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March 1, 1956

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INTERIOR DEPT.

MAR 1 - 1956

SOLICITOR

The Honorable
J. Ruel Armstrong
Office of the Solicitor
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Re: Navajo-Hopi Case

The material assembled for presentation to you in answer to the brief filed on behalf of the Hopi Tribe of Indians in April of 1955, is so extensive that it has been divided into the following parts:

- Brief on behalf of the Navajo Tribe in answer to the brief filed by the attorneys for the Hopi Tribe in April, 1955.
- Part I - Navajo Hopi Relations, 1540-1882; from the Spanish period through the acquisition of the area by the United States in 1848, to the issuance of the Executive Order of December 16, 1882.
- Part II - Navajo Hopi Relations 1882-1911; from the Executive Order of December 16, 1882 to the end of the period when allotments were attempted as a solution.
- Part III - Navajo Hopi Relations 1911-1956; from the allotment period to the segregation period, to the present date. Accompanied by Base Map, Exhibit 1.
- Part IV - Report of Archaeological Survey of the Navajo-Hopi Contact Area in two volumes, Folio I and Folio II.

Maps:

- Exhibit A - Navajo Archaeological Sites in Navajo-Hopi Contact Area.
- Exhibit B - Navajo Traditional Locations in and Adjacent to Executive Order Reservation of December 16, 1882.

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Exhibit C - Forest Cover Types - Navajo-Hopi Contact Area.

It has been a physical impossibility, with the limitations of staff, and the delays imposed by the staff in the United States Archives where other materials for other cases are in the process of preparation and have equal priorities, to complete our brief, when the material upon which it will necessarily be based has only just now been submitted to the writer in Parts I, II, III, and IV. Even now Part II will not reach the writer's office until Saturday, March 3 by airmail from Berkeley, California where these first three parts have been prepared under the supervision and direction of George P. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library. I will file a copy of Part II in your office on Monday, March 5 and at that time or within a few days thereafter, will be able to file extra copies of the maps, now being prepared.

The brief is partially written but could not be completed until the documents referred to in Parts I, II, and III were available in the writer's office. As rapidly as possible the brief will be completed and printed, but in the meantime, there is such a mass of reading matter in Parts I to IV, constituting the basic documentary and archaeological evidence in support of the position of the Navajo Tribe, that I am presenting this material as indicated without the accompanying brief.

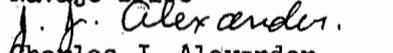
I think you will agree that finding, assembling, and assimilating this material in less than eleven months from April, 1955 to the end of February, 1956 has been a monumental accomplishment. The truth of the matter stands out clearly from the material itself, overwhelmingly sustaining the Solicitor's opinion of June 11, 1946 (No. 33821), wherein he recognized the rightful presence of the Navajos in the disputed area as fully confirmed by the Government over many years. The brief on behalf of the Navajos will sharpen the legal issues and point to a solution of this very old problem.

Very truly yours,



Norman M. Littell

General Counsel
Navajo Tribe



Charles J. Alexander
Assistant General Counsel

NML: jm
cc. John Boyden