

ICC seeks nuclear free zone in Arctic

By Charles Campbell
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FROBISHER BAY, Northwest Territories — Eskimo leaders from Canada, Alaska and Greenland called last week for creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Arctic, with bans on nuclear testing, missile deployment, uranium mining, nuclear waste dumps and atomic energy.

dian word, preferring to use "Inuit," meaning "the People" in Inuktituk, their native language.

Cruise missile testing has become the focus of protests in Canada. The unarmed missiles are to be launched over the Arctic, then across the Northwest territories on a path to a target near the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

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Their resolution — passed unanimously by the 54 delegates at the third General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference — urged Canada to reverse its decision to allow testing of U.S. cruise missiles "in our Canadian homeland."

It also opposed "placement of the MX missile in our Alaskan homeland," proposed installations of Canadian nuclear reactors in the Arctic and subarctic and use of the region as a nuclear dump site.

"We are afraid that the Canadian, Alaskan and Greenlandic Arctic is going to be used as the highway to hell," said Argaluk Lynge, a member of the Greenland Parliament.

Hans-Pavia Rosing, president of the conference, said an international treaty making Antarctica a nuclear-free zone could be a precedent for a similar nuclear ban in the Arctic.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference represents about 100,000 people in Greenland, Alaska and Canada. Many of them object to the name Eskimo which is derived from an In-

So far, the Soviet government has refused to let its citizens attend the ICC meetings. On July 27, the assembly

voted to create an executive council seat reserved for the Siberians, should they ever obtain permission.

The Siberian Inuit population is estimated at 3,000 to 4,000, some with relatives in Alaska.

Military officials say the tests are needed because the largely featureless landscape — resembling some parts of the Soviet Union — will pose difficulties for the cruise guidance system, which depends on recognizing landmarks as the missile follows its course.

"It's no longer an outside issue," said John Amagoalik, president of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. "It's in our backyard."

The conference passed a similar anti-nuclear resolution at its first meeting in 1977, but executive council member James Stotts of Barrow, Alaska, said the cruise tests and the possibility that MX missiles would be based in Alaska called for an "emphatic re-statement" of the Inuit position.

As the July 29 session of the week-long meeting opened, a Soviet flag was carried into the assembly hall and placed alongside the U.S., Canadian and Danish flags, symbolizing the conference's invitation to Siberian Inuit to join the international organization.