

STATE NEGOTIATES QUIT CLAIM

ASNA Drops Claim On Barrow Airport To Allow Updating

A quit-claim agreement on an area in a Native land claim is being arranged by

the State and the Arctic Slope Native Association, according to word received by the TUNDRA TIMES.

Under this agreement, the land for the Barrow airport would be dropped from the Arctic Slope land claim, enabling the State to obtain full title.

This would enable the State to obtain Federal participation for future work on the airport.

Jim Moody of the Division of Aviation asked to describe the Division's problem at Barrow, said that the airport was started under a letter of commitment from the BLM. This reserved the land for airport use, but did not grant title.

Before title could be given, the Native claim for the area was filed and passage of title was stopped. Without this title, future FAA participation is not possible.

Commissioner of Public Works George MacClanahan said that only the first stage of the airport is presently

(continued on Page 6)

ASNA . .

(Continued from Page 1)

completed, and that Wein had been having some trouble landing its planes there.

The problem was openly discussed among State officials, and they decided that the only fast solution would be to have ASNA relinquish its claim on that particular area of land.

Negotiations with ASNA were held this Monday in Barrow and the Association readily accepted the idea. ASNA specified a form of quit-claim agreement.

According to unofficial sources, the agreement relinquishes the Native claim on the land of the airstrip, but does not bind either side to a statement concerning the validity of the claim.

One source mentioned that the transaction could set a precedent by which lands under Native claims could be developed. This land development would benefit both the Natives and the State as a whole.