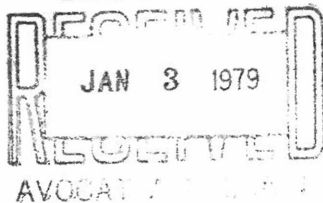


RONALD P. SOKOL
LAW OFFICES



Room 4234
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530
United States
December 18, 1978

AIR MAIL

Mr. Ronald P. Sokol
13450 Puyricard
Aix-En-Provence, FRANCE

Dear Ron:

Your welcome letter has been in my "To Be Answered" file for several months. I now hasten to write with the hope of reaching you with Yuletide Greetings.

To bring you up on events, and to answer some questions in your letter, I underwent another operation on my right eye last April. It was viewed in advance as a "high risk" procedure in that only a small percentage of such operations achieve any significant measure of success, while many of them not only fail to do that, but also result in a loss of the entire eye. My case has fallen somewhere in between. The operation achieved nothing; on the other hand, it has not yet resulted in the loss of my eye. If things hold where they are, the likelihood is that I can retain the eye itself, although without vision. The upshot is that the doctors now consider my case closed, medically speaking. This ends the hope which I had maintained for a year that something might be worked out. This has also caused me to get more seriously down to the business of learning Braille and of taking "mobility instruction" with the hope of being able to get myself around independently to a higher degree. These skills could be much more important in the future than they are now, when I have less help than I do in this situation.

Aside from a couple of weeks off for the surgery last Spring, I have been steadily on the job since August 1977. We have many projects of interest -- too many to try to list here. At the moment, we are consumed with getting together our legislative program for the new Congress which comes in in January. Almost none of our proposals were enacted in the last session, although several of them came quite close. We are expecting better results in the new Congress. We also have some new

proposals. Among the major items on our agenda are the reduction or elimination of the diversity of citizenship jurisdiction, substantial overhaul of class action procedures, and the creation of a new intermediate federal appellate court which would hear appeals nationwide in tax cases, patent cases, and certain specified administrative agency rulings. We also have a proposal to convert the Supreme Court's jurisdiction almost entirely to a certiorari basis, eliminating obligatory appeals.

I have always carried in mind your generous and interesting invitation to visit you and I have been hoping to find some opportunity to do so. I thought the moment might be at hand this past Fall when a trip to Germany loomed. However, time turned out to be too short. Jan and I did go to Germany for one week. I spent two days in Bonn at the Ministry of Justice, and another two and a half days in Karlsruhe visiting three courts. This is a trip which I had planned twice before, but had been compelled to cancel. It was highly informative. What I have in mind is an article attempting to explain the German judiciary to Americans -- especially the methods of training, promoting, and selecting judges, and something of the structure and procedure of the appellate courts. I have done similar things with the English system. In fact, an article of mine has just appeared in the Georgetown Law Journal on the English appellate judges. When I have reprints, I will mail you one. In any event, we were unable to spare the additional time to detour through Southern France. But I still want to do this and hope to have a chance some day.

Please accept my apologies for not having responded to your flattering request for a photograph. It is very difficult to resist the opportunity to have one's likeness join such august company as you have described. My problem has been that I have not yet come into possession of a photograph to send you. In fact, this lack has been one of the reasons why I have procrastinated in writing. I have been thinking that I would get a suitable photograph, but I have not yet done so. If you wish to hold the invitation open, I will keep the matter in mind with the object of getting a photograph sometime in the near future and sending it along.

My plan still holds to return to Charlottesville before the end of next Summer to resume my place on the law faculty. This will require a completely new orientation. I have become adjusted to working in my situation here, but the teaching work and the law school situation will present quite a different setting. I hope that there is some chance during 1979 when we

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can get together, either in Washington or in Charlottesville.
I hope that you and your family have a good holiday season.
We will go to Charlottesville this coming weekend to spend
Christmas week there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel J. Meador