



George Walters signs Solomon agreement as Gerry Gilliland of the Department of Interior watches.

Land dispute settled

On behalf of Solomon Native Corporation, George Walters, president of Bering Straits Native Corporation, signs official documents confirming eligibility of the village of Solomon.

The agreement comes after six years of litigation and negotiation. Under stipulations of the agreement,

the village agreed to a land entitlement of 69,120 acres, and relinquishes claims in the Solomon River drainage with the proviso that these lands forever remain public lands.

"We don't want the State selling them to private individuals after we gave up

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• Land deal made

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claims to them," Walters explained.

All parties to the agreement expressed pleasure at the new spirit of negotiation and accomodation displayed in the agreement. Jerry Gilliland, Alaska representative of the Secretary of Interior, noted that Interior's new policy was designed to "implement the Claims Act so that Natives can enjoy the benefits of

their land settlement."

The agreement was signed Friday, August 31 in Anchorage. The village corporation held their first annual meeting in Solomon the following day, September 1.