

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRADE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Encouraging the United States government

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to include the Aleut people under future

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Native visa free travel agreements with

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the U.S.S.R.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 WHEREAS, in September 1989, the United States and the Union of Soviet

11 Socialist Republics signed a Native Visa Free Agreement that establishes

12 visitation rights and visa free travel between Native inhabitants who live

13 on both sides of the Soviet-American border; and

14 WHEREAS because the agreement employs a geographical definition to

15 determine who is eligible to travel and limits Alaska travellers to rela-

16 tives or Natives who share linguistic or cultural ties with the Natives in

17 the Soviet geographical area, only Inuit Natives are eligible to use the

18 new travel rights; and

19 WHEREAS the Aleut people have historic and ethnic ties to the U.S.S.R.

20 since the Aleutian Chain was once occupied by the Russians and formed part

21 of Russia's trading link with other parts of Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS the Russian surnames of the Aleut people and their practice of

23 the Russian Orthodox religion are present day evidence of their cultural

24 and ethnic ties with the U.S.S.R.; and

25 WHEREAS the Aleut people would like to be included in any future

26 version of the Native Visa Free Agreement so that they can explore and

27 reestablish their common heritage with the citizens of the U.S.S.R.;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United

29 States government to include the Aleut people among the Alaska Natives

1 allowed to travel between the U.S.S.R. and Alaska under future versions of
2 the Native Visa Free Agreement.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
4 President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail S. Gorbachev, General
5 Secretary of the U.S.S.R.; the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic
6 Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secre-
7 tary of State; the Honorable Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign
8 Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
9 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the Bering Straights
11 Regional Commission.