

Ten Villages Form Joint Corporation

(From Action Reports)

KOTZEBUE—The elected representatives of the villages of Kiana, Noorvik, Shungnak, Ambler, Selawik, Point Hope, Deering, Buckland, Kivalina, and Kotzeube made Alaska history last week by forming the first Alaska native development corporation in the State.

Meeting March 12 and 13 in a Kotzebue dining room,

the representatives took over the meeting after a brief introduction by ASCAP's Northwest Community development specialist, Hugh

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Nicholls, and voted to seek official incorporation under the laws of Alaska.

The new 10-village corporation is to be funded and

guided under Office of Economic Opportunity programs.

The formation of the development corporation is

to be followed by the founding of 10 more corporations like the first, involving, in the end, some 87 native villages across Alaska in a cooperative development movement.

Nicholls predicted that the other corporations would be in operation within two months.

The corporation formed in Kotzebue, called the Kikiktugruk Area Community Development Corporation, was put together to implement Office of Economic Opportunity programs in the villages through direct participation of the villages and the villagers. Each corporation, in effect, is a community improvement agency of the villagers, for the villagers, and by the villagers.

Robert Newlin of Noorvik was elected Chairman of the corporation during the formation meeting. His vice-chairman is Dennis Swan of Kivalina. Elmer Armstrong of Kotzebue was elected secretary.

The Regional Board voted to meet next month at Point Hope, in conjunction with the ASCAP meeting scheduled there.