



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best

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2201 GILLIS STREET
PALATKA, FLORIDA 32077

March 4, 1977

Mr. X. L. Pellicer
101 Oglethorpe Boulevard
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Dear X:

Yesterday I talked with Carl Lemasters at Rotary International. Today I talked with Harry Stewart, the General Secretary of RI.

The news I have for you is not encouraging with regard to St. Augustine sponsoring a Rotary Club in Minorca. Spain has not been "opened up" to Rotary as is generally believed. After many years of delicate, sensitive negotiations with Spain, permission was finally granted by the government for a group to begin meeting in Madrid with an ultimate goal of becoming associated with Rotary International as a Rotary Club.

Let me make two points about the group that is meeting in Madrid. 1) This is the only group authorized by the Spanish government to meet with a goal of association with RI. 2) Insofar as Rotary International is concerned, the group meeting in Madrid does not yet meet RI requirements as a "provisional Rotary Club." I'm sure you know that a group must first qualify as a provisional club, then later, after certain Rotary criteria have been met, the group may be chartered as a Rotary club. What this means, X, is that the group in Madrid has yet quite a way to go in becoming a Rotary club. Technically, Rotary still does not exist in Spain.

For anyone to attempt to organize a group in Minorca, at this point, with the purpose of becoming a Rotary club, would not only be imprudent and ill-advised, but might serve to damage the years of work by the board of directors of RI which has progressed to the point of the granting of authority by the Spanish government for the group in Madrid.



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RUBIÓ

Due to the distance between St. Augustine and Minorca I received no encouragement from Rotary International that it would ever be possible for St. Augustine to establish a club there. It would be physically impossible for St. Augustine Rotarians to fulfill the obligations of a sponsoring club to a new club.

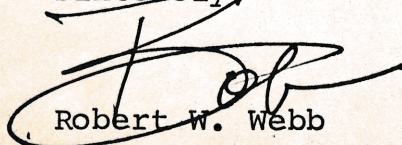
Rotary International appreciates the keen interest you have in establishing a club in Minorca, and the interest in Rotary you have sparked in your good friend, Dr. Fernando Rubio. We may speculate that, in due course, Rotary may indeed find its way to Minorca, but it is believed that a club in Mahon must be established by a nearby club in Spain. We all hope that the group in Madrid will ultimately become a Rotary club. Once it does, in true Rotary fashion, it will no doubt sponsor additional clubs in Spain which, in turn, will sponsor others. It is believed in RI headquarters that this is the only course open for Rotary growth in Spain and from a pragmatic point of view, that seems a long way off.

Sadly, from your point of view, it appears that there is nothing to be done by any individual or any Rotary club in this country to further the cause of Rotary in Spain, or, more specifically, to establish a Rotary club in Minorca. That must be left to the Spanish government and to the group authorized to meet in Madrid.

Business commitments require that I be in Gainesville on Monday. I regret I must therefore forgo the pleasure of meeting with and Dr. Rubio as originally planned. Perhaps it is just as well, for there is nothing to be accomplished by us with regard to Rotary in Minorca.

I wish my report could offer you encouragement, but there is none to offer. I do appreciate your dedication to Rotary's ideals and principles and your fervent desire to extend the privileges of Rotary membership to your friends in Minorca.

Sincerely



Robert W. Webb

CC: Carl Lemasters, RI
RWW/lw

