

# Aleuts In Court Over Land Claim And Seal Rights

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Court of Claims has ordered the Indian Claims Commission to hear evidence on whether Alaska's Aleut tribe has a claim against the United States because of government restrictions on the tribe's fur seal trading.

The court rejected at the same time a contention of the tribe that it is entitled to compensation for St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs and various islands in the Aleutians. The tribe said it acquired ownership of the island under Russian law.

The commission had dismissed the tribal claim on both counts.

The court said the Russian government didn't recognize tribal ownership although the Russian government showed a concern that the Natives of the island be disturbed in their possessions as little as possible.

But the court said the tribe does have a claim for breach of fair and honorable dealings by the United States if it can prove its charge against the government on fur seal trading.