

N. Williams

July 22, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD WILLENS

Subject: Telephone Conversation With
Jim Leonard

Jim attempted to reach you this afternoon, and in your absence called me. Irv Swerdlow and his people on Saipan have prepared a draft economic development plan that includes the assertion that the commonwealth government will possess authority to regulate maritime affairs. Specifically, the Swerdlow draft contemplates that the commonwealth government will issue "entry assurances." Jim views these assurances as a means by which "foreign" ships, including perhaps those flying under the United States flag, will be denied the status of common carriers. In addition, the draft assumes that the Northern Marianas government will enjoy the exclusive power to license ships' officers.

After trying unsuccessfully to contact you, I visited Jay Lapin's office, but was told that he had gone on vacation. I therefore called Jim back to report that any legal opinion from this firm would have to await your return to the office. Jim replied that he understood fully; he and I then talked informally about this problem.

I assured Jim that I would ask you to call him at your earliest convenience. He departs for Saipan on Monday evening or Tuesday morning. It is Jim's intention to

instruct Swerdlow to delete the material described above from the economic development plan. Before taking that step, however, he desires to discuss its legal ramifications with you.

Paul S. Koffsky

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".