

No. Slope Represented

BARROW—The peoples of the North Slope Borough were represented by Billy Neakok at the First International Conference of Indigenous Peoples held Oct. 27-31 at Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, B.C.

Neakok was the only Alaskan attending this conference.

The Port Alberni Conference was hosted by the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada on the Port Alberni Indian Reserve. It was attended by representatives of indigenous peoples from Scandinavia, Greenland, Canada, the United States, South America, Australia and New Zealand.

The work of the conference focused upon the writing of a charter for the new World Council of Indigenous Peoples, an international body that will seek representation at the United Nations.

According to Billy Neakok, the concerns discussed at the Indigenous Peoples' Conference were those shared by all of Alaska's Native people.

"All of the Native people of the world share our worries and concerns. We talked about the notorious genocide and torture of Indians in South America, and some of the representatives attending the conference were maimed, and showed us their scars and amputations.

"We spoke of our efforts to retain our land and natural resources; to protect our lands from environmental abuse; and to win social, economic and political justice. They were eager to hear about the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement."

Neakok has been assigned the responsibility of organizing the First International Inuit Community Conference to be hosted by the North Slope Borough in 1976.

While attending the conference in Port Alberni, he was able to discuss the Inuit Community Conference with Eskimo leaders from Greenland and the Northwest Territories.