# The Letter

Don Sageo draughted the letter to the *Ministro del Interior.* He wanted clarification regarding Alqueria's statehood. The total absence of any charter and being sidetracked by Ferdinand and Isabella during the Christian Re-conquest called Alqueria's allegiance into question. The total indifference of the villagers allowed him to send it on their behalf, signing it 'from those in Limbo'. The motive for sending the communication had been twofold. First, out of academic interest. He wanted to know how the laws and precedents of antiquity affected modern statute. The second motive he couldn't remember, but he knew there were two. An over indulgence of Remitroot liquor accounts for the obscurity of the second motive. The drink generates its own logic and a subsequent loss of memory.

The letter was known about but due to the apathy of the village, totally forgotten. The people of Alqueria dislike bureaucracy and view all officials whether petty, state or European with suspicion. The letter was just seen as another example of red-tape. Surely it could not upset the everyday life of the village.

The Ministro del Interior, on receiving the despatch and seeing who the sender was quickly passed it to another department. To be involved in the affairs of Alqueria is not a good career move. The Great Pepino Scandal of 97 had taught those in power not to associate themselves with the intrigues of that troublesome little village. Government department after department handled, ignored and passed on the letter. Finally the fabric of the envelope succumbed to fatigue and the contents tumbled out. On seeing the suggestion that Alqueria may no longer be part of Spain ministers of state clambered for the kudos of finally solving the Alquerian problem. Even the Department of Sanitation and Vermin Eradication tried to bask in the reflected glory of Alqueria's possible exile.

It was the *Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación* who took responsibility and gleefully accepted Don Sageo's assumptions. The papers were duly signed and the

Royal Seal affixed. Alqueria was no longer part of Spain and therefore not answerable to the Madrid Government. All that needed to be done was to despatch the papers making Alqueria foreign soil and organise the biggest fiesta in the history of the Spanish Civil Service.

Don Sageo read the reply several times. He thought perhaps he should say nothing but this was not the sort of thing that could be kept to oneself. Rodriquez representing the Newcomers and Antonio Poyato the Hill People stared in disbelief as the Don acquainted them with the letter's contents. The implications of Don Sageo's handiwork had to be communicated to the people of Alqueria.

An emergency meeting is to take place in the village square and Don Sageo has gone into hiding.