

# Yupiiit Nation delegation travels to United Nations

by the Yupiiit Nation

**AKIACHAK** — A delegation from the Yupiiit Nation, Akiachak, Akiak, Kasigluk and Atmautluak traveled to the United Nations offices in New York, N.Y., April 27 and returned to their villages May 4.

The Yupiiit Nation was represented by Chief Willie Kasayulie, Chief Executive Officer Jackson Lomack and members of the Board of Trustees Fritz George of Akiachak, Phillip Charlie Sr. of Tuntutuliak, Paul J. Ivan of Akiak and Joshua Phillip and Noah Andrew, both of Tuluksak.

Akiachak was represented by Kenneth Peter, Akiak by Frank Demantles Sr. and Frank Demantles Jr., Atmautluak by Moses Pavilla Sr. and Kasigluk by Irvin Brinks Sr. Sophie Kasayulie traveled as an observer from Akiachak.

The delegation met with Gudmunder Alfredsson of the UN Office of Human Rights, Dr. Noel Brown of the U.N. Environmental Office and Rod Johnson of The New World Foundation. The delegation also made contact with the U.N. Office of Decolonization and a committee from the U.N. Office responsible for trust territories.

Those at the meeting with Alfredsson recommended a delegation of the Yupiiit Nation be sent to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend a working group

meeting on the development of a Draft Universal Declaration of Indigenous Rights.

The meeting in Geneva will include two gatherings, with the first from July 24-28, involving the indigenous peoples of the world. The second meeting will be from July 30-Aug. 4 and will involve the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Affairs.

The meeting with Brown involved the discussion of traditional environmental laws relating to subsistence resources and how the laws can be enforced through a regional tribal government format involving the participation of regional residents in the process.

The New World Foundation meeting with Johnson and Robert T. Coulter of the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, D.C., identified possible foundation funding sources that would permit the office of the Yupiiit Nation to work toward the goals and purposes listed in the *Constitution of the Yupiiit Nation*.

It is the intention of the Yupiiit Nation to maintain contact with the U.N. and other allies to proceed with the acknowledgement of self-government for all indigenous peoples of the world.

Those who want further information may contact the Yupiiit Nation office at 825-4311 in Akiachak.

## Tundra Times