

23 Recommendations Answered by Secretary

At the June Native Allotment meeting in Anchorage, 23 recommendations, regarding the processing of Native land allotments, were drawn up for the Secretary of the Interior.

This past week Assistant Secretary Royston C. Hughes responded to these positions. During the next several weeks we will be publishing the Department of Interior's responses for the information of Alaska Natives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write AFN, Inc.

United States Department
of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Lang:

At your recent meeting in Anchorage with Secretary Morton you presented a list of recommendations regarding the pro-

cessing of Native land allotments and requested that we respond to each of the 23 recommendations.

As you are aware the Secretary at that meeting announced certain actions which the department had been ordered to take which respond substantially to the recommendations you have made. This letter will reconfirm those commitments and deal with those other issues not covered at that time. Each of your numbered recommendations is repeated followed by our response.

1. The allotment applicant or his designated representative must be present during the field investigation.

The applicant, the appropriate village council, and the appropriate regional corporation will be notified 30 days in advance of planned field examinations. This notification will request the ap-

plicant or his designee to be present and accompany the BLM field examiner. If neither of them are available, the village council or corporation will be asked to designate a representative to accompany the field examiner.

2. In areas where allotment applicants may not completely understand English, a local interpreter will accompany the field investigator and the allotment applicant.

Whenever a language or communication problem exists, an interpreter will be utilized.

3. That BLM revise the job description for field investigators to require knowledge of traditional Native use and occupancy and that BLM replace present field investigators with Alaska Natives who are familiar with traditional Native use and occupancy.

(More in two weeks)