

Cowper invites Arctic nations to conference

JUNEAU — Gov. Steve Cowper announced recently that 15 top scientists and government officials from nearly a dozen northern countries are expected in Anchorage next week to plan next year's gathering of more than 350 officials from Arctic Rim nations called together to explore common problems of the North.

The Northern Regions Conference, scheduled for Sept. 17-21, 1990, will include representatives of 11 northern countries who will investigate issues such as the environment, science and technology, tourism and the problems of indigenous people. Countries expected to attend include the Soviet Union, China, Denmark, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and the United States.

"Alaska shares many problems with our northern neighbors, and it should be to them that we turn for the solutions," Cowper said.

On Nov. 27-28, officials from the countries slated to attend the conference will meet at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel to work on details of next year's conference, agree on keynote speakers and discuss fund-raising strategies. Both the planning session and next year's conference are being organized by the Governor's Office of International Trade.

The Northern Regions Conference will feature 32 workshops, guest speakers and analysis of the economic potential of the North. U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Keith Brown is tentatively slated to speak about U.S. policy in the Arctic, and Soviet Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Dubinin has been invited to speak about Soviet policy in the region.