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Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

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AFN MOVES TO REORGANIZE

Noatak First Under Claims Selection Law

The ancient Northwest Alaska Eskimo village of Noatak became the focal point of attention from Native leaders throughout the State last week as it became the first Native village in Alaska to "get it together" under the terms of the recently-passed Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

On the cold sunny morning of January 6th, thirty men and women landed at Noatak in chartered bush planes from Kotzebue to engage virtually all of the adult residents of the small (population 250) village in a two-day planning conference that saw the villagers become familiar with the provisions of claims settlement legislation; organize land selection and enrollment committees; and agree on specific health, education, welfare and community organization priorities and objectives.

Noatak villagers gathered at the end of the two-day session to affirm committee recommendations for a guaranteed annual income; regional government and a regional school board; a Kotzebue community college; extension of the village school; participation in the AFN Housing Program; added health and Education facilities; and a village family social service program.

Noorvik Mayor Robert Newlin, Northwest Alaska Native Association President, and Noatak Mayor Roland Booth led the people of Noatak in a bilingual analysis of what the

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Justice Boney to Propose 50 Rural Law Centers

Alaska Supreme Court Justice George Boney will propose establishing 50 state law centers throughout rural Alaska when he addresses the Alaska State Legislature later this month.

Boney will call for these facilities—each costing \$100,000 and a centrally located training center for magistrates, responsible for carrying out justice for a large part of the state's judicial system.

Boney's proposed law centers, of a "very practical nature," he said, would be constructed over two years and would probably be prefabricated structures which could also serve as community centers for public events. Boney said he feels these facilities are necessary because magistrates often have no place to hold hearings except their homes.

At the present time there are 62 magistrates throughout the state, most of them in rural

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EXCHANGE STUDENTS—Leonard John and Sandy Sparks have been chosen to go to Japan as exchange students. They will be taking orientation courses at Dillingham, Alaska on

Japanese culture and language. After going to Japan, the youngsters will enroll at University of Alaska.

—Photo by DON GALBREATH

Leonard and Sandy to Japan as Exchange Students

Leonard John from Mentasta and Sandy Sparks from Tanacross, both Athabaskan Indians, will be going to Japan as exchange students.

They will be staying in Dillingham from January 10 until March 11, 1972, for orientation on the Japanese culture

and language.

The Dillingham seniors have been going to Japan for the past two years. This year, they sent out invitations to a couple rural schools and two students from each school were to be selected for their outstanding abilities in school.

On March 11 to May 16, they will be staying in Japan visiting many of the major cities.

Mr. Robert Hall is directing the exchange student program.

After their stint in Japan, Leonard and Sandy will be enrolled for the fall semester at the University of Alaska.

North Star May Be Retained--

I Think We're Home Free with North Star: Moore

ANCHORAGE—"I think we are home free with the North Star," said Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Area Director John Moore in an interview here Saturday.

Moore was referring to the "overwhelming" evidence brought out in a meeting in Anchorage Friday in favor of BIA supply ship North Star III continuing to service Alaska coastal communities.

During the meeting—an exit interview conducted by a General Accounting Office audit team—native representatives were given the opportunity to argue against the government's supplying coastal communities by private carriers.

According to Moore, native leaders said that tug and barge operations in Alaska "have not exhibited the empathetic understanding" provided by the North Star III.

They pointed out, he said, that any consolidation of supply system along the coast of Alaska should be made "in terms of people rather than site assign-

ments."

The GAO study began, Moore said, because military sites in

Claims Money By April: Gravel

FAIRBANKS—Senator Mike Gravel said here Thursday that Alaska natives can expect to receive money from the native land claim settlement in mid-April, at the very earliest.

Procedures for introduction of the appropriations bill will be automatic, he said, with identical legislation introduced in the senate and in the house by the Alaskan congressional delegation.

Regarding the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline, he said he is "pessimistic right now" and does not expect the permit for the pipeline to be issued this year.

President Nixon will not come out for issuance of the permit with the presidential election coming up, he said, nor will the Department of Interior

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Alaska are decreasing in number and federal officials felt that it would be less expensive to serve these sites if the private carriers servicing the military could also supply the coastal communities which have been serviced by the North Star III for over half a century.

"We pointed out that 'people will always be here, even though military sites are transitory,'" Moore said.

Natives representatives at the meeting were Irvin Igtanloc of the Arctic Slope Native Association; Paul Albert and Henry Shavings of the Alaska Village Council Presidents, representing 57 communities of the lower Yukon; and Frank Degnan of Norton Sound and Bering Straits.

Also attending, in addition to people from GAO and BIA, were representatives from Senator Ted Stevens office, Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Assoc., Alyeska MESBIC (an agency which helps minorities get into business), the city of Barrow, and the coordinator for marine fisheries for the Pribilofs.

12-Man Task Force Formed To Revise AFN

By NORMA BOWKETT
Staff Writer

Despite bad weather and a game of musical planes, the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors met in Juneau Sunday and created a 12-man task force to come up with a plan for the revision of AFN.

The task force is composed of representatives from the 12 regional areas defined in the claims settlement act.

According to Tim Wallis, president of the Tanana Chiefs, the task force will meet in Anchorage next week to spell out the future of AFN.

Establishment of the committee of 12 came at the suggestion of Senator Willie L. Hensley, D-Kotzebue, who represents the Northwest Alaska Native Association.

Since AFN was established primarily to pursue a land claims settlement, Hensley said, Alaska natives must now redefine the part that organization is to play in the post-settlement era.

The board agreed with him. Hensley's plan separates land use coordination from programs such as those for health, housing and job training, and stipulates that AFN may neither spend money nor contract for new programs without regional approval.

AFN president Don Wright said he believes AFN will serve as a clearing house and contractor and a source of information for the regional corporations. And, while the reorganization is under way, he said, AFN will work for state legislation to implement the federal land claims act.

Wright presented the board

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Eskimo Olympics Champs Can Come From Bethel

BETHEL—Chances are good that a future Eskimo Olympics champ will surface at the Bethel Winter Carnival this week. More than 50 youngsters have been in training there to compete in Northern Eskimo games under Sylvester Ayek, Bethel Recreation Department.

"We've got a really tough looking group down here," Ayek warns. "We're shooting for Fairbanks!"

Southwest games are traditional in the area. The Recreation Department has developed about 40 of them and plans to teach them this summer. The winter concentration has been on Northern games, however, because statewide meets usually feature them.

Winners from the Winter Car-

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