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PHOTO BY BILL HESS

Dalee Sambo, (left) Inuit of Alaska, and Henriette Rasmussen, Inuit of Greenland, share a moment at the Anchorage International Airport before Rasmussen begins her long journey home. Both are members of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Communications link across Arctic

By Bill Hess
Tundra Times

The great distances separating Alaskan, Canadian and Greenlandic Inuit are shortening. Representatives of the Inuit (ICC) Communication Commission gathered in Bethel earlier this month to draw up plans to establish better communication links throughout the Arctic regions.

The commission is seeking funds to establish an earth station and television standard converter which would enable it to broadcast live coverage of this summer's ICC General Assembly in Inuit to each of the three countries. The Gen-

eral Assembly will be held in Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay) in Canada's Northwest Territories July 25 - 31, 1983.

The ICC also intends to promote a regular exchange of Inuit television programming with news from throughout the Inuit homeland.

Although Canadian members of the commission were involved in a land claims issue in their own Nation and thus were unable to attend, a number of representatives from Greenland showed up.

Among them was Henriette Rasmussen, a journalist trainee from Nuuk. Rasmussen also attended the Indian Reorganiza-

tion Act conference in Anchorage, and the press conference put on by the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) where they announced the filing of their lawsuit to block oil lease sales in Norton Sound.

The experience left Rasmussen with some strong impressions of what her Inuit cousins in Alaska face. Rasmussen expressed admiration for the IRA village governments and for AVCP. "I think they are very strong for the people," she said.

Rasmussen was concerned, however, with the respect af-

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Fish and Game Boards to meet in Anchorage

By Cecile Kay Richter
Tundra Times

Public hearings begin Saturday in Anchorage on proposed regulations before the State Boards of Fisheries and Game.

Meetings of each Board will begin daily at 9 a.m. at the Westward Hilton Hotel and are expected to go on until about April 9.

On the agenda for the Board of Fisheries are 199 proposed regulations primarily involving management options for Yukon River, Kenai River and Southeast salmon fisheries; subsistence finfishing and king, tanner and dungeness crab fishing. In addition, the March 29 meeting will be a joint session with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The Game Board will consider 360 proposed changes to state hunting and trapping regulations including a number dealing with archery hunting, limiting of moose and caribou hunting in areas where

wolf control takes place, and subsistence-related proposals.

This will be the major regulatory session of the Board of Game this year while the Board of Fisheries will hold a second regulatory session in the fall.

From Monday to Thursday of this week, the Boards of Fisheries and Game held their annual joint meetings. This was the first time in the Sheffield administration that the Boards have met together.

The Joint Board was to have elected officers, considered special reports from local fish and game advisory committees and from state and federal agencies, and reviewed a proposed revision of current regulations governing advisory committees and regional councils.

On the agenda for Thursday is consideration of the proposals amending the definition of rural in the state subsistence law. Consideration of these

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Koniag, Village Corps. mergers in doubt

By Dave Pierce
Tundra Times Correspondent

A superior court judge's precedent-setting decision, if upheld by the Alaska Supreme Court, may result in the overturning of mergers between a Kodiak Island regional Native corporation and three village Native corporations.

The ruling also would place stricter requirements on what financial information Alaska Native corporations are required to release to shareholders prior to any future merger votes.

Earlier this year, Anchorage Superior Court Judge Douglas Serdahely ruled Koniag provided incomplete and misleading information in a proxy statement issued to shareholders of several village corporations contemplating a merger with Koniag, Inc. Serdahely said Koniag should have placed a dollar estimate on the village's vast timber holdings.

In December 1980 shareholders of six village corporations voted overwhelmingly to

approve the mergers. The votes came about two weeks after Congress passed the D-2 Alaska Lands bill that conveyed thousands of acres of additional timberland to some of the village corporations.

In a lengthy proxy statement issued by Koniag prior to the merger votes, the regional corporation declined to place a dollar value on the village shareholders' timber and other mineral holdings, saying such an undertaking would be impossible.

"Valuation would require appraisal of more than 800,000 acres of land, at prohibitive cost, just to provide what management believes would be speculative information, and such valuation would require at least three years to complete," Koniag officials wrote.

But in his decision Judge Serdahely called failure to disclose such information "a material omission."

"Certain statements regarding defendants' inability to

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