

AFN asks report on Foundation

The Alaska Federation of Natives is expected to take over the Alaska Native Foundation sometime in June, depending on a report to the AFN full board.

AFN board members, in a special meeting last week, agreed to seek a \$60,000 loan to assume and pay off more

than \$40,000 in debts owed by the Foundation. That loan should be taken out this week, according to AFN Chairman Sam Kito.

Patty Ginzburg, a spokesperson for AFN, said the "consensus was that the Foundation should continue."

The Full Board asked AFN

President Janie Leask and board members Roy Huhndorf of Cook Inlet Region Inc., and Roger Lang, of Sealaska, to study the direction that a Federation-controlled Foundation should take.

Lang is a former president of both the Federation and the Foundation.

The three will study the direction that the Foundation should take and the financial problems the Foundation would have. "It's got to be able to support itself," said Ginzburg.

Kito said that the Foundation will probably gear toward educational affairs but not education in a school-based sense.

The Foundation, which was formed in the late 1960s by Emil Notti, had at one time grown to an organization funded by millions of dollars in grants from private and public sector sources.

In the past few years, however, money has been tighter and the Foundation was using primarily public funding which has dried up with the budget-tightening Reagan administration.

The Foundation's last four employees recently cashed in their annual leave and other benefits and closed the Foundation doors in April.

A fisheries management loan program was transferred to the Community Economic Development Corp. earlier this year and the Alaska Leadership Conference was transferred to the University of Alaska.

ANF President Frank Berry who took the job in spring of 1982 and has spent the last year trying to find money for the financially beleaguered Foundation, is now working on a contract for the University with the leadership group.

The AFN board will discuss the future of the group at its June 16 meeting in Anchorage.