

Andrus extends deadline for land selections

Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus has again extended the deadline for Alaska Natives to file applications under Section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; this time to September 18, 1978. The original filing date was December 18, 1977. In December, Andrus extended the deadline until March 20.

Andrus said he decided to ex-

tend the deadline a second time because of the department's new policy to implement the settlement act. Andrus said he is extending the deadline to give the Natives time to make their selection under the new policy for section 14(h)(8).

Section 14(h) authorized the secretary to withdraw 2 million acres of public domain land and to convey them to individual

Natives and Native Corporations for a number of purposes. This includes lands to the regional corporations to preserve cemetery sites and historical places. This section also provides land for Native groups that do not qualify as Native villages and to Natives living in Sitka, Kenai, Juneau and Kodiak.

Additionally, certain Native allotments are to be counted

against the 2 million acres. Whatever lands are not conveyed from the 2 million acre authorization for these purposes will be divided among the Native regional corporations according to population under Section 14(h)(8).

Notice of the extension was published in the March 22 Federal Register.