

BIA Meets Natives on Contracts

At the conclusion of a two-day meeting held in Fairbanks on Feb. 20 and 21, the procedures involved in contracting for the operation of the Fairbanks agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tanana Chiefs Conference Pre-

sident Mitch Demientieff requested that a task force be formed to address potential problem areas.

The meeting, held in the Tanana Chiefs Offices at 102 Lacey, included representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

area office in Juneau, the North Slope Borough and school district, and S. Bobo Dean, an attorney of the Association of American Indian Affairs, currently working with the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Clarence Antioquia, acting area director for the BIA Juneau area office, indicated that one of the largest obstacles to releasing such a contract to a native organization is a lack of sufficient personnel to adequately negotiate and monitor a contract of this magnitude. The area office currently employs two contracting specialists who are charged with negotiating and implementing over 200 BIA contracts in the state.

Mayor Eben Hopson of the North Slope Borough, indicated he felt the necessity for representation from the North Slope Borough were the task force to be formed.