

# NANA Board Meets—

## *Approves AFN Land Selection Plan*

The Northwest Alaska Native Association's Board of Directors met at the village of Noorvik for which was to be one of the most important gatherings since the formation of NANA in '66.

The NANA board has been meeting regularly since '66 and has established a strong inter-board relationship and as a result feels itself capable of administering many of the services initiated in this region thru the State and Federal Government agencies. For a start, NANA signed a contract with the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of developing a comprehensive Social Services study for the entire NANA region.

Senator Willie Hensley, who spent much time in Washington D.C. lobbying for the Alaska Native Land Claims Bill, explained the position of this legislation. After much discussion, the board endorsed the position the AFN took and this being the selection of 30 million acres of land by the villages prior to any State selections plus an additional 10 million acres of free

floating land selection; creation of 12 strong regional corporations with provisions to merge by referendum of the regions involved; a provision that would allow a village on the borders of proposed regions to select the region it feels more interrelated by a village vote; with the strongest terms, a provision that would allow native land allotments that have been filed, be processed without penalty; and the elimination of any provisions that will allow non-natives to participate in the land claims settlement directly thru municipal corporations since this is a NATIVE land claims settlement.

The board also passed a resolution strongly opposing the state selection of land southeast of the present terminal  
lution strongly opposing the state selection of land southeast of the present terminal-airfield area in Kotzebue. The board backed this resolution by summarizing each aspect of the city of Kotzebue's unique land shortage problem.