

Kotzebue will host ICC July 28-August 3

This summer Kotzebue will have the honor of hosting the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) during the week of July 28 through August 3, 1986. The ICC is made up of Inuit Eskimos from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. The organization was formed to encourage cooperation and mutual support on issues of concern to Inuit in the three Arctic countries.

The ICC was spearheaded in the mid-1970s by the late Eben Hopson, Mayor of the North Slope Borough. In 1977, the first General Assembly meeting was held in Barrow. Subsequent meetings have been held in Nuuk, Greenland in 1980, and in Frobisher Bay, Canada in 1983. Shortly after the 1983 meeting, the ICC achieved recognition as a Non-Governmental Organization with consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Under the terms of the ICC Charter, 18 delegates from each country attend the General Assembly meetings, which are

held every three years. ICC policy is set at these meetings. This year's agenda is dominated by debate on the adoption of an Arctic Policy, which is a continuation of a process that began back in Barrow in 1977.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference also provides an opportunity for each of the countries to share in a celebration of cultural arts and traditional dancing. This year, Greenland will be represented by four groups, which include the Simaliut Theatre Group. Alaskan entertainment groups expected to perform include the Kotzebue Northern Lights Dancers and the Barrow, Pt. Hope, Savoonga, Gambell, and Wainwright Eskimo dancers.

Scheduled speakers at the Assembly include an address by Governor Sheffield; international dignitaries from the United Nations; the Minister for Northern Affairs of Canada, and the Danish Minister for Greenland.

Additional activities that have been scheduled to complement

the General Assembly meeting include the Kotzebue Trade Fair and an Elders Conference. The Trade Fair has been moved from the 4th of July, to run for five days from July 28 through August 1.

A traditional feast will follow the Trade Fair on Saturday, August 2. Food for the feast is customarily donated by all the villages in the region. The menu will include caribou, moose, reindeer, salmon, sheefish, muktuk, seal oil, berries, Eskimo ice cream, and tundra tea.

In order to plan for these events, 13 committees have been meeting for the last two years. The committees have divided the responsibilities to tackle such logistical challenges as fund raising, communication, transportation, and accommodations. For more information, or to find out how you can help, contact Clara Taylor at the NANA offices in Kotzebue. Clara can be reached at 442-3301. For housing information contact Skeeter Jepson at 442-3341.