

Thompson says

Yukon Indian Talks are still on

"The statement by Robert LeResche, Commissioner of Natural Resources, that the negotiations between the Council of Yukon Indians, the Yukon Territorial Government, and the Central Government of Canada to settle Native claims in the Yukon 'have broken off' and that the Council of Yukon Indians walked away from the talks is simply not true," said Morris Thompson, Vice-President of Alcan Pipeline Company.

"The Canadian Government Special Claims Negotiator," continued Thompson, "has, in fact, indicated that he foresees agreement in principle on Native claims issues by early 1978." A special inquiry chaired by K.M. Lysyk, Dean of Law at the University of British Columbia, is currently investigating the socio-economic impacts of a pipeline in the Southern Yukon and a recommendation is expected by August 1, 1977. A recent press release by the Office of Native Claims, Whitehorse, indicates that negotiations are on-going on a reduced schedule with all three parties involved.

"In short," Thompson said, "land claims negotiations are on-going in the Yukon and it is unfortunate that they were characterized in any different manner."