

Film on circum-polar conference aires Oct. 14

"Rope to Our Roots," a half-hour film about the 1980 Inuit Circumpolar Conference, will be shown at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 on KIMO Television, Channel 13.

The film, produced by Bo Boudart Films which was contracted by the Inuit Life Foundation, follows the Alaska delegation to the ICC convention which was held in Nuuk, Greenland last fall.

Nuuk is a city of 10,000 people, some 80 to 90 percent of whom are Eskimos, said Boudart. He said the city has many high-rise apartments and the people there have had to adapt to a city way of life.

The name of the film comes from a statement made by ICC president Hans-Pavia Rosing who said the delegates should use the conference "to be a rope to our roots."

It depicts the concerns and the cultural exchanges of the Eskimo tribes from Greenland, Canada and Alaska during their meeting.

It contains interviews with leaders from Canada, ICC chairman Hans-Pavia Rosing, and others who speak about the common problems facing the Inupiat peoples of three nations.

A cultural event held on the traditional Inuit celebration site of Assivik also was filmed. The event allowed people from around the coast of Greenland to display their arts, skills and to discuss their mutual concerns as well as to celebrate with Eskimo dancing, sing Canadian folk songs, and watch kayakers demonstrate their abilities.

Boudart said that the conference was a chance for the residents of three different nations to realize that they have common problems.

But in recognizing their commonalities, they also found they must face problems posed by the great distances between the nations — communication and transportation difficulties.

Boudart said transportation between nations is difficult because there is no direct air route from Alaska to Greenland. To get to Canada, Alaskans must travel to the Lower 48 and back into Canada. No plane flies directly

to Greenland and most must make stops in Copenhagen before flying to Greenland.

Boudart also said the three groups discussed an Arctic Development policy to protect the marine resources and had the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process of developing those resources.

Boudart said the greatest obstacle to keeping the ICC alive is travel and a committee was established to study the feasibility of joint commercial ventures.

A joint Inuit business venture is already underway. The Makivik Corp. is a venture of Quebec and Greenland fishermen.

Boudart also said problems facing only one group were discussed by all. Greenland is attempting to regain more control over the commercial fishing and is working on a referendum to pull out of the European Common Market.

The Canadian Inuit are fighting for their own land claims settlement. Boudart said a Constitution being worked on in Canada would include an amendment which recognized the rights of the tribes, as aboriginal land users, to control their aboriginal land usage.

Alaskan representatives discussed trying to use the ICC as a means to unify their attempts to formalize offshore development and to develop an International Coastal Zone program for all of the Arctic.

Boudart said all three groups were able to communicate despite the fact that there are some slight differences in their languages. He said one aim of this conference was to develop a common written language for all the groups.

The film is narrated for Alaska in English but Boudart said that it will be re-dubbed in other languages for other nations.

The film is the property of the Inuit Life Foundation and may be shown several times on statewide television, said Boudart.

The Boundarts are working on a new film on traditional Inupiat artists. The film seeks

to integrate pictures of the artists working with information about the origins of the art forms. "We hope to show how the art forms and the culture from which they came tie together. It will be juxtaposed to give more in-depth

look at how art is a reflection of culture," said Boudart.

The film will show how the art is affected by the environment and what expressions the artists made with their art and how they captured

their spirit on film, said Boudart.

He has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts but said he is seeking more money. The film should take six months to a year to complete.