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# Pribilovian Wants Self-determination on His Island

"President Nixon in his message 'A New Indian Doctrine' made it explicit that his administration would work for the self-determination of the Indian people, and that this would be the

goal of his Administration . . . . However, it seems that certain members of the Administration do not feel that this 'self-determination' should apply to the Pribilof Islands," writes St. Paul

Island Council President Jason Bourdukofsky.

The Aleut community council of St. Paul Island is protesting the recent appointment of a Community Development Offi-

cer for their village - a non-native appointed by a "high official in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

His sole qualification, according to the Village Council, ap-

pears to be that he formerly served as Congressional aide to Howard W. Pollock. Pollock, who left his Congressional seat to pursue an unsuccessful bid

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# Self-determination . . .

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for the Alaskan governorship, is presently Deputy Director of NOAA.

The St. Paul Islanders have passed a resolution protesting the appointment of this non-native Seattle based Community Development officer for their island.

They call for the administrators of the National Marine Fisheries Service to allow them to replace him with a "person from either of our own communities or of Native extraction," according to Bourdukofsky.

"We feel that this is the only way to get at the grass root problems and start developing alternative programs to sustain our communities [St. Paul and St. George Islands] and its future. We need a person who is knowledgeable about our culture, local economic status, history and people.

"It is imperative that we have a resident Community Development Officer. Our circumstances and efforts will require a full time employee. An employee stationed in Seattle and coming in for a few days now and then would only add insult to our long standing injuries and injustices," according to the Village Council President.

At present, the villagers of the Pribilof Islands are beginning a vital self government and self determination campaign to change and broaden their people's economy.

Their traditional dependence upon the fur seal industry is diminishing as the industry suffers from attacks by Eastern conservationist pressure groups seeking to end the annual seal harvest.

To the villagers, beginning their efforts to escape from centuries of harsh white domination, the recent appointment is an insult added to injury. Their resolution follows:

**"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Aleut Community of St. Paul, on behalf of the unorganized Aleut Community of St. George Island that in keeping with President Nixon's policies on self-determination we be extended this chance to think and plan for our own future with the appointment of our own choice of a Community Development Officer, and that we urgently request removal of the present appointee whose headquarters are in Seattle, Washington and he be immediately replaced by an appointee of our own choosing."