

# Native conference planned for Australia

Alaska Natives in the past decade have begun making their self-determination as a people work following the passage of the claims settlement act. And some have been working with national and international groups of indigenous peoples on similar issues.

Native or indigenous peoples from throughout the world have been invited to attend the third general assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples meeting in Canberra, Australia, April 26-May 2.

Ralph Eluska of the Alaska Native Foundation, is handling invitations and registration for the WCIP in Alaska. Ralph Eluska is chairman of the 3 person United States delegation and representative for the National Congress of American Indians.

The meetings will provide opportunities for indigenous peoples to discuss such issues as land ownership and use, aboriginal rights, resource development and environmental impacts with a world-wide experience.

Eluska said travel arrangements must be made well in advance of the trip to Australia. Passports and a visa for travel abroad must be obtained.

Cultural programs will be provided by delegations from other countries. Delegations planning to bring exhibitions of past or present artifacts or arts and crafts are subject to quarantine requirements of the Commonwealth of Australia. Generally, animal hide clothing and ornaments, feathers, bones, horns, furs, woven articles and wooden implements may be temporarily imported.

Created three years ago, the WCIP was formed in order to ensure unity among indigenous peoples, to facilitate their meaningful exchange of information and to strengthen organizations that form political and cultural channels of the indigenous peoples in their countries.

The Cook Inlet Native Association has recognized the importance of meeting with other indigenous peoples and is sending Mrs. Mae Stanley to the WCIP meetings. The Aleutian Pribiloffs Association is sending Sharon Eluska also.

The Alaska Native Foundation will be sending a draft for the WCIP draft to create an international convention of the protection of indigenous peoples and their rights and determine the ideology and philosophy to govern the organization.