

ALSO VISITS WORKHOUSE WHERE SHE WANTS TO TRANSFER

U.S. judge inspects Chesimard's solitary cell

By DAVID WALD

U.S. District Court Judge George H. Barlow yesterday inspected Joanne Chesimard's private cell in the Middlesex County Jail in New Brunswick where she is awaiting trial for the 1973 murder of a state trooper.

Chesimard, in a suit filed in federal court, says her solitary confinement in the jail violates her constitutional rights, and she seeks transfer to the county workhouse in North Brun-

wick where women awaiting trials are normally held.

Judge Barlow visited the workhouse after the jail inspection, accompanied by Middlesex County sheriff's officers, Chesimard's attorneys and lawyers for the county. The judge made no statement after his visits.

Barlow decided on the personal inspections after hearing conflicting arguments in his Trenton courtroom on the conditions of Chesimard's im-

prisonment.

The 28-year-old defendant had been expected to testify yesterday, but her attorneys decided not to let her take the stand when Judge Barlow denied a request to limit cross-examination.

If Chesimard had refused to answer any questions posed by assistant County Counsel James B. Convery, on the grounds they violated her Fifth Amendment rights which protect against self-incrimina-

tion, her testimony on direct examination would have been stricken.

Last Monday, two witnesses for the defense — Dr. Michael Smith, a psychiatrist on the staff of Lincoln Hospital in The Bronx, John Boone, a former corrections commissioner in Massachusetts — visited Chesimard to assess the conditions of her confinement.

Lenox Hinds, an attorney with the National Conference

of Black Lawyers who is representing Chesimard, said the two men's conclusions will be released today at a press conference in New York City.

Also today, Superior Court Judge Theodore Appleby will decide whether to postpone the start of Chesimard's murder trial, which is scheduled for Monday.

First Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Edward Barone, who is handling the state's case against Chesi-

mard, said yesterday he not expect the trial to be Monday.

Lawrence Stern, another Chesimard's defense lawyer, said beginning Monday is 'impossibility as far as we concerned.'

The start of the trial could be delayed until September, Barone said, because the approach of summer and vacations will make it difficult to select a jury which can be sequestered.