

Unalakleet A.F. Station May Be Education Facility

WASHINGTON— The Air Force station at Unalakleet may be used for a joint Bureau of Indian Affairs, State of Alaska educational program according to U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska).

Gravel said BIA officials reported Monday that a request for a one-year use permit had been forwarded to the Air Force. The site is to be closed in 1970.

In addition to the joint use, the site is being considered as a

nucleus of a new village composed of residents of St. Michaels, Stebbins and Shaktoolik, BIA officials told Gravel.

The three villages are currently threatened annually by flooding, Gravel said. The Air Force has a water supply and electricity, BIA officials told Gravel, and would be an ideal site for a new community.

The villages are all located on Norton Sound.

BIA officials said there was a

possibility the villages could relocate at the Air Force station and avoid future threats.

An earlier study into the uses of the site showed it to be unsuitable for use as a Hospital or Health Center 4. Officials of the Indian Health Service told Gravel they would restudy the situation in the event "other alternatives developed."

Clifford Hartman, Commissioner of Education, told Gravel

the site appears to have potential as a Junior High School site.

In a letter to Gravel, Hartman said:

"... With some capital funds the site could be renovated and used as a Junior High School complex for the northern area."

"This site could be a valuable asset to both the state and BIA in providing a long-needed service to the village people," Gravel said.