

Realignment of BIA Functions

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced a realignment of the central office functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Secretary Morton said that the President, in his human resources message to Congress on March 1, 1973, directed that steps be taken to transfer day-to-day operational activities of the Bureau from Washington to field offices.

"The order being announced provides for the first stage of organizational changes in the Bureau and authorizes immediate staffing of key positions in order to implement the President's directive, reduce non-essential Central Office support staff and increase the effectiveness of the delivery system of services to Indians," Secretary Morton said.

To assist in fulfilling the President's directive, Secretary Morton has designated an assistant secretarial steering committee composed of the Assistant Secretary for Management, the Asst. Sec. for Program Development and Budget, the Asst. to the Sec. for Indian Affairs and the Solicitor together with a working group to review and make recommendations to him on a complete reorganization of the entire Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Under the realignment, the Bureau will be headed by a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reporting directly to the Secretary and a Deputy Commissioner.

Until these positions are filled, their duties will be performed by the Assistant to the Secretary for Indian Affairs Marvin Franklin and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Indian Affairs) William Rogers.

Included in the Central Office organization will be six major offices: Indian Education Programs; Tribal Resource Development; Trust Responsibilities; Indian Services; Public Affairs;

(Continued on page 6)

Realignment . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

and the Administration.

A Hopi-Navajo joint use field office and a Committee on Field and Internal Operations will report directly to the Commissioner. A chart showing the revised organization is available.

The realignment is expected to bring about reductions in the staff of the Central Office in all its locations, principally Washington, Albuquerque and Denver.

At the present time the three central offices have a staff of 1,050.

This is expected to be reduced to 745.