if carried through, could well elevate the standard of living of these countries. He is well equipped by both academic and practical training to cope with any problems which may arise concerning the under-developed areas.

Please give him serious consideration when it comes to searching for the right individual to deal with these matters. The state of New Mexico will look forward te having its Spanish speaking citizens given rightful recognition in your administration and it will not be disappointed in the selection of Vicente T. Ximenes for a – worthy position in the administration such as Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs. His recognition will be remembered with pride and gratitude. We are confident that both Senator Dennis Chavez and Congressman Joseph M. Montoya, Democrats of New Mexico, highly recommend Mr. Ximenes.

Attached is an outline of Mr. Ximenes' history.

Respectfully yours,

AMERICAN GI FORUM OF NEW MEXICO

Ezequiel Duran, Chairman