

Soviets approve flights from Alaska

by Holly F. Hallam

Tundra Times reporter

Soviet officials from Magadan in the Far East gave Alaska the go-ahead

ALASKA

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rade in An-
official in

charge of all flight operations in the Soviet Far East, Victor Treruboe, told the trade office that Bering Air could resume its flights without a Soviet navigator onboard.

In November, Soviet officials said that all flights going from Alaska to the Far East must have a Soviet navigator on board. The Soviets

wanted this because they said not all the flights going over had navigators who spoke Russian fluently enough to respond safely in emergency situations.

Miller said the Soviets have only given approval over the telephone, but

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he said he expects to receive a formal written document in the near future.

Jim Rowe, president of Bering Air, said he's waiting to receive the official document before resuming flights.

He said although the Soviets didn't ever actually put a stop to flights, they just made it nearly impossible to continue them.

Rowe said the stipulation was that during his flights he would have to have a Soviet navigator from Moscow on board. But he said the cost of getting a Soviet navigator to Nome would be between \$10,000 to \$12,000. And he said that amount of money was too much.

In between the governments deciding how the flights should be conducted are a group of people from St. Lawrence Island who have tentatively scheduled a flight Jan. 2 to travel to the Soviet Far East, according to Gambell Mayor Branson Tungiyon.

He said a group of about 35 island residents had cancelled a trip to Provideniya on Dec. 4 because of the navigator regulations.

Now he said the group is hoping to travel to Magadan with a group of high school and grade school students who are going there for an arts festival in January.

"That's good news to us," Tungiyon said about the regulations being dropped. "That means that we are able to travel to the Soviet Far East again."