

Calista Cites Communications Gap

The Alaska Native Foundation in its bi-monthly management report revealed an amusing incident in the difficult problem of the communication gap between the U.S. government and the Alaska Native peoples.

The Calista Corporation with the highest native population in the state sent a letter several weeks ago to the Land Use Planning Commission. To the Commission's chagrin, the letter was written in the Yupik language and no translation accompanied it.

The letter dramatized the plight of the Calista villagers who receive all information on the Land Claims Act in English, a language that many cannot read.

Calista intends to send other letters in Yupik to federal agencies and officials.

Apparently the first letter (after it was unscrambled by a friendly translator) said the villages would not be able to meet the Settlement Act deadlines until information on the Act had been made available in Yupik.

As if this isn't enough headache for the U.S. govern-

ment, the next step may be requests for information in Inupiat, Athabascan, Aleut, and countless other native dialects.

Based on the government's solutions to this type of problem in the past, there will probably be a new government agency created to deal with the problem.