

# *Inuit prepare for ICC meeting in Nuuk*

In a gesture of international good-will and solidarity following the attainment of Home Rule, the people of Greenland plan to turn the 1980 Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) in Nuuk, Greenland, June 28 - July 1, into a celebration of the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Eskimos.

According to ICC organizer Jens Lyberth, "The Greenlanders want this event to be an exposition of the spiritual nature of our Eskimo culture and plan to celebrate the achievement of

self-government and our unity with the rest of the Inuit world. For this reason the Greenlanders want this event to remind the world of our long and peaceful occupancy of the Arctic homeland."

## **Native Pastors**

Lyberth, a Greenlander now with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Canada and working under contract to organize the Nuuk meeting, was in Anchorage May 16-18 during the visit of Greenland's Premier Jonathan Motz. (See Inuit, Page Ten)

# • Inuit conference nears

—CONTINUED from page one—feldt. He stated that along with the business meetings and workshops of the ICC, there will be a great variety of artistic, cultural, and scientific presentations taking place, drawing from the Inuit cultures of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska.

There will be an Inuit Film Festival, with over 120 films depicting Eskimo culture and art. The opening event on Friday evening will be a procession through Nuuk, Greenland's capital, culminating in an ecumenical worship service presided by Jens Christian Chemnitz, the newly-consecrated Bishop of Greenland; Rev. Samuel Simmonds, the Presbyterian minister of Wainwright, Alaska; Rev. Mr. William Tyson, the Roman Catholic Deacon from Bethel, John Oktolik, the Episcopalian Sacramentalist from Pt. Hope, Alaska, Greenlandic Premier Jonathan Motzfeldt, himself a practicing Lutheran minister, and the two Lutheran deans of Greenland.

These Eskimo pastors will be joined by representatives of the Canadian Council of Churches and Project North, an advocacy project of the 5 major denomination of Canada, the National Council of Churches of the U.S., and the World Council of Churches.

Lyberth said that Nuuk will be hosting many friends and relatives from other parts of Greenland attending other events, including a meeting of the Greenland Women's Organization and a massive camp-out at the head of Nuuk Fjord by the members of Assuvik, the Greenlandic association promot-

ing subsistence and cultural values. "The town will be packed with events taking place," he said.

## Charter Meeting

The business part of the conference will follow the lines set up at the 1977 Inuit Circumpolar Conference which took place in Barrow, Alaska. At that meeting, 64 delegates, most of whom were active leaders of the Inuit land-claims movements of Canada, Alaska, and Greenland, hammered out seventeen resolutions declaring the historic unity of Inuit peoples and setting up their political, cultural, and economic goals.

Chief among their concerns was the development of an ICC charter—which is to be debated and approved at the Nuuk Conference. The Conference workshops will take up the other concerns of the Barrow resolutions including cultural heritage, language, education, village technology and health, Arctic resource development, Arctic transportation and communication, and coastal zone management. Papers will be presented on Inuit topics by Arctic scholars from throughout the world.

## Delegates Picked

The Assembly of the North Slope Borough is sending Nate Olemaun, Nolan Soloman, and Jim Stotts. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation is sending Harry Kaleak, Edward Hopson, Sr., and Oliver Leavitt. From Bering Straits Native Corporation are Carl Ahwinona, Bill Barr, John Pullock, and Rose Ann Timbers. Calista Corporation area will be represented

by Nelson Angapak, Nora Guinn, Oscar Kawagley, and Matthew Nicolai and NANA Regional Corporation is sending four delegates.

A delegation will also represent the Ukepeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC), Native village corporation for Barrow.

Lyberth emphasized that because of space limitations in Nuuk, the list of conference participants was limited to 300, including the 18 delegates from each nation, workshop resource persons, official observers, and guests. "The charter flight from Alaska can only carry 119 people," he said, "and it is already booked up."

The Canadian Inuit will be represented by the leaders of Committee For Original People's Entitlement (COPE) in Inuvik, N.W.T., the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA), the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), the Makivik Corporation (created for the Inuit of Northern Quebec by the James Bay Agreement), the Inuit Tungavina Nunamini (ITN) of Sugluk, Quebec, and the Quebec Federation of Co-ops in St. Laurent, Quebec.

## Media Preparations

With a grant from the North Slope Borough and the Alaska Humanities Forum, a TV crew from ASRC will travel to Nuuk to record the event. Among U.S. media personnel will be Jim Sykes for Anchorage Public Radio KSKA and the Alaskan Public Radio Network and John Christiansen, media official of Mauneluk Association of Kotzebue.