

# GAO study of Regions completed

## The Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — The General Accounting Office has issued a 34-page report on the financial condition of Alaska Native corporations based on responses to a questionnaire sent to the 13 regional and 174 village groups.

The report issued Tuesday also discusses future financial viability of the corporations, litigation problems, and the question of whether the 1991 date after which corporation stock can be sold to outsiders should be retained.

The GAO report was drafted at the request of Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska in preparation for a required congressional review of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, under which the corporations were established.

The GAO said all 13 of the regional corporations and 129 of the village corporations responded to the questionnaire.

In a summary which did not identify individual corporations, the GAO said that of the 12 regional corporations which reported on profitability, six said they made a profit in 1980, five in 1981 and eight in 1982. Only 11 of the regional corporations included 1982 information.

One reported it made a prof-

it in excess of \$10 million in 1982, and four said they had profits ranging between \$1 million and \$5 million.

Of the 97 village corporations responding to the same question, 46 said they made money in 1980, 50 in 1981 and 55 in 1982, with only one not submitting information for the last year.

Three reported profits of between \$1 million and \$5 million in 1982, and three said they had profits of between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and 32 said their profits were less than \$100,000.

In projecting profits for the years 1983 through 1985, 91 of the corporations said they

expected profits, 15 said they expected losses, 22 were unsure of their future financial picture, and 14 made no projection.

Of the 142 regional and village corporations which responded to questions about litigation, 64 said they had been involved in administrative or judicial proceedings concerning the claims act.

Of those 64, 22 reported litigation costs of between \$50,000 and \$1 million, and 10 said they had spent between \$1 million and \$5 million.

Forty-six said the litigation had adversely affected their economic development.