

Dr. Ted Mala works for peace

Dr. Ted Mala deserves our heartfelt congratulations for his outstanding efforts to unite the Northern peoples of Alaska and the Soviet Union.

Dr. Mala has been working for the unprecedented Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program for years. This sharing of valuable medical research should greatly aid both nations.

But we have to look at what Dr. Mala is really working toward, and that is nothing less than world peace. It's world peace through the simple goal of opening — and in this case re-opening — communication between the Northern people of Alaska and Siberia.

When we think of the United States and the Soviet Union, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking only in terms of the two "superpowers" and the many differences between *us* and *them*. But we're also talking about two nations, made up of millions of human beings. Dr. Mala has helped remind us that it's human beings who inhabit both nations.

We look forward to the visit of the Soviet delegation to Alaska next month.

And we thank you, Dr. Mala, for your untiring efforts on behalf of all Northern people.

THE AIR FORCE RESPONDS TO KAKTOVIK

Air Force spokesman Capt. Larry Jenkins of the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia has restored some of our faith in the military's efforts to be a good neighbor to Native people in Alaska.

Jenkins contacted the *Tundra Times* last week to let us know that the Air Force is attempting to solve the problem noted recently by Kaktovik residents. Villagers had complained that the only restroom near their airport is at the Air Force DEWline facility and that they had been denied use of it.

Jenkins said the Air Force and the mayor of Kaktovik are currently negotiating on the use of the facility and that the Air Force has agreed in principle to allowing residents to use it on a temporary basis.

Jenkins said there is no problem with allowing Kaktovik residents to use the facility when it is staffed and open, but that it is not manned 24 hours a day. Because it is a temporary storage facility, it must be secured, he said.

And that's where the problems started. The villagers wanted to use the facility even when it was unmanned.

We're pleased the Air Force has at least taken the time to consider this problem, and we hope that it can be resolved soon.

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