

# Inuit Conference to seek affiliation with U.N.

In a move to strengthen its international credentials, the Inuit (Eskimo) Circumpolar Conference, an organization representing the Eskimo populations of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, will ask for affiliation with the United Nations, according to a statement released by I.C.C. president Hans-Pavia Rosing.

Rosing, former director of public information for Green-

land, made the announcement following a meeting of the I.C.C. Executive Council just concluded in Nuuk, Greenland.

"We need to participate directly in U.N. discussions on the arctic region," Rosing said, "and we need the benefits of the wealth of information, documents and expertise on the arctic available from U.N. sources."

Rosing says the I.C.C. hopes

to "define the differences between commercial whaling and the subsistence whaling performed by Inuit all over the arctic," and to establish acceptance of that definition by the International Whaling Commission.

Attempts to impose I.W.C. quotas on Eskimo subsistence whalers have raised strong objections from the Eskimo community, which claims that

declines in whale populations are related primarily to commercial whaling as opposed to traditional subsistence hunting.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference was formed by Eskimo leaders from Alaska, Canada and Greenland who met in Barrow, Alaska in 1977 at the invitation of the late Eben Hopson, then Mayor of Alaska's North Slope Borough. That meeting led to a 1980 general assembly in Nuuk,

where the group adopted a charter and named Rosing as president.

I.C.C. efforts are directed by an Executive Council, guided by a series of general assembly resolutions covering subjects ranging from whaling and subsistence problems to oil and gas development in the arctic.

The next I.C.C. general assembly is slated for 1983 in Canada.