

# Doyon and Arctic Slope Eye Japan

Looking toward the future, two of the state's most powerful native regional corporations, Doyon, Ltd., and Arctic Slope, are eyeing the possibility of Japanese involvement in development of vast land areas and resources.

The state commissioner of economic development, Frank Murkowski, discussed the possibilities on a recent trade mission to Japan. Murkowski said four major Japanese firms have expressed interest.

"Japan needs resources," said Murkowski, "and the natives will eventually have control of resources."

Under the Native Land Claims Settlement Act, passed in December of 1971, Doyon, Ltd., Arctic Slope Regional Corporations, and ten other native corporations will receive 40 million acres of land in Alaska and close to 962 million dollars.

Of the twelve native corporations, Doyon and Arctic Slope will be the largest land owners. Doyon takes in vast areas of the Interior, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Arctic Slope encompasses the massive area north of the Brooks range, including the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

It will be some time yet before the corporations are in full swing and the stockholders cannot be identified until the native enrollment is completed, but last week's talks in Japan laid the groundwork for a possible trip abroad by John Sackett of Doyon and in all likelihood, by a representative of Arctic Slope.

The two corporations did not formulate plans to approach Japanese businesses through Murkowski as a joint venture but apparently conceived of the venture independent of one another.

"Japan's ultimate aim will be to seek out resources and purchase them," Murkowski said. "That will involve utilization of an Alaskan labor force, mostly Native, and could provide a basic economy where none existed before."

"We're basically talking about jobs," he added. "The natives will control land but to be productive, the resources have got to be marketed."

"People tend to believe Alaska will look just to American firms for development," Sackett said. "That is not our intention. We want to find the best possibilities for our future."

A Canadian native leader visiting Alaska not too long ago revealed that his organization in Canada, attuned to the possibilities and implications of

(Continued on page 6)

# Eye Japan...

(Continued from page 1)

native land ownership in the Canadian Arctic, were already sending liaison people to confer with Middle East oil sheiks to effect a philosophy of political negotiation and price control.

It appears that native leaders who not too long ago were struggling to master the domestic political scene are already branching out on the international level with astonishing results.