

January 10, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR NORTHERN MARIANAS FILE

Subject: Telephone Conversation with Judge Chambers

I received a call on January 10 from Judge Chambers regarding the establishment of a United States District Court in the Northern Marianas. He has discussed the matter recently with the Administrative Office of the United States Court and reports as follows:

1. He states that the Administrative Office believes they can establish the new district court without any additional statutory authorization by Congress. With respect to the funds necessary to operate the Court, the Administrative Office has informed Judge Chambers that the relatively small amount of money could readily be absorbed within the current budget of the Administrative Office. In short, the Administrative Office informs Judge Chambers that nothing more need be done on this subject at this time.

2. In order to confirm this optimistic assessment, Judge Chambers suggests that I call one Edward B. Garabedian (?sp), whom he describes as the fiscal officer at the Administrative Office. He recommends that we inform Mr. Garabedian that Judge Chambers suggested we call and that we politely find out whether his assessment of the situation represents the position of the Administrative Office.

3. Judge Chambers recognizes that eventually there could be some kind of statute with respect to the Northern Marianas Court. He believes, however, that the Chief Judge for the Ninth Circuit could designate a judge to sit in that district without any additional action by Congress.

The remainder of the conversation wandered from American Samoa to Guam to the Covenant and to other problems of interest to Judge Chambers. I said that I would let him know what resulted from any contact with the Administrative Office.

HPW

cc: Paul Koffsky