



North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

February 27, 2008

John L. Hennessy
Office of the President
Building 10
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2061

Dear President Hennessy,

We here at NABO wanted to both congratulate and thank you and organizers there at Stanford University for having the President of the Basque Autonomous Government, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, speak at your campus, and in particular for standing firm for freedom of expression when protesters emerged to impede his presentation.

The North American Basque Organizations, Inc. (NABO) is a federation of Basque organizations that was founded in 1973 with the intent of helping its member organizations to assist each other in the pursuit of the same objective: the perpetuation of "Basqueness" (Basque culture and identity). As a minority culture (Basques are about 5% of Spain's population and .02% here in America) we do not often have events on this level, so it was appreciated that an opportunity was afforded Mr. Ibarretxe to present his proposal for the resolution of the "Basque Problem."

As a representative of the Basque people Mr. Ibarretxe and fellow officials came among us because they seek what we have: the opportunity to live in peace. They have tired of the decades of conflict, and they deeply yearn for a resolution that has evaded them to date. But rather than resign themselves, they have come instead with a resolution to bring an end to this conflict once and for all. They have come here, and elsewhere, asking for the opportunity to be heard. Thanks for affording them that opportunity especially when some emerged that were not inclined to accept an open dialogue on this matter.

We want to believe that a peaceful resolution can be found, and that must include an open forum for the presentation of different ideas. It was appreciated that you allowed an opportunity to Mr. Ibarretxe to present his "Road Map to Peace" in the hope of bringing a lasting resolution to this conflict. Eskerrik asko ("Thank you")!

Sincerely,

Mary T. Gaztambide

NABO President

CC:

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