



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



DEC 19 1989

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. ^{Hector}Garcia:

Thank you for your September 20, 1989, letter concerning Mr. Humberto Almaraz and his Christmas song, "Mi arbol de navidad." I have heard the song and it is beautifully simple and truly conveys the Christmas spirit.

Preparations for the ceremonies of lighting the national Christmas tree begin well in advance of the actual event. I, therefore, was unable to take any action for this year's ceremony. I have begun, however, to take steps to try to include the song in future Christmas events. In addition, I will attempt to have Mr. Almaraz and his song recognized during next year's Hispanic Heritage Week. I have also looked into how best to have the song disseminated to the local schools, here in the Washington Metropolitan area as well as throughout the nation. I will update you and Mr. Almaraz on the progress of these ventures.

On a separate matter, congratulations on your award from the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. I feel privileged to have been in Corpus Christi to share in your moment.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season, I am

Sincerely,

Stella Guerra
Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs

*P.S. Again, congratulations and
thank you for all you do to
help others. It was wonderful to
see you - I'm proud to be your
friend.*