

Governor to Serve as Honorary State Chairman for Cathedral Reconstruction Fund

Governor William A. Egan has accepted an invitation extended by the Sitka Historical Sites Restoration Committee to serve as honorary state chairman of the St. Michael's Cathedral Reconstruction Fund.

In his wire of acceptance, the Governor pledged he would do "everything I can to assist with reconstruction efforts."

In a statement prepared for use in the Anchorage drive to raise funds for this project, the Governor said:

"St. Michael's Cathedral

was much more than a place of worship. It was modern Alaska's link with its rich historical past. The structure was the finest example of the architecture of the Russian period of our history. And the cathedral, with its priceless ikons and historical library, was one of our State's most outstanding tourist attractions.

"We cannot replace the records lost in the disastrous fire of January 2 but we can rebuild the cathedral. Fortunately, plans of the building have been found in the Library of Congress. All that is needed now are funds to finance reconstruction. With the centennial of Alaska's purchase from Russia less than a year away, there is no time to lose. The cathedral was to have been a focal point in this year-long celebration.

"I note that the City of Anchorage has pledged itself to raise some \$75,000 for this vital reconstruction project. And elsewhere in the State other Alaskans are making substantial contributions. I heartily commend all the groups in Anchorage and elsewhere who are lending their efforts to this worthy cause.

I urge all who have not yet contributed and can afford to do so to make a contribution to the St. Michael's Cathedral Reconstruction Fund."