

UA Eskimo Language Workshop to Move

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's Eskimo Language Workshop will be moved from the Fairbanks campus to Bethel next summer, Dr. Robert W. Hiatt, president of the university, announced on behalf of two units of the university system — the Center for Northern Educational Research at Fairbanks and Kuskokwim Community College at Bethel.

The Eskimo Language Workshop (ELW) produces bilingual instructional materials in Yupik. It also conducts training workshops for teachers and aides who conduct the bilingual program in Southwestern Alaska schools.

ELW, in existence since 1969, was the outgrowth of Yupik classes developed by Irene Reed, Dr. Michael Krauss and students through the university's Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages. Funded jointly by contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Alaska State-Operated School System, the workshop has had an annual budget in excess of \$200,000.

The Center for Northern Educational Research, directed by Dr. Frank Darnell, has operated ELW on the Fairbanks campus. Sometime after June 1 of this year, ELW will be headquartered at Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel. Pat O'Rourke is director of the college.

The move, long considered desirable by CNER, is being made to place the workshop closer to the students and schools it serves. The move will also make more native Yupik speakers and writers available to work in the production of ma-

terials. Program content will thus be more responsive to the needs of schools in Southwestern Alaska, Darnell believes.

Irene Reed, director of ELW, will move to Bethel to coordinate initial development of the program there. The move also signifies completion of developmental support of the program by the Center for Northern Educational Research and demonstrates that organization's policy of turning over new programs when they reach an ongoing operational phase.

Since its inception, the ELW has produced scores of illustrated booklets and other training materials for use in grades one to three. It pioneered in providing Yupik instructional materials to native children in Southwestern Alaska for bilingual education programs.