

Unlisted Villages Must Apply By September 1st

"An unlisted Native village may be considered a community under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act if it includes at least 25 Natives who make up a majority of the residents of the village as shown on the 1970 census or the approved Native enrollment and other criteria required by the law," states Morris Thompson, Area Director, Juneau Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior.

"The head, or other authorized officer, of a Native village not listed as such in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act who thinks his village meets these requirements is urged to file an application to see if it is eligible to participate in the dis-

tribution of land and cash under the Act," Area Director Thompson continued.

"Those villages that can meet these standards should organize themselves into 'village corporations' under the laws of the State of Alaska as a business for profit or non-profit to hold, invest, manage, or distribute lands, property, funds, and assets for a Native village," Thompson explained.

Applications must be in the hands of the Director, Juneau Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, P.O. Box 3-8000, Juneau, Alaska 99801 before September 1, 1973. They are available from the same office or the BIA Agency offices at Anchorage, Bethel,

Fairbanks and Nome.

After the application is received by the Director, the statements contained in it will be reviewed by BIA and an investigation and examination of available records will take place. The application itself will be filed with the Bureau of Land Management. BLM will then withdraw land for selection by this village.

A decision as to whether the village is actually eligible for land benefits under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be made by December 19, 1973. Prior to that date the decision of the Area Director as to eligibility will be published in the Federal Register and any interested party will be able to protest the decision if he or she does so within 30 days.