

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Memorandum

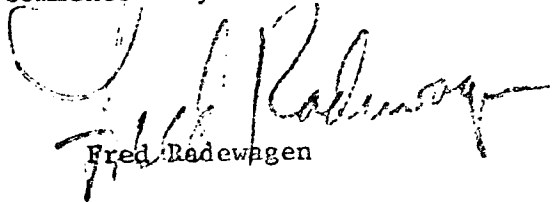
To: Moody Tidwell, Associate Solicitor, General Legal Services
Earl Schmalle, Personnel Services
Walter Jensen, Chief, Division of Fiscal Services

From: Acting Director of Territorial Affairs

Subject: Appointment of a Micronesian to the High Court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

There is attached a copy of a recent Secretarial decision on appointing a Micronesian to the High Court of the Trust Territory. As you will note, the Secretary has approved selection of a Micronesian in principle. For your background information, we anticipate a vacancy will occur with the retirement of Associate Justice D. Kelly Turner this summer. At that time we will propose to appoint a qualified Micronesian to the High Court.

Needless to say there are many practical problems which must be taken into consideration well in advance of such a move. Among other things, we must determine the authority under which the Secretary may make an appointment of a non-Federal employee to a non-Federal position; the position will have to be defederalized; the funding of the position will have to be determined inasmuch as the High Court is now a separate federal appropriation which flows through the Department. I am sure that there are other problems needing resolution which I have not identified here. It would be appreciated if your office could review this situation from the standpoint of your own expertise and responsibilities and let us have your comments at your earliest convenience.


Fred Radewagen

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