

U. B.

~~File~~ Spanish Translation

December 7, 1983

Trustees of URANTIA Foundation  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Friends!

This is, hopefully, the final report from the Translator Selection Committee. I can speak for the three of us when I tell you that serving on this committee has been a singular pleasure for each of us, one with new experiences on many levels. We have learned a great deal about each other and about who is out there and able to translate The URANTIA Book into Spanish. Although our initial steps were taken a bit haltingly, we feel very confident in making this our final step in the selection process.

Our unanimous opinion is that Euramerica Translations, Inc. of New York should be the firm selected to translate the book into Spanish. I could go on for pages and pages giving you examples of why we were so impressed, and shall mention a few items of particular interest shortly, but let me summarize why we feel so strongly that they are by far the best qualified.

First, their depth of personnel is incredible. They have 7 full-time employees on the task. Of the 3 companies judged acceptable by our evaluators, one company had but a single person who would be working on the translation, the second company had a married couple with whom they would contract to do the job. Euramerica would have, roughly, 3 translators, an editor, 1 transcriber, a copy editor (different person than the first editor) plus 1 proofreader. There may have been another person or two I have forgotten. Obviously, the loss of any one or two of these persons would not affect the momentum of the project. By contrast, loss of a single person in each of the other two cases, for any reason, would result in an economic catastrophe to the Foundation and an inordinate delay in the project.

Secondly, their quality of translator is impressive. In casual conversation with one of the editors regarding a particularly difficult passage from the Forward which required their translating a word from English which does not really exist in Spanish, his grasp of the subtleties involved was amazing. It put to rest, at least in my mind, the fear that professionals might not have the necessary "spiritual insight" required to translate the book. They may or may not have spiritual insight, but these people are mighty linguists, and they will render text in a way that would never occur to a dedicated non-professional.



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Thirdly, their data processing capability is state of the art. They, for example, have a relationship with the Spanish section of the United Nations. When the U.N. computers are down, the U.N. Spanish section immediately goes on-line at Euramerica, and vice-versa. They can make changes for future printings at the stroke of a key, change formatting of the book and control page length with equal ease. They told us that 30 days after we were given the final translated page the book would be ready, from their standpoint, for printing. I will not go into further details, but suffice it to say that, whatever we would need of them in terms of data processing capability, they can provide.

The fourth impressive point is the stature of this company in the industry. Their Chinese translator, a full-time employee of Euramerica, is used by the Peking government to train their own translators to even more exacting standards before they go to the United Nations as translators in the Chinese section. I have mentioned their ongoing association with the Spanish language section. Euramerica, with 8 days notice, was called by the U.N. to provide translators in both Hebrew and Arabic for the meeting between Presidents Sadat of Egypt and Begin of Israel in talks which led to the Camp David meeting. They have in-house capability to translate into some 40 languages, using full-time employees. The other two translation companies were going to contract with outsiders for our Spanish translation. It has been my observation that when one changes quantity enough there is a qualitative change which finally occurs. I believe the difference between Euramerica and the other companies is more qualitative than quantitative.

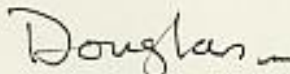
This leads me to my last point, which is our overall impression of the people in the company. These are people with whom I would be proud to be associated, and I believe you would also. There is a degree of professionalism and self-confidence which is tangible and contagious. They were brought to our attention because Mr. Edward Taylor, President of Technical Translations, Inc. of New York, left T.T.I. to join Euramerica. He was there with us at Euramerica and told us that, even though he was President of T.T.I., he is much prouder of his association with Euramerica, though at a lower level administratively. The President of Euramerica is a most impressive person, but in a quiet and unassuming way. He showed an incredibly quick intuitive grasp of what The URANTIA Book may be. He made the comment at lunch, for example, after only a few minutes of conversation of how the book came to be and what the Foundation and Brotherhood are all about, that "If this book goes, it will go forever!" He said this in assuring me that he had no problems with any restraints the Board imposed regarding anonymity of translator. In fact, late that afternoon he told us "It is only a slight exaggeration to say that I will sign any contract which covers the legal points you gentlemen have mentioned without even reading it. I only want to know that when I have to sign the checks for my translators on Friday the money will be there to pay them."

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Well, here I go giving you example after example of why we were so impressed. It is difficult to stop. These people have the resources, on every level, to do the job for the Foundation. If you would like to talk more about them, please call me or Dick. You have Martin there to share his impressions with you. Dick and I remain available to help you in any way you might wish. In the meantime, you will shortly receive, if it has not already arrived, a proposal from Euramerica. We were told to "think of it as a draft, and modify it in any way we see fit." This gives you some idea of the excitement they feel at the chance to participate in this task.

Thank you again for the chance to be a part of the Translator Selection Committee. I look forward to continued collaboration on this vital project.

Sincerely,



Douglas Fraser, Chairman  
Translator Selection Committee

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cc: URANTIA Brotherhood