



PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DEL PERU
RECTORADO

Lima, June 11, 2004

Commissioners
Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Greensboro, North Carolina.-
United States of America

Dear sirs :

It is a satisfaction for me to send hereby, along with my warmest regards, a sincere congratulation for the establishment of the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which I know was a long hoped and intensely demanded institution in your community.

For those of us who believe in the paramount worth of truth as a value in itself and as a mean for genuine human healing in the aftermath of violence and injustice, the work that you are about to start now is one of the highest importance. We know that therein lies the possibility of real and lasting reconciliation among your fellow citizens, that kind of reconciliation that can only arise from the full disclosure and, most decisively, from the deep and candid acknowledgement of the facts and wrongdoings of a violent past.

As you certainly know, here in my own country we experienced during the past three years the same kind of encountering with the truth that you will set in motion now. It was a hard experience, but also, and mainly, an enlightening one, which left the Peruvians full of lessons to be assumed and tasks to be addressed in the forthcoming years.

During that process, we learnt that nothing – surely, not the simple passage of time – can heal the wounds left by a past of violence and abuses better than the truth, from which, as we saw it, springs justice and, ultimately, a fair reconciliation process.

I am plainly sure that, through your brave, honest and insightful work, your fellow citizens will gain the opportunity to build a better future for them and the coming generations. Allow me to renew my congratulations and express my most fervent hopes in the success of your endeavor, to which we will be glad to contribute in whatever way you may consider necessary.

Truly yours,

SALOMON LERNER FEBRES
EX-PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISION
DE LA VERDAD Y RECONCILACION
RECTOR DE LA PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA DEL PERU