

## *Editorial Comment—*

# The 13th Region

The following "impression" was submitted to the Tundra Times by Thomas P. Durand, vice president of the Alaska Native Association, Oregon. The paper discusses the 13th Region. The contents should be read carefully and evaluated. Here in Alaska, the Alaska Native people, their leaders and this newspaper waged a difficult battle to win the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement. The primary purpose of the fight was to assure a good future for the generations to come here in the North.

While the Alaska native people do not mind sharing the settlement with their families, with those who left the land and did not return to fight for it, Mr. Durand and his group want to disassociate themselves entirely from their connections back to the land.

The white man has tried in many ways to divide the Native people of Alaska into small groups so that they can be more easily dealt with — and defeated. Mr. Durand has divided the Alaska Native people into resident and non-resident — cold words for a people who are brother, sister, mother, father, and cousin to many of us here.

Life has often been hard for Native people. They have been forced to move from one place to another, not always because they wanted to. Some have moved far indeed, both geographically and spiritually from the land.

There is no such thing, we think, as "local concern" of which Mr. Durand and the staff of the Alaska Native Association of Oregon speak. The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement united the Native people for the first time in their history on a matter which transcended "local concerns."

The question of a 13th Regional Corporation is not a matter between the SEALASKA Corporation and Mr. Durand's corporation alone. It is a matter which concerns all twelve of the Native regional corporations and each and every Alaska Native person.

(We welcome the comments of our readers on this question which involves us all.)

