

COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

FURTHER:

1/20/86

Date

3/4/86

Mr. President

The Committee on FINANCE considered SJR 32

requesting the Government of the United States to reassert jurisdiction over Pagan Island, Herald Island, Henrietta Island, Jeannette Island, and Bennett Island together with the surrounding outer continental shelf within the American waters of the Chukchi & East Siberian Seas & to pay the St. of Ak compensation for damages from their loss

and reports it back as follows:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt CS for _____
- new title
- same title and recommends _____
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
DSFC
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
NO PASS

Paul Frank

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

John Smith No Rec

Co-Chairman John Smith

Chairman recommendation No Rec

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SJR 32
 Title : Reassert jurisd. over
islands in Chukchi and E. Siberian
Seas
 Sponsor : P. Fischer, Ferguson
 Requestor : G. DeVries
 Date of Request : _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : All
 BRU : _____
 Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared by : _____ Phone : 465-4523
 Division : Senator Jan Faiks, Co-chairman Date : 2/10/86
Senate Finance Committee

Approved by Commissioner : _____ Date : _____
 Agency : _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note) :

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(es)

Introduced: 1/20/86
Referred: Finance

BY P. FISCHER, FERGUSON
AND DEVRIES

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the Government of the United

6

States to reassert jurisdiction over

7

Wrangel Island, Herald Island, Henrietta

8

Island, Jeannette Island, and Bennett

9

Island together with the surrounding

10

outer continental shelf within the

11

American waters of the Chukchi Sea and

12

the East Siberian Seas and to pay the

13

State of Alaska compensation for damages

14

from their loss.

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

16 WHEREAS Alaskans and other Americans remain justifiably grateful for

17 the fortitude shown by Captain Thomas Long and the crew of the whaling bark

18 Nile from New London, Connecticut who, on August 14, 1867, were the first

19 to confirm the existence of a 1,740 square mile island in the Chukchi Sea;

20 and

21 WHEREAS Wrangel Island, named by Captain Long after the former gover-

22 nor of Russian Alaska Baron Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangel, is located

23 some 270 miles northwest of Cape Lisburne, Alaska and is larger than the

24 State of Rhode Island; and

25 WHEREAS Captain Long was the first to sight and to describe Wrangel

26 Island, the first recorded landing on the island occurred August 12, 1881

27 when Captain Calvin L. Hooper, commander of the Bering Sea Patrol, a divi-

28 sion of the U.S. Treasury Department and as such, the de facto governor of

29 Alaska, landed at Clark River on the eastern coast of Wrangel Island and,

1 with his fellow officers and John Muir (who later founded the Sierra Club)
2 raised the American flag and took possession of the island in the name of
3 the United States; and

4 WHEREAS Captain Hooper was engaged in a Congressionally sponsored
5 effort to rescue the Jeannette, a vessel engaged in Arctic research that
6 was locked in ice floes and subsequently lost and therefore Captain Hooper
7 had the authority to claim Wrangel Island for the United States; and

8 WHEREAS Wrangel Island became a part of the United States by right of
9 confirmed discovery and first possession and, later, a permanent settle-
10 ment; and

11 WHEREAS Wrangel Island and its nearby satellite island Herald Island
12 were placed by the United States Coast and Geodetic Service within the
13 District and later Territory and State of Alaska in publications from 1900
14 through 1977; and

15 WHEREAS the De Long Islands of Henrietta, Jeannette, and Bennett were
16 first discovered in the East Siberian Sea, were claimed, and named by U.S.
17 Navy Commander George W. De Long during his 1879 - 1881 expedition into the
18 Arctic who, with his crew, died when their ship, the Jeannette, was crushed
19 and sunk by ice floes; and

20 WHEREAS the first permanent settlement on Wrangel Island occurred when
21 the American ship Silver Wave landed a party on the island on September 15,
22 1921, and raised the American flag over the island under the direction of
23 Captain Jack Hammer; and

24 WHEREAS the party from the Silver Wave landed with provisions for only
25 six months as they stated that they planned to sustain themselves by hunt-
26 ing; and

27 WHEREAS the relief vessel in 1922 was blocked by ice floes; and

28 WHEREAS when the relief vessel Donaldson arrived on August 23, 1923,
29 the only survivor of the 1921 expedition was an Eskimo seamstress named Ada

1 "Blackjack" Johnson, who died just a few years ago in Alaska; and

2 WHEREAS a new party led by Charles Wells of Uniontown, Pennsylvania
3 continued settlement on Wrangel Island; and

4 WHEREAS on May 13, 1924, Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes
5 stated that the American Lomen Brothers were the proprietary owners of
6 Wrangel Island; and

7 WHEREAS on August 20, 1924, an armed party from the Soviet gunboat Red
8 October landed on Wrangel Island, took Wells and the other Americans by
9 force, and told them that they were being returned to Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS notwithstanding their promises, they took the Americans to
11 Vladivostok and confiscated the pelts that the American trappers had accu-
12 mulated during the 12 bitter months on the island; and

13 WHEREAS the Americans who survived their ordeal in Vladivostok were
14 released following the intervention of the American consul at Harbin,
15 Manchuria but Charles Wells and two residents of Alaska died while detained
16 by the Soviet government; and

17 WHEREAS the residents of Alaska who survived their ordeal in Soviet
18 Siberia were all from Golovin Bay, Alaska and they survived notwithstanding
19 the severe physical and emotional trauma resulting from the assault, kid-
20 napping, false imprisonment, theft of property together with other vio-
21 lations of American and Alaska law by the agents of the Soviet regime; and

22 WHEREAS after seizing Wrangel Island, the Soviet government proceeded
23 to seize more American soil by occupying the nearby and defenseless Herald
24 Island; and

25 WHEREAS the Soviet government subsequently asserted a spurious claim
26 to the American De Long Islands of Henrietta, Jeannette, and Bennett; and

27 WHEREAS these illegal acts by the Soviet government interrupted 57
28 years of peaceful use of these islands by American seamen, herders, and
29 hunters; and

1 WHEREAS the Soviet occupation of what they refer to as Ostrova De Long
2 is an affront to all Americans, is an insult to the memory of their brave
3 discoverer, and a source of embarrassment to the United States Navy, which
4 memorializes his memory at the Naval Academy in Annapolis; and

5 WHEREAS the soil of all five of these American islands and their
6 surrounding continental shelf has been held by military force in contra-
7 vention of international law and by conduct that is contrary to what is
8 recognized as proper by civilized nations; and

9 WHEREAS the Soviet government has typified its uncivilized conduct by
10 establishing forced labor camps on Wrangel Island as reported in testimony
11 before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in January 1973; and

12 WHEREAS it has been reported that Wrangel Island was the last known
13 place of imprisonment of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish Consul in Budapest,
14 Hungary at the end of World War II who was arrested by Soviet forces and
15 who was responsible for saving the lives of thousands of European Jews from
16 the Nazi Holocaust; and

17 WHEREAS this conduct on American soil has continued in defiance of
18 American law as well as in defiance of the international rules of conduct
19 resulting from the Nuremberg war crime trials after World War II; and

20 WHEREAS the continuing trespass by the Soviet government deprives the
21 State of Alaska and its people of their fundamental right to use the
22 islands of Wrangel, Herald, Henrietta, Jeannette, and Bennett together with
23 the surrounding continental shelf and its valuable resources; and

24 WHEREAS unlike the governments of Canada and Great Britain, the United
25 States has never surrendered its claims of sovereignty over these islands;
26 and

27 WHEREAS the State of Alaska does not believe that agreements between
28 the United States and the Soviet Union, whether they be secret or other-
29 wise, can affect American claims to these islands until they have been

1 ratified by the United States Senate;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Government of
3 the United States assert and reassert American sovereignty over Wrangel
4 Island, Herald Island, and the De Long Islands of Henrietta, Jeannette, and
5 Bennett, their resources, and their territorial shelf in behalf of the
6 American people; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of the United States make satis-
8 factory compensation and restitution to the State of Alaska and its people
9 for the loss of this territory resulting from the neglect of the United
10 States Government to protect American lives and property when the lands
11 were seized in 1924; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska asserts and reasserts its
13 claim to Wrangel Island, Herald Island and the De Long Islands of
14 Henrietta, Jeannette, and Bennett and their surrounding continental shelf
15 as an integral part of the State of Alaska; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED the Governor of the State of Alaska is requested to
17 initiate appropriate legal claims for relief before the U.S. Foreign Claims
18 Settlement Commission, the U.S. Court of Claims or other legal forums of
19 the United States as may be appropriate.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
21 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George P. Shultz,
22 Secretary of State; to the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the
23 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P.
24 O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the
25 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
26 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
27 tion in Congress.

Introduced: 1/20/86
Feferred: Finance

BY P. FISCHER, FERGUSON
AND DEVRIES

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29 the only survivor of the 1921 expedition was an Eskimo seamstress named Ada



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

SENATOR PAUL FISCHER

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

To: All Senate Finance Committee Members

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Date: February 26, 1986

Subject: SJR 32

While I maintain it is unnecessary for the Alaska Senate to consult with our U.S. Senators in instances where international issues are being addressed. I took the suggestion by members of the Finance Committee to do so in good faith and discussed SJR 32 with Senator Murkowski.

The previously distributed backup material, and the information I share with the committee regarding my conversation with Senator Murkowski, should provide the committee with ample information upon which to base a decision.

Attached is a letter of response which I received from Senator Murkowski, as well as his response to a Wall Street Journal * editorial which spoke in favor of U.S. claims of sovereignty over Wrangel and the other claimed islands.

* Included in the first information packet.

Letters to the Editor

Keep the Wrangell Wrangle on Ice

I was interested to read your Nov. 13 editorial "Border Dispute" about Wrangell Island and the U.S. Soviet maritime boundary discussions. Alaska has many ties to the boundary area and the islands you mention. It was two Alaskans, the Lomen brothers, who lost furs and trapping equipment when the Soviet ship landed on Wrangell Island in 1924. The Lomens received compensation for the personal property they lost in the 1959 Foreign Claims Settlement Commission decision you mentioned.

Currently, many Alaskans depend on the resource-rich waters in the Navarin Basin area of the Bering Sea for their livelihood. Although your editorial made a number of valid points, I believe it is important to separate the question of whether the U.S. has ever exerted claims over Wrangell Island and other territories north of the Soviet Union, from the negotiations now under way with the U.S.S.R. over the boundary in the Navarin Basin. I understand that the two issues can be linked, but it appears that our interests would be better served by resolving whatever issues can be addressed now, and working on the other issues as facts become more clear.

The Navarin Basin issue requires our immediate attention because Soviet activities in the waters off Alaska have become increasingly worrisome. This summer, the Soviets deliberately harassed U.S. drilling rigs involved in energy exploration in the Navarin Basin area. Soviet overflights of

rigs caused dangerous interference in the safe operation of helicopters carrying American workers to and from the oil rigs. These irresponsible incidents jeopardize the negotiations which we have been conducting over the maritime boundary, and put the lives of Americans at risk. The State Department protested the flights.

I am monitoring the negotiations because I am concerned that our negotiators keep American energy, fisheries and strategic interests foremost in their minds. The waters off Alaska contain some of the world's richest fisheries, and could also contain significant mineral deposits.

On the other issues you mention, I have reviewed a great deal of material about claims over Wrangell, Henriette and other islands, and I confess that the record is not clear. I believe Congress must be given a comprehensive review of the dispute, and hear all sides before a judgment is made about ownership. In this regard, I am considering legislation to require our government to give the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a full report, which could provide a basis for future hearings. In addition, any treaty negotiated with the Soviet Union that proposes to give up territory claimed by the U.S. will be subject to careful review by the Senate before it is ratified.

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI (R., Alaska)
U.S. Senate
Washington



Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Official Business

Senator Paul Fischer

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: All Co-sponsors and Finance Committee members

FROM: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

DATE: February 10, 1986

SUBJECT: SJR 32

Enclosed, for your review, is a copy of SJR 32 and relevant backup materials. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 1986 at 8:30am in the Senate Finance Committee Room.

The resolution calls on the United States government to reassert jurisdiction over the Islands of Wrangel, Herald, Henrietta, Jeannette, and Bennett together with the surrounding outer continental shelf within the American waters of the Chukchi Sea and the Eastern Siberian Seas and to pay the State of Alaska compensation for damages from their loss.

This resolution asks the U.S. Government to formally assert a claim of sovereignty to these islands and the surrounding continental shelf. A formal claim will help ensure that negotiations undertaken by the our government will receive a public hearing. A sovereign claim will also have the effect of addressing claims to legal ownership of portions of Wrangel island by U.S. citizens.

In the event the State Department decides to cede U.S. claims of sovereignty over the islands, a treaty will be necessary. A treaty will require ratification by the United States Senate. This should guarantee our claims will receive a thorough public review.

In addition, the Governor of Alaska is requested to initiate appropriate legal claims for relief before the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the U.S. Court of Claims or other legal forums of the United States as may be appropriate.

I appreciate your co-sponsorship and support. Passage of this resolution should help ensure that claims to U.S. sovereignty will be considered in a fair and open process.

Table of contents

1. A report on the Cruise of the U. S. Revenue Steamer Thomas Corwin, in the Arctic Ocean, 1881, giving account of the Discovery of Wrangel Island to the 48th Congress, 1st Session, in the Senate.
2. A 1981 article on the History of Wrangel Island, published in the Musk Ox, a University of Saskatchewan publication, entitled "The Right of American Sovereignty over Wrangel Island, by D. Nolan and M. Seidenberg.
3. Statement of Real Property Ownership of Wrangel Island by U. S. Citizens. Gives legal description of property, which ties into an attached 1967 United States Department of Interior Publication, Dictionary of Alaska Place Names which names geographic features on Wrangel Island. - Geological Survey Professional Paper 567, page 91, bottom left column.
4. Testimony on U.S.S.R. Labor Camps, before the U.S. Senate, Committee on the Judiciary, 93rd Congress, First Session. Accounts of a political prisoner camp on Wrangel Island.
5. News articles on Wrangel Island and related concerns.
6. Editorials relating to sovereign claims to Wrangel and associated islands.
7. Resolutions supporting U.S. sovereignty of Wrangel Island and associated islands.
8. News releases supporting U.S. sovereignty of Wrangel Island and associated islands.

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
TRANSMITTING.

In response to Senate resolution of February 27, 1884, the report and papers of Capt. C. L. Hooper upon the second cruise of the revenue steamer Corwin.

JUNE 30, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
June 24, 1884.

SIR: Respectfully referring to the Senate resolution directing that the Secretary of the Treasury furnish to the Senate a copy of the report of Capt. C. L. Hooper, United States Revenue Marine, upon the second cruise of the revenue steamer Corwin in the Arctic Ocean, and its accompanying documents and illustrations, in possession of this Department, I have the honor to transmit herewith the report and papers mentioned.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. GEORGE F. EDWARDS,
President pro tempore of the United States Senate.

THE CRUISE OF THE CORWIN

Journal of the Arctic Expedition
of 1881 in search of De Long
and the Jeannette

BY
~~WILLIAM FREDERIC BADE~~
EDITED BY
WILLIAM FREDERIC BADE



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.
1917

CHAPTER XV

THE LAND OF THE WHITE BEAR

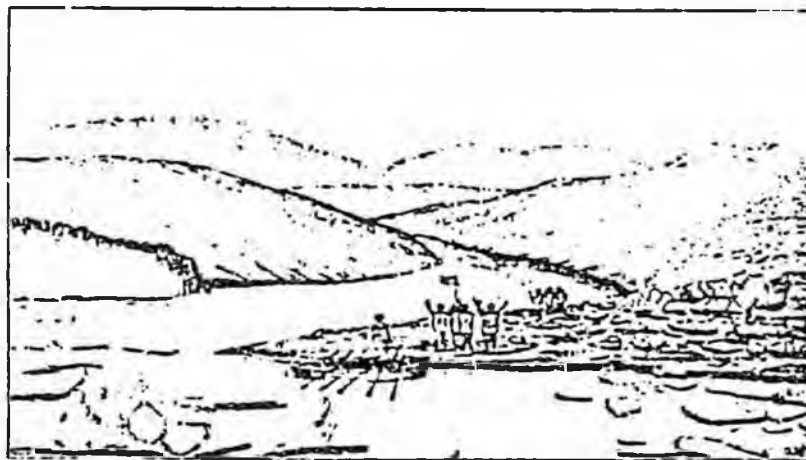
[*Sigsbee Corwin,
Wrangell Land, Aug. 12, 1881.*]

A NOTABLE addition was made to the national domain when Captain Cabin de Honoy landed on Wrangell Land, and took formal possession of it in the name of the United States. We landed near the southeast cape, at the mouth of a river, in latitude $71^{\circ} 4'$, longitude $177^{\circ} 40' 30''$ W. The extent of the new territory thus acquired is not definitely known, nor is likely to be for many a century, or until some considerable change has taken place in the polar climate, rendering the new land more attractive and more accessible. For at present even its southmost portion is almost constantly beset with ice of a kind that renders it all but inaccessible during both the winter and summer, while to the northward it extends far into the frozen ocean.

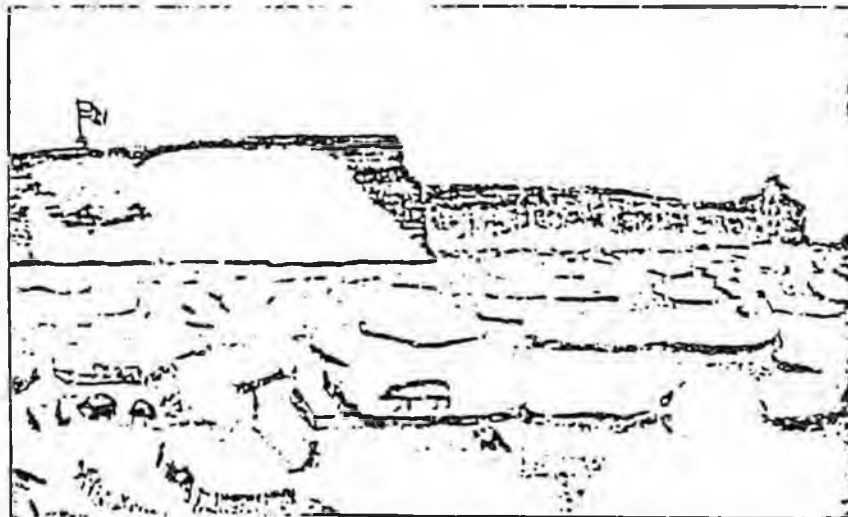
Going inland, along the left bank of the river, we found it much larger than it at first appeared to be. There was no snow left on the lowlands or any of the hills or mountains in sight, excepting the remnants of heavy drifts; nevertheless, it was still

~~The landing was made August 12, 1881.~~

[169]



FIRST LANDING ON WRANGELL LAND



THE AMERICAN FLAG ON WRANGELL LAND, NEAR EAST CAPE

from THE CRUISE OF THE CORWIN by John Muir.
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OCCASIONAL PAPERS
OF THE
**CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

No. XXIV

**The Discovery of
Wrangel Island**

By SAMUEL L. HOOPER

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

Dr. HENRY C. MERRILL, Chairman

Dr. CLAUDE P. PATTERSON

Dr. EDWARD L. KNOWL, Editor

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLISHED BY THE ACADEMY • 1986

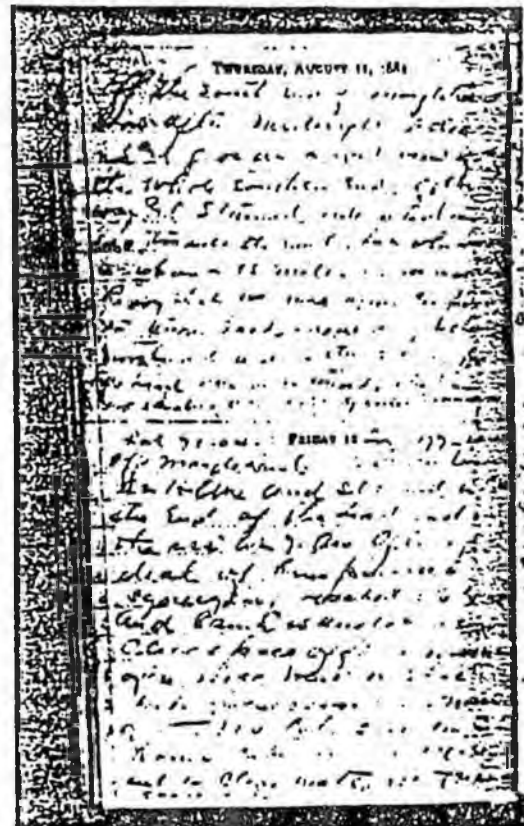


Figure 1. The original account of the discovery of Wrangel Island in the captain's own handwriting. This entry in his diary was written at the time on the eve of the landing.

the land, I felt relieved to be in clear water, and did not despair of ultimate success."

The movement of the ice due to the set of the currents made it necessary to change positions several times during the night. At 4:30 a.m. the *Corwin* again entered the ice and this time with all preparations made to reach the land by crossing the ice if necessary, using the sledges and taking along the skin boat for crossing any open leads that might be encountered. However, as they fought their way closer to the land ice conditions improved. Inside the ten-fathom curve they found much of the ice aground while the floating portion was drifting past and occasionally slanting up over the top of the grounded pieces. Navigation under these conditions was neither comfortable nor safe, but they all felt that the land was now actually within reach and they pushed on. The captain's notes for that important day (see figure 1) read:

Friday, August 12, 1881. Lat. 71-04 Ince. 177-40 of Wrangle (sic.) Land. Got under way at 4:00 a.m. and steamed in toward the end of the lead and into the ice at 7:00 a.m. After a good deal of bumping and squeezing we reached the land and anchored in a small clear space off the mouth of a small river. Went on shore and took possession in the name of the U.S.

This landing unquestionably established a valid claim to the area on the part of the United States. Muir in his text says, "A notable addition was made to the national domain when Captain Calvin L. Hooper landed on Wrangell Land and took formal possession in the name of the United States." Later the great Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson in his book, *The Adventure of Wrangel Island*, describing an expedition undertaken in 1921 wrote, "... following 1881 ... the island was United States territory."

Many years later the Soviet claimed that Lieutenant Wrangel had actually discovered the island but unfortunately for their claim, Wrangel himself in his book, *The Narrative of a Voyage to the Polar Sea in the Years 1821, 1822, and 1823*, which was written long enough after his experiences so that he had plenty of time to make any changes or corrections, wrote "with a painful feeling of the impossibility of overcoming the obstacles with which nature had opposed us, our last hope vanished of discovering the land which we yet believe to exist ... we had done what duty and honor demanded, further attempts would have been absolutely hopeless and I decided to return." Wrangel based on his chart "from native report" the land which "we believe to exist" but he placed it some distance west of where it actually turned out to be located.

As soon as the official shore party had completed the formalities of discovery, a careful search was made along the shore in each direction for evidences of a landing of any kind. After several hours of searching it became impossible to remain at anchor any longer and a gun was fired to recall all shore parties. Leaving an American flag flying and a complete record of their visit the *Corwin* now worked her way out to the lead.

She was soon in open water and making all speed with steam and sail across the Arctic Ocean but this time with the Polar ice on her port beam. Having found no records of the *Jannette* on either Herald Island or Wrangel Island, for the very good reason as we now know that the De Long party had never touched on either of them, the *Corwin* was hastening to Point Barrow in hopes of rendering assistance to the *Daniel Webster* in case she was still in the ice. On the way, however, they spoke the whalers *Hawland* and *Rajahoe* and learned from them that the *Daniel Webster* had been crushed in the ice and that part of her crew had reached Point Barrow. The remainder were supposed to still be on the pack. Upon learning this the *Corwin* skirted the Alaskan coast line closely and kept a careful watch for signs of any who might have reached the land before the ice went offshore. Constant contact was also made with the native villages along the way and many reports of the wreck were received, all of which were in some agreement.

Point Barrow was reached on August 16 and several whalers, which had arrived only a few hours earlier, were found at anchor there, the ice having gone off since the previous evening. The crew of the *Daniel Webster* were all at Point Barrow and every man accounted for. They were divided up among the whalers except for nine men who had their fill of whaling and "wanted out." These were taken on board the *Corwin* to be returned to civilization and extra supplies were distributed to the other ships to allow for the extra hands taken aboard.

While the *Corwin* was at Barrow the bark *Leopold Teuber* arrived, bringing the first mail they had received since leaving San Francisco; the *Leopold Teuber* had sailed from there on June 11. Since she was leaving at once, loaded with surplus food and aid from the whaling fleet, the crew of the *Corwin* sent mail sacks aboard for their dear ones at home.

On August 19 the *Corwin* sailed for Cape Lisburne hoping to again take coal from the mine, but a strong northeast wind had kicked up such a sea that heaving coal was out of the question. The night of the nineteenth was the first night that could be called dark; until then the nights had merely been long twilights. On August 22 they passed close to the *Honouliuli* but never saw any part of them on account of

REPORT

OF THE

CRUISE OF THE U. S. REVENUE STEAMER

THOMAS CORWIN,

IN THE

ARCTIC OCEAN,

1881.

BY

CAPTAIN C. L. HOOPER, U. S. R. M.,
COMMANDING.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
1884.

REPORT

OF THE

SECOND CRUISE OF THE STEAMER CORWIN.

The Corwin sailed from San Francisco on May 4, 1881, at 1 p. m., accompanied out of the harbor by the revenue steamers Rush and Hartley, and a number of vessels of the San Francisco yacht fleet, under command of Commodore Harrison.

Moderate weather prevailed until the 15th instant, when, within 50 miles of Ounalaska Island, heavy gales and snow storms were encountered.

On the morning of the 16th the island was seen bearing northwest, distant 40 miles. Soon after it began snowing and the weather became so thick that we were compelled to proceed with great caution, and did not reach the entrance of the pass between Ounalaska and Onalga Islands until noon, when, owing to the rough state of the sea caused by a strong current running against the northwest gale which was blowing, we were glad to turn back and run into Beaver Harbor, barely escaping the loss of our boats.

The Onalga Pass, although very rough at times and subject to strong currents, is in many respects preferable to either the Onminak or Akoutan Pass, especially to vessels bound to Ounalaska. It contains no hidden dangers, and is safely navigable by all classes of vessels except as mentioned before, when a strong gale is blowing against the current. At such times the sea truly boils and foams, and it is advisable to wait until slack water before attempting to go through.

Beaver Harbor affords ample protection for a vessel under such conditions. Although the water is deep, several good anchorages may be found near the shore, where vessels can lie in safety.

On the 17th of May we arrived at Ounalaska and hauled the vessel on the beach to repair the oak sheathing which had started off in many places. The oak being very dry when put on and closely fitted, had bulged off upon becoming wet and swollen. After repairing it we took on board a supply of coal and water and nine months' extra provisions. The latter were purchased from the Alaska Commercial Company with the understanding that, if not used, they were to be returned without cost to the Government.

The past winter was reported to have been unusually mild, although at this time the weather was quite cold and the island covered with snow to the sea. The natives were suffering from an epidemic of pleuro-pneumonia, which proved fatal in a great many cases.

Ounalaska settlement, or Illuluck, has been so often described that a repetition is unnecessary, but to those who are not familiar with the subject the following reference to it by the late Capt. George W. Bailey, U. S. B. M., will be found of interest:

Ounalaska is the largest commercial port of the Alentian Islands, and now a port of entry. * * * It is also the principal depot of the two large trading companies, the Alaska Commercial Company and the Western Fur and Trading Company. There is a full priest resident at Ounalaska, and the church building presents a creditable appearance, church matters being conducted at this station on a seemingly more proper basis than in any other part

water to wait for a more favorable chance. The ice was so closely packed around the vessel that the operation of turning around, assisted by steam and sail, poles and small spars to push against the ice, and all means at our command, occupied just one hour. After several hours' more hard work we reached the head of the lead. Although sadly disappointed at the failure of this third attempt this season to reach the land, I felt relieved to be again in clear water, and did not despair of ultimate success.

While in the ice a number of polar bears were seen near the vessel and one or two walrus. They showed no signs of fear of us, but a good deal of curiosity. One of the bears was just making a breakfast of seal, which he seemed to enjoy very much. It was evidently just killed, being still bleeding, and the bear's head, neck, breast, and fore legs being covered with blood. He seemed to be taking his breakfast very leisurely, and after eating awhile would go away a few feet and roll and play like a kitten. Although we were quite near him he paid no attention, not even looking at us. During the day we were fortunate enough to get good observations for latitude and longitude, which, with the bearings already attained, gave us a very close approximation to the position of the land. These were subsequently confirmed by bearings and observations taken near the land off its east coast. They show the land on the American Hydrographic chart to be laid down 18 miles too far south, although the general trend of the coast is very nearly correct. After reaching open water we followed the edge of the eastern ice, which gradually changed the direction of its trend from southeast to east and northeast. The weather, which had been very clear in the evening, had grown misty, so that the land became less distinct and seemed further away during the afternoon. The trend of the ice was observed to be more to the northward, and it was noticed that as the mist cleared away a little from time to time the snow-banks on shore seemed nearer than at any time before. Bearings of one of these snow-banks taken from different points showed its distance to be only 13 miles. Soon after the edge of the pack fell back, so that we were enabled to steer a course almost directly for the land. We had just taken in all sail and changed our course, when the lookout reported ice on the starboard beam making off to the eastward as far as he could see, showing that we had been running into a lead. This we continued to follow until we came to its end, where we found the ice heavy and closely packed. We had 15 fathoms of water, with sticky bottom, and judged ourselves to be about 8 miles from the land. I believed that no great difficulty would be encountered in crossing on the ice to the land. Lieutenant Reynolds, Assistant Engineer Owens, Professor Muir, Mr. Nelson, and Coxswain Gessler, having volunteered, were very anxious to make the attempt, but, owing to the mist and fog, which was rapidly shutting out the land from our view, and the uncertainty of holding our position in the lead, I was compelled to withhold my consent at that time, but determined to try to hold on in the lead until the fog should clear away. We observed the set of the current to be northeast, about one knot per hour. Running back to the eastward a short distance, to where the lead was about 3 miles in width, we came to with the kedge, in 19 fathoms of water.

The constant changes taking place in the position of the lead, owing to the set of the current, necessitated changing our position several times during the night to avoid the ice. We got under way at 4 a. m. (August 12). The mist began to clear away, giving us occasional glimpses of the snow patches that lined the cliffs. We had made all necessary preparations for crossing on the ice; the skin boat had been placed on runners, and arms, ammunition, provisions, &c., served out. At 4.30 we reached the end of the lead, which we judged to be 8 miles from the land, and which we found by bearing of points on shore that we could recognize as those we had observed the night before to have changed their position to the northward 8 miles during the night. The ice appearing to be much less closely packed than on the previous evening, I determined to shorten up the journey over the ice by pushing in with the vessel as far as possible before embarking the party. Accordingly we entered the ice at 5.30 and worked in the direction of a place where the land appeared low, with high, dark-looking cliffs on each side. The ice, which was quite heavy, continued to open as we advanced, until, at 6.30, we could see the shore line distinctly, and, in the direction in which we were steering, what appeared to be a small space of open water adjoining the land. As the ice still remained sufficiently open to admit of forcing a way through it at the expense of a good deal of hard bumping, squeezing, and pushing, hopes were entertained of reaching the open space of water with the vessel. The last 2 or 3 miles were made with a good deal

of difficulty. Inside of the 10 fathom curve we found much of the ice aground, while the floating portion was drifting past and occasionally shooting up over the top of the grounded pieces. Navigation under such circumstances was anything but safe or agreeable. However, we felt that the land was certainly within our reach, and thought of nothing but pushing ahead. At 7.30 we reached the open space and dropped anchor within a cable's length of the land in 5 fathoms of water. We immediately landed and, raising the American flag, took possession in the name of the United States of America. We landed at the mouth of a river, which at this time was about 75 yards in width, although the entire distance between its banks was about 200 yards. The cliffs in the vicinity of our landing place were of a dark slate formation, and from 100 to 300 feet high. On the beach small pieces of sandstone, quartz, and mica schist were found. The surface of the land where the slate has weathered away is composed of sticky clay, and is but sparsely covered with vegetation. As observed from the ship, while cruising in the vicinity and also from the shore, it presents the general appearance of smoothly-rounded hills, which, towards the interior and near the south side, are from 1,000 to 3,000 feet in height. The upper portion of the higher hills appeared more rugged in outline, as if composed of more enduring material, probably granite. These summits resemble those seen on the Siberian coast in the vicinity of Plover Bay, being entirely destitute of vegetation, with occasional red patches probably indicating the presence of iron. Those near the coast are remarkable for the smoothness and beauty of their outlines, and present here and there patches of green or gray, according to the nature of the vegetation. On the beach near the mouth of the river we found a kayak paddle, a cask-stave, a piece of small spar, probably part of a boat's mast, and a piece of board about a foot in length bearing ax-marks. All these things were below the marks of extreme high water, and were undoubtedly brought there by the current. Although the beach showed undoubtedly signs of a rise and fall of tide, no tidal change could be detected, probably owing to the fresh southerly wind which was blowing. The presence of this drift matter on the beach would seem to indicate that the east coast of Wrangel Island was at times entirely free from ice, though it does not necessarily follow, as it could easily have been carried through the pack to the shore by the constant twisting and turning to which it is at all times subject. I believe that it is a very unusual thing for the ice to leave any portion of Wrangel Island entirely. Our stay on shore was necessarily short on account of the strong northerly current, which was sweeping the ice-pack along with irresistible force. Much of the ice inside of 10 fathoms, as stated, was aground, but not sufficiently firm to form any protection from the drifting mass, the largest pieces of which were constantly being pushed and turned in every direction when struck by the drift, and the utmost vigilance was required to avoid getting caught between the drifting and grounded masses. At 9.30 a. m., being unable to maintain our position any longer, a gun was fired to recall the parties sent out to explore the cliffs in search of cairns or other signs of human life, and we began to work out towards the lead, which we reached at 11 a. m. We left the American flag flying and also a record of our visit. We had good observations during the day, and found our landing-place to be in latitude $71^{\circ} 04'$ north and longitude $177^{\circ} 40'$ west. This is undoubtedly the part of the land seen by Captain Kellett, R. N., in 1849, when he discovered and landed on Herald Island, and which since appeared on the British Admiralty charts as Plover Island, although erroneously laid down somewhat further to the eastward. We now know that Plover Island has no separate existence, and that what Kellett saw was the main island. As there is no record of any one else having seen the land previous to that date, or in fact until several years after, when, in 1876, it was seen by nearly the entire whaling fleet, all must accord to Captain Kellett the honor of its discovery.

While steaming through the ice, in our several attempts to reach the land, a number of species of sea-fowl were seen from time to time, and carefully noted by Mr. Nelson. Among these the most numerous were the marres and guillemots (*Uria-arra* and *Uria-grylle*), with numerous kittiwake gulls (*Larus tridactylus* Kotzebue) and the common ice gull (*Larus glaucus*). More rarely single individuals of the Sabine's gull (*Xema Sabinei*) came circling about the ship. Numerous small flocks of black-headed turnstones (*Strepstilas melanocephala*) were seen near shore, and two parties of common eider ducks (*Somateria nigra*). In both instances the latter were females with their young. The second brood of eiders was seen swimming close along the shore and away from the mouth of the river as we made our landing. On shore we found numerous snow-huntings (*Plectrophanes nivalis*) and a snowy owl (*Nyctea nivea*), which, with a shrike picked up dead on the

beach and a solitary golden plover (*Charadrius fulvus*), complete the short list of land birds seen. At a number of places on the hillsides we found the droppings of wild geese so numerous that it was evident this place must have been a common resort for flocks of these birds earlier in the season. Their absence at the time of our landing is easily accounted for by the fact this was the time when the geese shed their large wing feathers and lose the power of flight. As this season comes on they congregate in large flocks in low marshy land and remain until their new growth of feathers enables them to spread over the country again a month or six weeks later.

Saddle-backs and hair-seals were rather common among the ice, and in addition there was a small species of hair seal unknown upon the American coast and perhaps new to science. Walrus were not rare on the outer edge of the pack, and their foe, the polar bear, was seen almost every time we entered the ice; on several occasions it was seen swimming in the water several miles from the pack. Upon the hilltops on shore were found numerous burrows of some animal, probably white fox (*Canis lagopus*), as some tracks of that animal were found mingled with those of the polar bear in the mud along the banks of the river. Stranded on the sand-bar at the mouth of the river lay the skeleton of a whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), which closes the list of mammals observed.

Numerous small fish, from two to four inches long, and having large heads, were brought to the surface by rolling masses of ice as it was turned over by contact with the vessel in her passage through it. These are called by the whalers ice-fish. No specimens were obtained, unfortunately.

The following plants we collected: Grasses, three varieties; dwarf willow, phlox, saxifrage, sibbaldia, draba, potentilla, anemone, papaver, veronica, artemisia, carex, stellaria, three; mosses, three; lichens, five; and four compositæ. In many places where the snow remained in the ravines and in banks against the steep cliffs, it presents the peculiar reddish color caused by the presence of *Protococcus nivalis*, commonly called red snow. This is a minute plant with which the surface of the snow is often covered in high latitudes. It was seen and its appearance described by Sir John Ross in 1818, and by Sir Edward Parry in 1827, but its true character was not understood until many years later, when it became known as a vegetable growth.

Upon taking possession of this land in the name of the United States, the name New Columbia was provisionally given to it. The provision being the approval and concurrence of that portion of the Government having the authority to issue charters, &c., the decision of that body was adverse to my suggestion, and by its action I cheerfully abide not only on account of its undoubted right to decide according to its own judgment in this and all other matters over which it has jurisdiction, but because the size of the island, as now known, does not justify the bestowal of a name of this character, the name of one of the early Arctic navigators being much more appropriate. At the time I suggested the change of name I believed the land to be an island and had so reported it to the Department, but I supposed it to be considerably larger than it has proved. In the report of my first cruise in the Corwin, submitted November 1, 1881, page 50, I say, in reference to this land:

The part of Wrangel Land which we saw covered an arc of the horizon of about fifty degrees from northwest quarter north to west quarter south (true), and was distant from 25 miles on the former bearing to 35 or 40 on the latter. On the south were three mountains, probably 3,000 feet high, entirely covered with snow, the central one presenting a conical appearance and the others showing slightly rounded tops. Northward of these mountains was a chain of rounded hills, those near the sea being lower and nearly free from snow, while the back hills, which probably reach an elevation of 2,000 feet, were quite white; to the north of the northern bearing given the land ends entirely or becomes very low. The atmosphere was very clear, and we could easily have seen any land above the horizon within a distance of 60 or 70 miles, but none except that described could be seen from the mast-head.

Again, on page 52, I say:

I am of the opinion that Wrangel Land is a large island, probably one of a chain that passes entirely through the polar regions to Greenland; that there is other land to the north there can be no doubt. Large numbers of geese and other aquatic birds pass Point Barrow going north in the spring, and returning in August and September with their young. As it is well known that these birds breed only on land, this fact must be regarded as proof of the existence of land in the north. Another reason for supposing that there is either a continent or a chain of islands passing through the polar regions is the fact that, notwithstanding the vast amount of heat diffused by the warm current passing through Bering Straits, the icy barrier is from six to eight degrees farther south on this side than on the Greenland side of the Arctic Ocean, where the temperature is much lower.

RIGHT OF AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

compasses an area of two thousand square miles. As with other islands in the Arctic Ocean, accessibility is limited by thick fog and sea ice. Impenetrable ice floes block access even to its southern shore for at least ten months of each year.

Four nations have asserted interests over this island — the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The superiority of the claim by the United States can best be understood when placed in the perspective of arctic history and international law.

Early recorded explorations into the Arctic did not intend to lay formal claim to, and take effective occupation of, arctic territory. Without these elements sovereignty will not arise over discovered land. The Greek navigator Pytheas of Massilia made the first recorded voyage into the Arctic Ocean in the fourth century, B.C.E., but was turned back by fog and ice.¹ The next recorded voyage into the Arctic of any significance was by a Norse chief named Ottar who sailed into the White Sea, after passing the Kola Peninsula.²

By the sixteenth century, England and other maritime nations sought better trade routes to the Orient than the long and arduous routes around the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. In the year 1553 English merchants organized voyages to China by the Northeast Passage across the top of Europe and Asia.³ In 1594 the Dutch navigator Willem Barents sailed into the Kara Sea.⁴

A Cossack trader named Simon Dezhnev sailed eastward from the Kolyma River in the summer of 1648. The natives of eastern Siberia told him of a "large country" lying to the north of Chukchi and Alaska. He was the first white man to hear of this land called Beringia.⁵

In 1763, another Cossack named Andreyev heard of this land and traveled to the Medvezhi Ostrova to find it. He claimed to have seen a large land to the East from that island location. However, six years later three Russian surveyors named Leontev, Lesev, and Pushkarov confirmed that there was no land that could be seen from such location.⁶ Mirages of islands are not uncommon in the Arctic. This factor, added to the difficulty of obtaining star readings for location determinations in arctic fog, have often made land sightings unreliable.

Baron Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangell, a lieutenant in the Imperial Russian Navy, also heard the tale of the land's existence from the Chukchi chiefs of Siberia. Between 1820 and 1824 he commanded several expeditions in search of the island but he never saw it, let alone land on or occupy it.⁷ In April of 1824, at the end of his last arctic expedition, Wrangell wrote:

[W]ith a painful feeling of the impossibility of overcoming the obstacles which nature opposed to us, our last hope vanished of discovering the land which we believed to exist. We saw ourselves compelled to renounce the object for which we had been striving through three years of hardships and danger.⁸

Despite this failure, Wrangell gained worldwide fame as an arctic explorer. He later became Governor of Russian America. Yet he was never to land upon the island that would bear his name in his honour.

During the mid-nineteenth century, England, still looking for a short-cut to the Orient, attempted to find a Northwest Passage. In 1845 Sir John Franklin left England with a company of 129 to travel over the top of America to Petropavlovsk, Kamachatka. By September, 1846, the expedition's ships had become locked in an ice pack twelve miles from King William Island.

On 11 June 1847 Sir John Franklin died. On 22 April 1848 the ships *Erebus* and *Terror* were deserted and what was left of their crew started on a hopeless march to safety. No one survived.⁹

By 1848 the Royal Geographical Society became concerned over the ships' disappearance and the British Admiralty agreed to its request to organize a search. The United States and Canada also organized searches for the missing ships.

On 6 August 1849, Captain Henry Kellett, R.N., of H.M.S. *Herald*, one of the Franklin search vessels, arrived at a small island west of Cape Lisburne. Upon landing, Kellett took possession and named the island *Herald* after his ship. He hoisted the Union Jack and claimed the island on behalf of Queen Victoria.

Kellett sighted a large land mass beyond *Herald* Island to the west which he called Plover in honor of another Franklin relief expedition ship. Whereas no land mass existed at the position noted by Kellett on navigation charts, it may have been a mirage rather than Wrangell Island. In any event, no further landing or exploration was made.

Six years later, on 13 August 1855 Captain John Rogers, in his flagship the U.S.S. *Vincennes*, reached the position ascribed to Plover Island, also known as Kellett Land on the Admiralty charts.¹⁰ When there was no land to be seen from the clear horizons, the charts by the Depot of Charts and Instruments of the U.S. Navy were changed accordingly. It should be noted that the Russian author Shvede gives credit to the American, Rogers, for discovering Wrangell Island¹¹ on that Congressionally authorized voyage.¹²

The United States' legal rights in the northwest of the North American Continent have a foundation in the

Treaty of Adams-de Onus of 22 February 1821 which ceded Spanish rights in Oregon Country to the U.S.¹⁶ The United States' claims to northern parts of the Oregon Country (now southern Alaska) are based, in part, upon voyages of discovery and annexation by Don Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra and Don Ignacio Arteiga for the Spanish Government between 1775-1779.¹⁷

H.I.M. Tsar Aleksandr Pavlovich of Russia issued a ukase in 1821 banning "transaction of Commerce, and the pursuit of whaling and fishing or any other industry . . . all along the North West Coast of America from the Bering Sea to the 51st parallel."¹⁸ This coast was part of the area ceded to the United States by Spain in 1821. The Tsar's ukase prompted U.S. President Monroe, in his message to Congress on 2 December 1823, to proclaim the Monroe Doctrine. A compromise was reached on 11 January 1825. The United States government ceded the coast of America north of the 54°40' parallel to the Imperial Russian Government as part of a Treaty of Navigation and Fisheries of the Northwest Coast.¹⁹

As will be seen, this accord was superseded by the Seward-de Stoechl Treaty in 1867 which ceded Russian America to the United States. The 1825 treaty has no bearing on sovereignty over Wrangell Island which was undiscovered at the time.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Russian interests in expansion beyond the Asian mainland waned just as American interest in expanding to the West increased. The loss of the Crimean War illustrated the vulnerability of the Russian Empire at its extremities.

The Russian government, fearing that its American colony was no longer defensible and recognizing its economic liability, sold the North American lands to the United States for 7.2 million dollars on 20 June 1867.²⁰ This convention between the governments of Russia and the United States ended all claims to sovereignty east of the demarcation line.

On 18 October 1867 the Tsarist double eagle flag was lowered over Novoarkhangelsk, the capital of Russian-America, and the Stars and Stripes was hoisted over the renamed city of Sitka. Alaska was now a possession of the United States.²¹

The Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of State, determined after a review of the documents leading up to and including the Seward-de Stoechl Treaty "that the Emperor of all the Russias ceded to the United States certain territories, and that the United States on its part entered into no commitment which could be interpreted as an understanding not to press claims to any land west of the particular line above described."²² Therefore,

there can be no inference that the United States ceded sovereignty to any as yet undiscovered island to the west of the Diomed Islands.

During this period the American whaling industry expanded into arctic waters. On 14 August 1867 Captain Thomas Long of New London, Connecticut, sailed his whaling bark *Nile* along a trek some thirty miles north of the route navigated by U.S.S. *Vincennes* some twelve years earlier. A seaman named Thomas sighted land (Cape Thomas) to the northeast from the ship's mast-head. Captain Long named this territory "Wrangell's Land" as an appropriate tribute to the memory of the Russian explorer who spent three consecutive years above the 69th parallel.²³ Long also was the first to sight the identifying volcano of more than 2000 feet in height on Wrangell Island. He sailed past the southern shore and returned to the port of Honolulu. Between 1868 and 1869 the news of the American discovery of "Wrangell's Land" spread worldwide. Geographical Societies in the United States and Europe honored Captain Long for his discovery.²⁴

Other American whalers — the captain Raynor of the *Reindeer*, Philips of the *Monticello*, and Bliver of the *Nautilus* also confirmed the sighting of the large land mass discovered by Thomas Long. They spread their belief that Wrangell was not an island but a frozen continent similar to that at the South Pole, a speculation that prompted the New York *Herald* to outfit an expedition in 1879, led by Naval Lieutenant George Washington De Long, to Wrangell Island and then the North Pole.²⁵ De Long and his ship, the *Jeannette*, formerly called the *Pandora*, never made it. The *Jeannette* became locked in ice floes and drifted westward past Wrangell Island where it was crushed and sunk in the summer of 1881.

Fearing for the fate of De Long, the U.S. Congress in early 1881 authorized one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for a search. The *Jeannette* relief ships, the U.S. Revenue Marine Steamer, the *Thomas Corwin* and the U.S.S. *John Rogers* entered the Bering Sea in the summer of 1881. Commanding officer of the *Corwin* was Captain Calvin Leighton Hooper.

Hooper at the time commanded the Bering Sea Patrol of the U.S. Revenue Marine, which made him the *de facto* Governor of Alaska. During the spring of 1877, jurisdiction of the District of Alaska was transferred from the Department of War to the Treasury Department. Treasury in turn placed Alaska under the charge of the U.S. Revenue Marine from that year until 1884.²⁶ Hooper clearly had authority at that time to discover and claim sovereignty over land on behalf of the United States.²⁷ The *Corwin* also carried aboard a complement of scientists. These included the world renowned naturalist, John Muir, who was later to found the Sierra Club.

The *Corwin* landed on Herald Island in hopes of finding the *Jeannette* or its crew. Unsuccessful in the rescue attempt, Hooper valiantly forced his ship through heavy ice floes to Wrangell Island to the west.²⁸

On 12 August 1881, Hooper, Muir, and their party of six made the first recorded landing by man upon Wrangell Island. Edward W. Nelson, a member of the landing party later noted.

The result of our examination of the Island, so far as we saw, gave not the slightest evidence of its ever having been visited by man before. All subsequent examinations of Wrangell Island by those who have visited it later appear to establish the fact that the landing party from the *Corwin* contained the first men to set foot on this island.²⁹

Landing at the mouth of the Clark River on the eastern side of the island, Hooper and his fellow officers raised the American flag and took possession of Wrangell Island in the name of the United States. While Hooper and Muir explored the island, other party members erected a rock cairn and deposited documents recording the significant event. William Reynolds, a member of the party, recalled:

I had the flag and with the Captain's permission waved it and took possession of the new land in the name of liberty and of the Government of the United States of America. I planted the flag on a bluff a little to the northwest of our landing place and left it there together with a record of our visit.³⁰

Hooper called the island "New Columbia." He explained,

It was believed that as the island had become, by our act of landing upon it, a part of the United States, by selecting a name of national character, no disrespect would be shown to the memory or offense given to the friends of the gallant officer whose name it bore, and that the name given would be adopted by all nations.³¹

The name "New Columbia" never replaced Wrangell, however.

Captain Hooper told Captain L. C. Owens of the American whaler *Belvedere* of his plan to annex Wrangell Island to the United States prior to landing there. The *Belvedere* became the second ship to land at Wrangell on 19 August 1881. "As soon as we got ashore we saw the signal planned by Lieutenant Reynolds, a small American ensign fastened to a slender piece of driftwood, driven into the soil," confirmed a *Belvedere* crew member.³²

On 26 August 1881 a party from the *Rogers*, the other relief ship, landed on Wrangell Island. They completed an official survey for the U.S. Government on 13 September of the same year. One crew expedition proceeded overland to the mountains, where a general view of land and water could be obtained. Another

group found the cairn left by the *Corwin*, and deposited copies of the documents contained therein, taking the originals for the Navy's report. The crew of the U.S.S. *Rogers* also raised the American flag over Wrangell Island.³³ The crew determined that its new U.S. possession was not a continent but a large island.

Major E. W. Clark, the Chief of the United States Revenue Marine Service, informed the U.S. Coast and Geological Survey in 1881 of the annexation of Wrangell Island to the United States. The U.S.C. & G.S. of the U.S. Treasury Department determined that Wrangell Island should be included in the District of Alaska.³⁴

Between the years 1881 and 1910 Wrangell Island was visited exclusively by Americans. These were mostly whalers and walrus and seal hunters. On 8 September 1889 the U.S.S. *Thetis* went to Wrangell Island while cruising the Arctic Ocean, "showing the American flag."³⁵ In the year 1910 Captain E. J. Lane sailed the ship *Adler* of Nome, Alaska, to Wrangell Island with a motion picture company from Hollywood, which filmed a polar bear hunt.

For a period of twenty-nine years following Hooper's claim, U.S. and Russian publications recognized United States sovereignty over Wrangell. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 169 in 1900, No. 187 in 1902, and Nos. 274 and 299 in 1906 included Wrangell Island as part of the U.S. Russian Naval Maps and Encyclopedia at the turn of the century also show the same designation.

In 1910 the Imperial Russian government, interested in compiling hydrographic charts to facilitate shipping routes from Kolyma to Vladivostok, commissioned two steel ice-breaking ships, the *Vaigatch* and *Taimyr*. On 16 September 1911 the *Vaigatch* anchored in a cove off Blossom Point at the southwest corner of Wrangell Island while taking shelter from a gale from the northeast.³⁶ Its captain sent a landing party ashore on 15 September via whaleboat and motor launch to establish the correct astronomical position by celestial observation. The landing party found a coal deposit and erected a ten meter structure to establish the astronomical position of the landing place before leaving.

The Russians then circumnavigated the island, but unfortunately at a distance too far to contribute to the definite outlining of the coast.³⁷ This was the only visit that the Russians ever made to the Wrangell Island before 1924, nor did they ever make any claim to the island during their stay.

In 1911 Dr. Rollin Harris, an American oceanographer, again raised interest in the possibility of an as-yet-undiscovered arctic continent. He hypothe-

sized the existence of "Harris Land" to explain tidal movements in the Arctic Ocean.

In 1913 the National Geographic Society planned to finance an expedition to the Arctic to find this new land. Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, asked and received permission to finance the expedition for fear that Americans might make new discoveries north of Canada for the United States.³⁸

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a Canadian who had grown up on the plains of North Dakota, was chosen to lead the expedition. The Canadian government directed Stefansson that "any new or partly unknown lands which the expedition would touch would be observed, position fixed, and the British flag would be planted on these lands."³⁹

Stefansson's flagship was the whaler *Karluk* under the mastery of Captain Robert A. Bartlett. Bartlett was a U.S. citizen who had commanded the ship *Roosevelt* for the Peary and Henson expedition to the North Pole during the years 1905 to 1909. The *Karluk* suffered the tragic fate of other vessels and became caught in arctic ice, drifted west along the north coast of Alaska, and eventually sank. For two months the survivors walked south across the polar ice cap, arriving at Wrangell

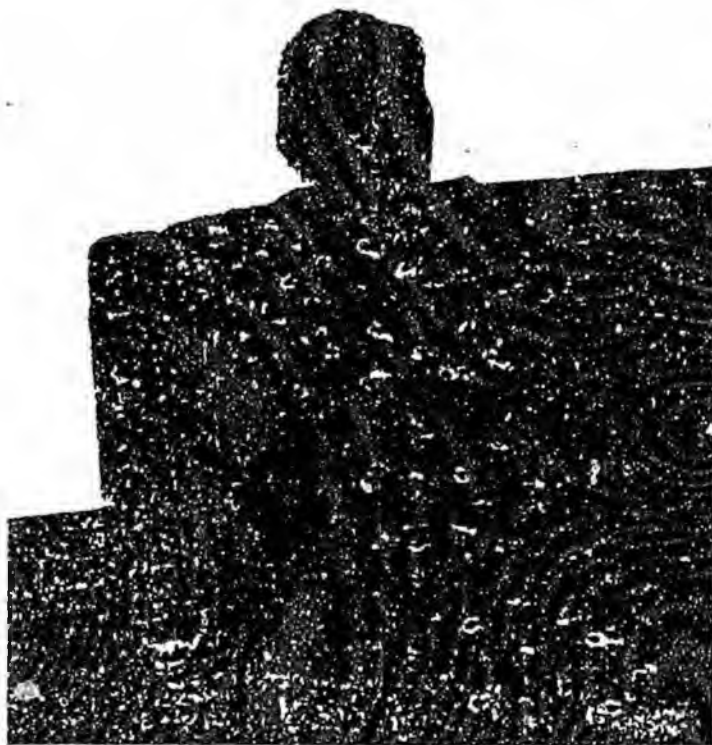


Figure 1. "Mugpi" — Mrs. Ruth Ipalook, daughter of "Auntie" Kiruk, Eskimo seamstress on the *Karluk*. Mrs. Ipalook now lives near Barrow, Alaska. She and William McKinlay, a Scottish schoolmaster who served on the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18 as magnetician and meteorologist, are the only living survivors of the disaster.

Island on 12 March 1914. Two members of the ship's crew, John Munro and Robert Templeman, raised the Canadian flag over Wrangell Island in celebration of Dominion Day, 1 July 1914.

Of course, Wrangell Island had already been formally claimed by the United States, and the previous establishment of U.S. sovereignty served to cut off subsequent rival claims. Furthermore, Great Britain had transferred jurisdiction of her rights to islands in the Arctic Ocean to the Canadian Government in 1880.⁴⁰ Therefore, whatever pretention to sovereignty Great Britain might have had to Herald and Wrangell Islands by virtue of the voyage of the H.M.S. *Herald* in 1849, or the landing on Wrangell in 1914, now belonged to Canada.

The shipwrecked members of the *Karluk* also recognized the prior discovery of Wrangell Island. Bartlett later wrote that "we passed Hooper cairn, which was built by a party from the U.S. Revenue cutter *Corwin* in August, 1881. The cairn, as I could see, was still intact."⁴¹

Captain Bartlett and an Eskimo crew member, Kakatovik, walked across the ice pack to summon help. Upon Bartlett's reaching Alaska, Captain William E. Reynolds, U.S.R.C.S., immediately ordered a rescue attempt. On 7 September 1914 the American ship *King and Wing* picked up the happy survivors on Wrangell Island (Figure 1). Not knowing that the *Karluk* survivors had already been rescued, the *Thomas Corwin* landed at Wrangell a few days later. The same ship that thirty-three years earlier had carried Hooper to claim the island, re-established the flying of the U.S. flag over Wrangell Island.

After the *Karluk* survivors were transferred to the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Bear*, they were transported to the ship's home port of Unalaska where the port commander, William Reynolds (who in 1881 had landed on Wrangell with Hooper) told Bartlett that the island was indeed part of Alaska.

On 13 November 1916 a challenge to U.S. sovereignty over Wrangell Island came from a different source. The Imperial Russian Embassy in Washington presented a memorandum to the U.S. Department of State regarding Russia's claim to lands in the Arctic. It claimed that Wrangell Island, Alaska, was one of the islands which "form an extension Northward of the Continental tableland of Siberia."⁴² This argument, like that of the sphere of influence, continuity, or sector theory to the Pole has no validity in international law.⁴³ Before this claim could again be pressed the Imperial Russian Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks. World events were to continue to play a major part in the issue of sovereignty over Wrangell.

On 7 July 1918 Allied Commanders, and an army that included Japanese troops, assumed protection of the city of Vladivostok. The threat of the Japanese taking an imperialistic hold in eastern Siberia caused concern, just as the expansion of power by the Bolsheviks had done formerly. In 1920 Stefansson became worried that the Japanese government, in their desire to control eastern Siberia, might try to take Wrangell Island. He observed, "I felt certain that within a year or two they would realize the coming importance of Wrangell Island and would occupy it."

Great Britain, Japan, and the United States were allied against the Bolsheviks. However, if the Japanese (future Pacific rivals to the United States) were to occupy Wrangell Island, it would be difficult to oust them in favor of the Bolsheviks. Therefore, Stefansson met in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with Allen Crawford, a Canadian, and Sir Auckland Geddes, British Ambassador to the U.S., for the United Kingdom to plan an expedition to secure Wrangell Island and also to promote their own economic interests.

Crawford led a party that included four Americans on the American ship *Silver Wave*. When they landed on Wrangell Island on 15 September 1921 the crew raised the Stars and Stripes over the island under Captain Jack Hammer's direction. On 16 September 1921 Crawford raised the Union Jack over Wrangell "in the name of the King and the Empire" as a continuation of Stefansson's "right to the island already established by the Stefansson Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18 and the shipwreck of the *Karluk*."⁴³ He did not tell anyone aboard the *Silver Wave* that he had raised the British flag over the island.

In 1922 it became a *cause célèbre* in the British and American press that Stefansson and company had "claimed" Wrangell Island, Alaska, as part of the United Kingdom. Anglo-American relations became strained over an island in which Great Britain had shown no interest since the discovery of Herald Island in 1849.

The Crawford party landed with provisions for only six months, saying they planned to sustain themselves with hunting. Stefansson's relief mission in 1922 was blocked by ice floes. When Harold Noice arrived aboard the relief ship *Donaldson* on 20 August 1923 only an Eskimo seamstress named Ada Blackjack survived of the original group. A new party led by Charles Wells of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, continued settlement of the island.

When Stefansson realized in 1924 that the Canadian government would not back a sovereignty claim as to *dominium directum* rights he sold his title and his *dominium utile* interests in Wrangell Island to the

Lomen Brothers company of Nome, Alaska (Figures 2(a) and 2(b)). On 13 May 1924 Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes declared that the Lomen Brothers were the owners of the island (Figure 3). On 18 June of that year, the British Colonial Secretary stated in a confidential dispatch: "The United States Government is thought to have a strong, if not indisputable, claim to the Island."^{43a}

On 20 August 1924 the Soviet gunboat *Red October* landed on Wrangell Island, armed with a six-pound cannon and a company of Soviet infantry. The Soviets took Wells by force and the other thirteen Americans on the island and told them they were being taken to Alaska. Instead they were forcibly taken to Vladivostok.⁴⁴ The Soviet officials confiscated all the pelts which the trappers had accumulated during the twelve bitter months on the island.⁴⁵ Following intervention by the U.S. Consul at Harbin, Manchuria, the Soviets released the twelve Americans still living. The

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WELLS, CHAS., a corporation of the Territory of British Columbia, for a valuable consideration by it and received, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and of the Government and consent of James H. Lomen, hereinafter set forth, hereby sells, assigns and conveys to CHAS. S. WELLS, WELZ LOMEN, SALAM LOMEN and HAROLD J. WELLS, citizens of the United States, residing at Nome, Alaska, and there doing business under the firm name and style of WELLS BROTHERS,

ALL its right, title and interest in and to the goods, wares, merchandise, supplies, traps and equipment which said corporation has on Wrangell Island, located in the Bering Sea about three hundred miles northwest of Point Barrow, Alaska,

TOGETHER with all its plants in ground and other improvements erected and made thereon and in and to the furs, ivory and other property accumulated by its agents and employees upon said Wrangell Island,

TOGETHER with the possessory rights which it has in said island by reason of having actually taken possession thereof on September 6th, 1921 and of having since maintained thereon a permanent colony, which island was theretofore unoccupied,

TOGETHER with all benefits and rights which said corporation has under its contract with Allen S. Crawford and his associates for the establishment of said colony and under its contract with Charles Wells and others co-operating with it for the supporting and maintaining of said colony and carrying on the operations and activities of said corporation on said Wrangell Island.

In consideration of the moneys hereinafter mentioned, James H. Lomen, hereinafter set forth, and his heirs, assigns and assigns

transmit our lives to the said colonists on said Wrangell Island and afford them an opportunity to join to and live between said Island and the Alaskan mainland and to waive the position and obligation of said corporation in and under said contracts above referred to and without and save it harmless herefrom.

WILHELM HEINE and Stefansson Arctic Exploration & Development Company, Ltd. and Loren Brothers have caused this instrument to be duly executed this 1st day of April, 1924.

STEFANSSON ARCTIC EXPLORATION
& DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD.

Attest:

[Signature] Secretary
[Signature] President

Witness:

[Signature] (Witness)
[Signature] (Witness)
[Signature] (Witness)
[Signature] (Witness)

Figures 2(a) and 2(b). Certificate of sale of his interest in Wrangell Island by Vilhjalmur Stefansson to the Lomen Brothers of Nome, Alaska, 1 April 1924.

Bolsheviks claimed that Wells had died of pneumonia. His diary was never found.

A year later the Soviets proclaimed Wrangell Island as their territory. But in 1930 the U.S. Department of the Interior publication entitled *Boundaries, Areas, Geographic Centers and Altitudes of the United States and the Several States* expressly included Wrangell Island as an American possession. Since that time no abandonment by the U.S. of its rightful sovereignty has occurred, nor under international law could such abandonment occur following a conquest by force.

Besides the abducting of Americans on Wrangell Island, the Russians violated federally promulgated Alaskan law that prohibits the exercise of foreign jurisdiction. The Alaskan Organic Act of 1884 adopted Oregon law, which in turn had adopted the Iowa Territory prohibitions against foreign governmental interference with American sovereignty.⁴⁸

In 1973 the State Department reissued the *Ackworth Digest of International Law* which explained, "The United States has not relinquished its claim to Wrangell Island." In the centennial year of the American landing on Wrangell, the United States gov-

ernment's position has not changed. Captain Hooper formally claimed Wrangell Island on 12 August 1881 and the U.S. established effective occupation until the Soviet invasion.

NOTES

¹ The island has also been spelled Wrangel and Vrangal. The U.S. Board of Geographic names, by resolution named 29 July 1901 determined that Wrangell Island, Alaska, in the Arctic Ocean should be spelled with two l's. The island was named in tribute to Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangell who spelled his own name with two l's when he wrote in the Roman alphabet.

² Dermot Cole, "Now We're Losing Wrangel Island," *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, 1 October 1977.

³ David Mountfield, *A History of Polar Exploration* (New York: The Dial Press, 1974), pp. 15-16, 19-20.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 27, 33.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 33-39.

⁷ Leonid Vasilevich Gromov, *Oskolok Drevnei Beringi* (Moskva: Gos izd-vo gcogr. lit-ry, 1960).

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Lieutenant Baron Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangell, I.R.N., *Narrative of an Expedition to the Polar Sea in the Years 1820-1823*, ed. Major Sir Edward Sabine, R.A. (London: James Madden and Co., 1840) pp. 342-359.

¹⁰ "Wrangell Island," *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 62, No. 6, (December, 1923), p. 441.

¹¹ Leopold McClintock, *The Voyage of the Fox: Discovery of the Fate of Franklin* (London: J. Murry, 1908).

¹² Bertold C. Seaman, *Narrative of the Voyage of the Herald during 1845-51*, (London: Reeve & Co., 1853), pp. 115-116.

¹³ Wilhelm Heine, *Die Expedition in die Seen von China, Japan und Ochoisk unter Commodore Colin Reingold und Commodore John Rodgers, in auftrage der Regierung der Jahren 1853 bis 1856* (Leipzig: H. Constenoble, 1858-59).

¹⁴ Evgenii Evgenievich Shevde "Ostrov Vrangelya" *Morskoi Bur-nik* God 76, No. 9 (Sept., 1923) pp. i-xiv.

¹⁵ 31 August 1852 (10 Stat. L. 100).

¹⁶ 8 Stat. L. 252.

¹⁷ Francisco Antonio Mourelle, *Journal of a Voyage in 1775* (London, 1781).

- ¹⁴ John J. Underwood, *Alaska: An Empire in the Making* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1913) p. 265. It should be noted that Prof. William R. Hunt of the University of Alaska, in his book, *Alaska: A Bicentennial History* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. and Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1976), p. 30, erred in ascribing the ukase to "Alexander II" (Tsar Aleksandr Nikolaevich of Russia).
- ¹⁵ 8 Stat. L. 302. For background information concerning counter-claims of sovereignty to the Oregon Country read Thomas Falconer, *Oregon Questions; or a Statement of the British Claims to the Government of the United States of America*, 2nd Ed. (London: Samuel Clark, 1845), and Travers Twiss, *The Oregon Question Examined* (London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longman, 1846).
- ¹⁶ 15 Stat. L. 539.
- ¹⁷ The name Alaska was gradually established for this region by local use while the Russians officially designated it Russian America. The name Alaska was proposed for official acceptance by W. H. Seward, Hon. Charles Sumner, and Maj. General H. W. Halleck after the U. S. Government took possession of the region.
- ¹⁸ Bretton G. Sciaroni, *The U.S. Claim to Wrangell Island*, Contract Study (No. 1722-620057) prepared for the U.S. Department of State on February 4, 1976, p. 30. Also see, F. M. Anderson, "Memorandum" (November 25, 1924), M. S. Department of State, file 861.0144/75 and S. Wittemore Boggs "Delimitation of Seaward Areas under National Jurisdiction," *American Journal of International Law*, 45, No. 2 (April, 1951), p. 240, fn 2.
- ¹⁹ Captain Thomas Long, "Arctic Land Discoveries," *The Pacific Commercial Advertiser* (Honolulu), 9 November 1867.
- ²⁰ "A Polar Continent: Reported Discovery of a Polar Continent in the Arctic Ocean," *New York Times* (7 December 1867); William W. Wherldens, "The New Arctic Continent or Wrangell's Land" (Chicago: American Association for the Advancement of Science, August 1868); K. M. Baer, "Nesholho slov po povodu novothritoy Vrangelyevshoy zemly," *Izvesti Russhovo Geograficheshovo Obshchestva*, (1968), V4, N7, pp. 333-349.
- ²¹ J. E. Nourse, *American Exploration in the Ice Zones*, (Boston: D. Lothrop and Company), pp. 365-66 and David Mountfield, *A History of Polar Exploration* (New York: Dial Press, 1974), pp. 123-124.
- ²² Formal letters of 17 and 24 March 1877 between Secretary of War George W. McCrary and Secretary of Treasury, John Sherman, National Archives, files of the Adjutant General (Microcopy MGGG, reel No. 358).
- ²³ International law has also recognized the status of private individuals to claim sovereignty on behalf of their country. A fortiori Hooper in his official capacity had no less authority regarding Wrangell Island than in his validly ordered claim of Wake Island on behalf of the United States in 1898, while in transit after the Spanish American War as a member of U.S. Pacific forces.
- ²⁴ Muir, *The Cruise of the Corwin*, pp. 140-158; Hooper, *Cruise of the Corwin*, 1881, pp. 53-54.
- ²⁵ Nelson, *Congressional Record, Senate*, 22 March 1922, p. 4261, col. 2.
- ²⁶ William Reynolds, *Congressional Record, Senate*, 25 March 1922, p. 4538, col. 2. Also included under these papers sent from the Secretary of Treasury Andrew W. Mellon to Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes, 13 April 1922, M. S. Department of State, file 861.0144/7.
- ²⁷ Hooper, *Cruise of the Corwin*, 1881, p. 70.
- ²⁸ "Wrangel Land: A Description of the Island by a Visitor" *San Francisco Chronicle* (16 August 1882), p. 3.
- ²⁹ Nelson, *Congressional Record, Senate*, 22 March 1922, p. 4261, col., stated the "Rogers partly took possession of the island by right of [Captain Long's] discovery, and that was within a space of a few weeks [of the *Corwin* party taking possession for the United States Government]."
- ³⁰ In 1900 the U.S. Geological Survey, at the direction of Henry Gannett, issued U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 169 which included Wrangell Island of the Arctic as part of Alaska. Gannett is known as the father of American map making, and was the Chief Geographer of the U.S.G.S., having started in 1882.
- ³¹ Jean Denuce "les expeditions polaires depuis 1800," *Bulletin de la Societe Royale de Geographie D'Anvers* (Anvers: J. Van Hille-De Bocher, 1911), p. 336. Also see: Charles Herbert Stockton, "The Arctic Cruise of the USS *Thetis* in the summer and autumn of 1889," *National Geographic Magazine* (1890), v. 2, No. 3, p. 194; and D. W. Knox, Captain, U.S.N. (Ret.), letter to Lt. Comdr. F. W. Mead, U.S.N. (Ret.) dated 31 October 1933.
- ³² Blossom Point was named by Lt. R. M. Berry, U.S.N. in 1881 after H.M.S. *Blossom*.
- ³³ L. M. Starokadomskiy, *Charting the Russian Northern Sea Route: The Arctic Ocean Hydrographic Expedition 1909-1919*; ed. and trans. William Barr, (Montreal: Arctic Institute of North America and McGill-Queen's University Press, 1976) pp. 60-64; Nikolai Nikolaevich Alekseev, "Ostrov Vrangelya," *Bulletin of the Far Eastern Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.* (Vladivostok: 1932) No. 3-4, p. 83; L. V. Gromov, *Ostrov Vrangelya* (Magadan: 1961) p. 24; Vilhjalmur Stefansson, "The Russian Visit to Wrangel Island," appendix 9, *The Adventure of Wrangel Island*, op. cit., pp. 393-394.
- ³⁴ Vilhjalmur Stefansson, *The Adventure of Wrangel Island*, pp. 50-51.
- ³⁵ Order-in-Council, approved 22 February 1913.
- ³⁶ Gordon W. Smith, "The Transfer of Arctic Territories from Great Britain to Canada in 1880, and some related matters, as seen in official correspondence," *Arctic*, March, 1961, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 53-73.
- ³⁷ Bartlett, *The Last Voyage of the Karluk*, op. cit., p. 173.
- ³⁸ The note of 13 November 1916 stated in part:
Le Gouvernement IMPERIAL profite de cette occasion pour faire ressortir qu'il considere aussi comme faisant partie integrante de l'Empire les îles Henriette, Jeannette, Bennett, Herald et Oujedinemia, qui forment avec les îles Nouvelle Sibirie, Wrangel et autres situees pres la cote asiatique de l'Empire, une extension vers le nord de la plate forme continentale de la Sibirie.

Le Gouvernement IMPERIAL n'a pas jugé nécessaire de joindre à la présente notification les îles Novaia Zemlia, Kologouev, Kolgouev, Waigatch et autres de moindres dimensions situées près la côte européenne de l'Empire, étant donné que leur appartenance aux territoires de l'Empire se trouve depuis des siècles universellement reconnue.

⁴¹ It should be noted that unsupported claims advanced by the Imperial Russian Government in the above note were rejected by the United States in 1902, as part of the "Whaling and Sealing Claims Against Russia." Herbert H. D. Peirce, *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1902*, Appendix I. (Washington: GPO, 1903), pp. 18 and 107. Fedor Fedorovich Martens, the legal counsel for the Imperial Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, rejected the notion that Russian sovereignty extended northward into the Arctic. He contended that the marginal seas north of the Russian mainland were *Mare Liberum* from the judicial point of view. F. F. Martens, "Du territoire de l'état", *Traite de droit international*, trans. Alfred Ler. (Paris: 1883) v. 1, pp. 495-496.

⁴² Stefansson, *The Adventure of Wrangel Island*, op. cit. p. 95.

⁴³ Ibid. pp. 128-131.

⁴⁴ Colonial Secretary to Governor General: confidential dispatch No. 537. Cited in Bretton G. Sciaroni, *The U.S. Claim to*

Wrangell Island, Contract Study No. 1722-620057 prepared for the U.S. Department of State on February 4, 1976, p. 15.

⁴⁵ Affidavit of 22 March 1977 by Hilda Koonuknowrunk Weber, one of the American prisoners.

⁴⁶ *Japan Advertiser*, 27 January 1925.

⁴⁸ On 7 May 1884 the U.S. Congress passed "An Act providing a Civil Government for Alaska", c. 53, 23 *Stat. at Large* 24. That act adopted Oregon law providing it does not conflict with other provisions of Alaskan law. This Act extended to Alaska "An Act Adopting the Statutes and Laws of the Territory of Iowa and the Common Law." *Oregon Acts and Laws Passed by the House of Representatives at a Meeting Held in Oregon City, August, 1845* (New York: N. A. Phemister Company, 1921) p. 16. It should be remembered that the Act of 12 August 1845 became part of the laws of the Territory of Oregon through "An Act to Establish the Territorial Government of Oregon", of 14 August 1848, c. 177, 9 *Stat. at Large* 323 (known as the Oregon Organic Act, Laws of the Territory of Iowa, passed at the Extra Session of the Legislative Assembly, begun and held in the City of Burlington: J. H. M. Kenny, 1840, and Des Moines: Historical Department of Iowa, 1902) c. 85.

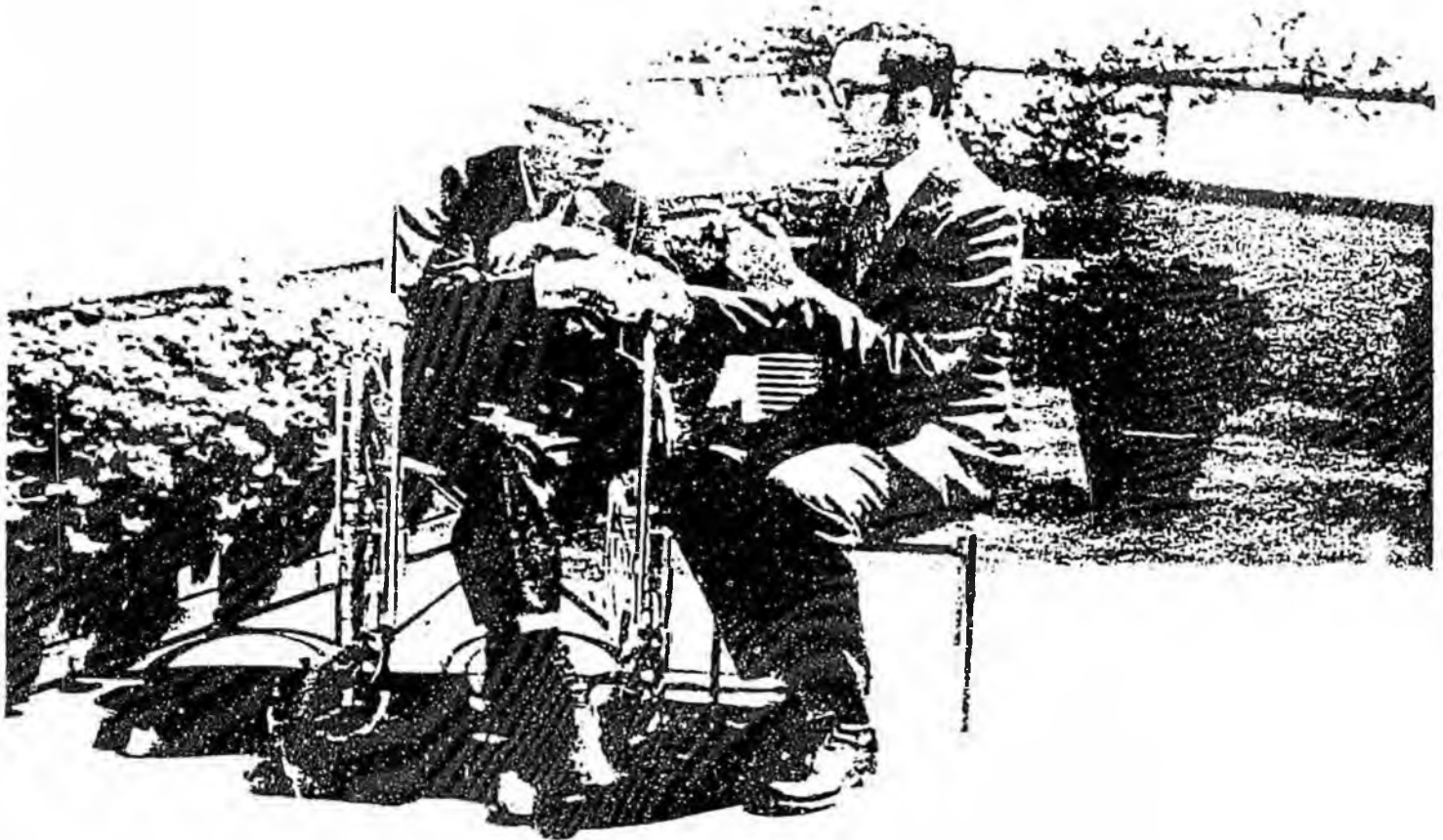


Figure 3. Mark Jerome Seidenberg with Ralph Lomen. Taken in Searie, Washington, in June 1976.

STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

Alaska Division of Lands
323 E. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

78-0105
5-
FILED
NOV 1978
DI 171

6th day of February, 1978

I, Everett P. Wood, Administrator, Estate of
Ralph Lomen, hereby state that my street and
post office address is: 4747 35th Avenue N. E.
Seattle, Washington 98105 and that I am the
administrator for the Estate of Ralph Lomen,

Recorder's Date Stamp '78
1 FEB 18 1978
MARK J. SEIDENBERG
P.O. Box 48601
LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA 90048
#65350
Recorder's Initials _____
Recorder's Filing No. _____

who was doing business under the firm name and style of LOMEN BROTHERS,
is the legal owner of the following described property located in the
Unorganized Borough, Nome Recording District of the Second Judicial
District, Alaska. Name of person filing this statement if other than legal owner
Everett P. Wood. Legal Description

The remaining lands of Ralph Lomen can be described as that portion
of Wrangell Island (a.k.a. New Columbia Land), of the Arctic Ocean, re-
recorded at the Nome Recording District in Book 281, Page 822-823, less
that portion conveyed to Mark Seidenberg on June 24, 1976 recorded at the
Nome Recording District in Book 278, Page 481-482. Wrangell Island is

(Use additional space on reverse side if necessary)

*Name of previous owner immediately prior to LOMEN BROTHERS purchase was STEFANSSON
ARCTIC EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD.

Full title (patent or deed) to the above described property was acquired on 1 April
1924 (date).

(Administrator) Everett P. Wood
Estate of Ralph Lomen

State of Washington)
County of King) ss.

Everett P. Wood

being first duly sworn
on oath, each for himself and not for the other, deposes and says:
That (he) (they) (is) (are) the identical person(s) described in and who executed the
above and foregoing Statement of Real Property Ownership and that (he) (they) (has)
(have) read the same and know(s) the contents thereof and that the same is true.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 12th day of February, 1978

Theresa Virginia Linder
Notary Public

(SEAL)

about 1,700 square miles in area and is located in the Bering Sea [Arctic Ocean] about three hundred miles northwest of Point Barrow. The crew of the U.S.S. "John Rodgers" made the official survey for the U. S. Government between 26 August and 13 September 1881. Captain Calvin L. Hooper, USN (de facto governor of Alaska) with a party from the U. S. Revenue-Marine Steamer "Thomas Corwin" landed on Wrangell Island on 12 August 1881 and took formal possession in the name of the United States Government based on the right of discovery by the American Barque "Hile" in 1867. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Service then placed Wrangell Island in the district of Alaska. It should be noted that Atherton Mountain is situated on the remaining lands of Ralph Lomen and listed in the following as part of Alaska:

U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin #169, by Henry Gannett
"Altitudes in Alaska", (Washington: GPO, 1900).

U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin #187, by Marcus Baker
"Geographic Dictionary of Alaska", (Washington: GPO, 1902).

U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin #274, by Henry Gannett
"A Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States",
(Washington: GPO, 1906).

U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin #299, by Marcus Baker
& James McCormick, "Geographic Dictionary of Alaska",
(Washington: GPO, 1906).

U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper #567,
by Donald J. Orth, "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names"
First printing, (Washington: GPO, 1967).

U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper #567,
by Donald J. Orth, "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names", Revised,
Second printing, (Washington: GPO, 1971).

U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper #567,
by Donald J. Orth, "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names", Revised,
Third printing, (Washington: GPO, 1975).

U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper #567,
by Donald J. Orth, "Dictionary of Alaska Place Names", Revised,
Fourth printing, (Washington: GPO, 1977).

United States Department of the Interior

STEWART L. UDALL, *Secretary*



Geological Survey

William T. Pecora, *Director*



United States Department of the Interior

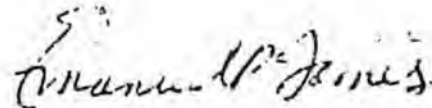
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

January 10, 1978

Dear Mr. Seidenberg:

In regard to your note of December 21, 1977, paper work authorizing printing of Geological Survey reports is kept on file for three years; accordingly, paper work for the 1967 and 1971 editions of Professional Paper 567 has been destroyed. The 1975 and 1977 reprintings, which are exact reprints of the 1971 edition, were ordered by the GPO Superintendent of Documents and therefore any questions on these must be directed to Ms. Joyce M. Makel, Government Printing Office, Procurement Section, P.O. Box 1533, Washington, DC 20013.

We are enclosing copies of pages III, IV, and 91 for the 1967 and 1971 printings; copies of pages from the 1975 and 1977 printings can be obtained from Ms. Makel.


Emanuel P. James

DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES

By Donald J. Orth

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROFESSIONAL PAPER 567

The principal names listed conform with nomenclature established through decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names or are recognized by the Board as standard names for use on Federal maps and other publications



REPRINTED 1971
WITH MINOR REVISIONS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON : 1967

Atta Island

island, see Atka Island
island, 0.4 mi. across, in Necker
 east of Baranof I., 17 mi. SW of
 Arch.; 56°49'45" N, 135°29'00"
 (p. 5). *Var.* Atakou Island, Ostruv

ancient Indian name reported in 1809 by
 an Aleutian the first, IRN; published by Lt.
 J. B. W. (1826, map 19), IRN, as "O[strov]
 Ataku," or "Ataku Island."

Atanik: *locality*, see Atanik.

Atanik: *locality*, on Chukchi Sea coast, 7 mi.
 NE of Point Belcher and 20 mi. NE of Wain-
 wright, Arctic Plain; 70°50' N, 159°21' W;
 (map 146). *Var.* Ahtenmuk, Ataniek, Atnik,
 Atanak, Atune.

Former Eskimo village recorded on Brit.
 Adm. Chart 595 (1827-55), as "Attanak."
 Lt. L. A. Zagoskin, IRN, reported the name
 as "Atinik" in 1847. Its population was
 given as 34 in the 1890 U.S. Census. The
 name may mean "straight."

Atayak Mountain: *mountain*, 3,000 ft., 3.5 mi.
 E of Kagai Lake and 80 mi. NE of Gonde-
 news, Kilburk-Kuskokwim Mts.; 59°52' N,
 159°57' W; (map 53). *Var.* Ataniach
 Mountain, Ataniak Mountain, Ah-tah-ai-ak.

Eskimo name reported in 1898 by J. E.
 Spurr and W. S. Post, USGS.

Atayak Mountain: *mountain*, see Ata-ai-ach
 Mountain.

Atcha Island: *island*, see Atka Island.

Atchaka Island: *island*, see Middleton Island.

Atchalugumut: *locality*, see Atchaluk.

Atchaluk: *locality*, "in the Kuskokwim district."
Var. Atchalugumut.

Former Eskimo camp or village listed as
 "Atchalugumut" with a population of 39 in
 the 1880 Census.

Atchelik River: *stream*, see Atchilik River.

Acheredina, Point: *point of land*, see Acheredin
 Point.

Atchka Island: *island*, see Atka Island.

Achō-köverūshkā: *hill*, see Gull Hill.

Atchuelingak Slough: *stream*, see Atchuelingak
 River.

Atchuelingak River: *stream*, heads at 63°02' N,
 161°27' W, flows SW 165 mi. to Yukon River,
 25 mi. W. of Marshall, Yukon-Kuskokwim
 Delta; 61°57'30" N, 162°50'00" W. (map
 74). *Var.* Chuilnak River, Chuilanuk River,
 Five Day Slough, Atchuelingak Slough.

Eskimo name first appearing as "Chuilanuk"
 on a fieldsheet by R. H. Sargent, USGS, dated
 1916. Sargent notes that it is the "lower end
 of 5 day Slough]. It takes 5 days to row
 through this slough because it is so sinuous."
 The spelling has been modified to "Atchuelin-
 guk" on recent maps to conform more closely
 with pronunciation. It refers in meaning to
 "water that isn't roly."

Atchu Island: *island*, see Atka Island.

Atch Creek: *stream*, see Atchil Creek.

Atchka Island: *island*, see Atka Island.

Acheron Mountain: *mountain*, "11,700 feet
 high on south shore of Wrangell Island,
 Aleutian Ocean."

"So named by the British Admiralty, 1884."
 (Baker, 1906, p. 107).

Atigaru Point: *point of land*, on coast of Beau-
 fort Sea, extends E into Harrison Bay, Arctic
 Plain; 70°33' N, 151°42' W; (map 149).
Var. At-ligga-ru, Atigaru.

Eskimo name published on Maguire's map
 (Great Britain, 1854, facing p. 186) as "Atti-
 garu," and on Surgeon John Simpson's map of
 about the same date as "At-ligga-ru." Orth
 was told by an Anaktuvuk Pass Eskimo in
 1956 that it may mean "old coat" (atigaruak).

Atigun River: *stream*, in Endicott Mts., heads
 at glacier terminus, flows NE 45 mi. to Saga-
 vanirtek River 20 mi. S of its junct. with Rib-
 don River, Brooks Ra.; 68°31'30" N, 149°-
 01'00" W; (map 135).

Eskimo name reported in 1956 by USGS.

Atik: *lake*, see Atuk Lake.

Atilecōwraak: *water passage*, see Atiligorak In-
 let.

Atiligaurak Inlet: *water passage*, see Atiligorak
 Inlet.

Atiligauzaq: *water passage*, see Atiligorak Inlet.

Atiligorak Inlet: *water passage*, between a la-
 goon and Chukchi Sea, 8.3 mi. N of Cape
 Krusenstern, Kotzebue-Kobuk Low.; 67°14'
 N, 163°45' W; (map 128). *Var.* Atilecōw-
 rak, Atiligaurak Inlet, Atiligauzaq.

Eskimo name meaning "little outlet," re-
 ported in 1966 by E. S. Burch.

Atinaaq: *locality*, see Atinak.

Atinahk: *locality*, see Atinak.

Atinak: *locality*, neck of land between Ipiavik
 and Imierook Lagoons, 10 mi. SE of Kivalina,
 Kotzebue-Kobuk Low.; 67°38' N, 164°12' W;
 (map 123). *Var.* Atinaaq, Atinahk.

Eskimo name reported in 1966 by E. S.
 Burch.

Atka: *village*, pop. 119, on Nazan Bay, on E
 coast of Atka I., Aleutian Is.; 52°12' N, 174°-
 12' W; BGN 1945; (map 18). *Var.* Atkha,
 Nazan.

Named for Atka Island. Reported as
 "Atkha" by Schwatka (1805, p. 115), USA.
 Recorded in 1890 as "Nazan," with a popula-
 tion of 235, in the 1880 Census by Petroff
 (1894, p. 16). Atka post office was main-
 tained 1938-57 (Ricks, 1965, p. 5).

Atka Island: *island*, 55 mi. long, largest of
 Andreanof Is., Aleutian Is.; 52°07' N, 174°30'
 W; BGN 1890; (map 19). *Var.* Atcha Island,
 Atcha Island, Atchka Island, Atchu Island,
 Atghka Island, Atkha Isle, Ostruv Atka.

Aleut name reported by early Russian
 traders; published as "Atchu Island" by Rev.
 Coxe (1790, p. 156); "Atghka" by Capt. Cook
 (1795, v. 2, p. 503), RN; "Atkha Isle," by
 Capt. Lutke (1836, p. 507); IRN; "O[strov]
 Atka" or "Atka Island," on the 1840 Russian
 Hydrog. Dept. Chart 1490, and by Capt.
 Tshenkov (1852, map 27), IRN.

Atka Lake: *lake*, 0.1 mi. across, on west-central
 Saint George I., in Pribilof Is.; 56°34'45" N,
 169°39'25" W; (map 38). *Var.* Naro'am-
 an'vi.

This name is a translation of the Aleut
 name, "Naro'am-an'vi," recorded by Putnam

(1907, p. 1015), USC&GS, and "so called by
 Atka Island in the Aleutians) natives having
 lived in the vicinity." The name was pub-
 lished in 1898 by USC&GS.

Atka Pass: *water passage*, 5 mi. across, in
 Andreanof Is. between Atka and Oglodak Is.,
 Aleutian Is.; 52°00' N, 175°22' W; BGN
 1936; (map 18).

Named for Atka I. by members of the U.S.
 Navy Aleutian Island Survey Expedition of
 1934; published by the USC&GS in the 1944
 Aleutian Coast Pilot (p. 104).

Atkasak: *village*, see Meade River.

Atkasuk: *village*, see Meade River.

Atkha: *village*, see Atka.

Atkha Island: *island*, see Atka Island.

Atkin Island: *island*, see Atkins Island.

Atkins Island: *island*, 2 mi. long, in Shumagin
 Is. NE of Little Koniugi I., Aleutian Ra.
 55°03'30" N, 159°18'30" W; (map 27)
Var. Atkin Island.

Named about 1880 by W. H. Dall
 USC&GS, for the fishing schooner *Minnie G*
Atkins.

Atkoulick, Ile: *island*, see Atkulik Island.

Atkritoi: *rocks*, see Discovery Rocks.

Atkritoi Bay: *bay*, see Otkriti Bay.

Atkroiglaza: *rock*, see Eye Opener, The.

Atkulik: *locality*, on Agattu I., Near Is., Aleutian
 Is.; (map 13).

Former Aleut settlement or camp listed by
 Hodge (1907, p. 111), BAE.

Atkulik Island: *island*, elev. 725 ft., 1 mi. across
 4 mi. SE of Nakchamik I., and 26 mi. E. of
 Chignik, in Pacific Ocean, Aleutian Ra.
 56°16' N, 157°44' W; (map 31). *Var.* At-
 kunk, Ile Atkoulick, Ostruv Atkulik.

Native name, shown as "I[le] Atkoulick" by
 von Krusenstern (1827, map 20) and as "[Os-
 trov] Atkulik" by the Russian Hydrog. Dept.
 (1847, Chart 1379).

Atkulik, Ostruv: *island*, see Atkulik Island.

Atkunk: *island*, see Atkulik Island.

Atla Creek: *stream*, heads in Indian Mts., flow
 W 12 mi. to Koyukuk River, 6 mi. NNE of
 Hughes, Kokrines-Hodzana High.; 66°08' N,
 154°10' W; (map 115).

Indian family name recorded at Hughes in
 1956 by Orth. Archdeacon Stuck (1914b, p.
 170-171) mentioned an Indian called "O-
 Atler," who lived in this area in 1909.

Atlas Creek: *stream*, flows SE 2 mi. to Quartz
 Creek which flows to Kougarok River, 48 mi.
 SW of Imuruk Lake, Seward Penin. High.
 65°22' N, 164°45' W; (map 110).

Prospectors' name reported in 1906 by A. E.
 Brooks (in Collier and others, 1908, pl. 9)
 USGS.

Atlasta Creek: *stream*, flows S 3.2 mi. to Lo-
 Cabin Lake, S of Glenn Highway, 21 mi. N
 of Glennallen, Cooper River Basin; 62°04'30"
 N, 146°11'00" W; (map 83).

Name derived from a roadhouse which was
 named from a chance remark of the owner's
 wife on completion of the first building, "It
 just a house."

At-ligga-ru: *point of land*, see Atigaru Point.

Atliggaru: *point of land*, see Halkett, Cape.

December 29, 1977

SUBJECT: Wrangell Island, Alaska and the "giveaway"
to U.S.S.R.

To Whom It May Concern:

At the November 10, 1974 Schmitz Fest, Phoenix Club, Orange County, I was told*that the U.S. Department of State had plans to enter in secret agreements with the U.S.S.R. to drop its claim of title of sovereignty over Wrangell Island of the Arctic Ocean and recognize the claim of the U.S.S.R. over it, without going to Congress. I was shown*photo copies from the following government documents to prove that Wrangell Island of the Arctic Ocean was part of the State of Alaska:

*U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin #169, by Henry Gannett
"Altitudes in Alaska", Washington. GPO, 1900

*U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin #187, by Marcus Baker
"Geographic Dictionary of Alaska", Washington. GPO, 1902

*U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin #274, by Henry Gannett
"A Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States",
Washington. GPO, 1906

I was also shown*photo copies of the following to prove the U.S. Government took formal possession of Wrangell Island of the Arctic Ocean by Captain Calvin L. Hooper, U.S. Revenue Marine (Now known as the U.S. Coast Guard) on the 12th day of August, 1881. (NOTE: The Treasury Department administered our Alaskan possessions between 1877 and 1884. Captain Hooper in 1881 was head of the Bering Sea Patrol, which made him the de facto governor of Alaska when he took Wrangell Island for the U.S. Government.):

*Treasury Department Document #429, Washington. GPO, 1883

*H. Ex. Document #105, U.S. 47th Congress, 2nd Session,
Washington. GPO, 1883

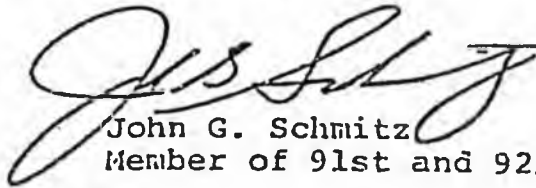
*S. Ex. Document #204, U.S. 48th Congress, 1st Session,
Washington. GPO, 1884

* by Mark Seidenberg

-2-

I verify that I have received the documents above and that
I referred Mark Seidenberg to Mr. Tony Sutton in October 1974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John G. Schmitz".

John G. Schmitz
Member of 91st and 92nd Congress'

JGS/nr

U.S.S.R. LABOR CAMPS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY
ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS.)

U.S. Congress, Senate OF THE
" → COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. ←

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

PART 2

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

AFTERNOON SESSION

FEBRUARY 2, 1973

MORNING SESSION

Printed for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary



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It should be noted that there was absolutely no defense present at the preliminary hearings: the accused is even refused access to the code of laws used in the preliminary investigation. Thus, a person who had not been acquainted with the law prior to his arrest is unable to defend himself.

The trial took place on 24-27 May 1971. By this time the Jewish trials gained widespread notoriety in the free world and the authorities, afraid of adverse publicity and further leaks on what was taking place, conducted the trials with great haste: the trial took two and a half days instead of ten days. Departure from established procedure consisted above all in continuously interrupting the accused and preventing them from expressing themselves. The accused were: A. Shpilberg (sentenced to 3 years), R. Aleksandrovich (1 year), B. Maftser (1 year), and myself (2 years). I believe that we received such short terms only because of the widespread publicity and support given our trial in the free world. Without this support all of us would have been sentenced to 4 to 7 years. Initially, Article 65, which carries sentences ranging from 10 years to the death penalty, was to be applied in sentencing us. The government, noting the publicity that the trials were accorded in the free world and desirous of maintaining an appearance of judicial propriety, substituted Article 65 of the Criminal Code by Article 70, which provides sentences ranging from 6 months to 7 years. Even in terms of this article the sentences imposed were mild. The effect of public opinion in the free world on the course of our trials and on the sentences imposed must be stressed once again, and compared with the sentence meted out at the first Leningrad trial of December 1970, whose severity, in my opinion, was due to the insufficient attention and support the trial received in the West before the sentence were passed. The protest by the West after the sentences were passed helped prevent the imposition of death sentences, but did not essentially reduce the severity of the sentencing since the article under which the sentences were passed and the terms imposed remained practically the same.

I served my sentence in Pot'ma (formerly Dubrovlag). The network of establishments in Pot'ma is known as "Institution ZhKh 385". The ZhKh Institution includes camps for both political prisoners and criminals, and men as well as women. The political prisoner camps included zones 10, 17, and 3, and were strict regime zones. Zone 3 also included a camp for women political prisoners. The above mentioned zones had approximately 2000 prisoners. The complex of institutions for political prisoners also included the Vladimirskaia prison, where prisoners particularly distasteful to the authorities are held.

Conditions of confinement

The factor which determines the nature of confinement in political labor camps at present is that their aims and objectives are still the same: as before, confinement in political labor camps is designed not only to remove a person from society, but to force people to renounce their views and convictions, give up all participation in public affairs. Thus the objective of a labor camp remains unchanged: what has changed are the means for achieving the objective; for at present the quick physical annihilation of political prisoners is no longer possible in the Soviet Union, so that annihilation is achieved through a slow process of destruction over a period of many years.

Continuous malnutrition, and the constant nervous tension to which the prisoner is subjected in his environment, is the essence of this method. As the year goes by, this inevitably leads to physical and psychic disabilities. The physical illness of a prisoner means that the first state of his subjugation has been attained. The prisoner's medical treatment depends very much on his attitude toward his political views. A person who does not renounce his political convictions receives practically no medical aid. In a labor camp such people are condemned to slow deterioration and death. The best example of how this method works is the death of Yuri Galanskov. He held out for 6 of the 7 years of his sentence (he was forced to work when his physical conditions was extremely bad—until the very end!)

Jewish prisoners who do not renounce their convictions, who do not repudiate their desire to leave for Israel, are in a similar position. Some of these prisoners are seriously ill. *Actually they will suffer the same fate as Galanskov, if no special intercession is made on their behalf!* The attention of the authorities is directed particularly toward the Jewish prisoners, for they not only don't renounce their political convictions, but, on the contrary, protest actively.

The best of the political prisoners of other nationalities understand and respect the struggle of the Jewish prisoners for their national liberation.

MIKHAIL SHEPHELOVICH.

Taken down by G. Ellna.

To: The Senate of the United States of America.
From: Roza Kogan, 28 Sereni Street, Givataim, Israel.

REQUEST

My husband, Idel' (Yehuda) Kogan, a citizen of Israel, born in Poland in 1922. Was arrested on 7 June 1962 in Kiev during a tourist trip to the U.S.S.R., for which he received a visa-permit from the Soviet Embassy in Israel.

He was arrested and sentenced to 10 years of prison, accused of deserting from the Soviet army. During the war (World War II) my husband was in the Kovol ghetto, then with the partisans, then served 6 months in the Soviet army until July 1945, and after that left for Israel.

Now my husband has now served 9 years and six months! We are both ill; ten of the best years of our lives have been snatched away from us! I beg your intercession in obtaining his release in advance of the six remaining months of his sentence, and thereby help reduce the additional and undeserved suffering of a family!

(My husband's address is: Moscow, UChR No. 6110/1, Zh. U. Idel' Kogan)
Respectfully and gratefully,

ROZA KOGAN.

DECEMBER 22, 1972.

Mrs. Golda Meir, [Israeli] Consul, arrived in Moscow on the day of Zhdanov's death; I was then working as a translator in one of the offices of the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs) in Odessa. On the day of her arrival I was sent to the Metropol Hotel in Moscow to participate in a reception for the guests in the guise of a waiter; I was instructed to eavesdrop on everything Mrs. Meir was to say in Yiddish. Since the guests were amiably received, I took the liberty of asking her in Yiddish what the country which she represented was like. She replied in Yiddish that it was the first Jewish state in history for Jews throughout the world. After the reception was over, I was sent directly to a prison in Odessa, for someone had eavesdropped on me during the conversation and denounced me to the KGB, saying I was a Zionist. I was arrested, served a great deal of time in prison, then released but thrown out of my job, victimized for more than ten years, finally arrested again in 1958, thrown into prison, and without any trial sent to the Amurskaya ASSR, and from there to Wrangel Island, where I remained until 1962.

At the camp I made the acquaintance of Rudolf Trushnovich, a former physician, Vasily Ivanovich Pelyakov, a former member (colonel) of the Vlasov army, a large number of SS and Gestapo Germans, and many Italians, who had long been declared dead, but who are actually still living on Wrangel in the Belopolyn'ye. Among them:¹

1. Kremer Ernest
2. Mgoler Paul
3. Kristover Otto

¹ The list of names of POWs on Wrangel Island requires further clarification, which the subcommittee is trying to obtain. Spellings are in question, first, because the names were written in by hand and some were not legible; and, second, because inaccuracies in spelling inevitably arise when German and Italian names are transliterated from Latin script to Cyrillic script for the camp records, and then transliterated back into Latin script. According to Shifrin, who has discussed the Wrangel Island matter several times with "Kozlov," "Kozlov" was in a position where he had access to camp records, but only in rare cases was "Milaneso," meaning "from Milan," was probably used instead of "Milan." Shifrin reported to the subcommittee staff that a representative of an Italian committee which is still seeking information about missing POWs had come to Israel to interview "Kozlov," and they had been able to match some of the names of Italian POWs whom "Kozlov" had met, or whose names he had seen listed in the camp records, against the list of missing Italian POWs believed to be in the Soviet Union.

4 - JUN - 6
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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY
ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS,

U.S. Congress, *Senate* OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

PART 3

FEBRUARY 2, 1973

AFTERNOON SESSION

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4. Ambrolio Verito—65 years old—Gestapo
5. Zulvazino Cordion—65 years old—died there
6. Milano Trudati—1903—
7. Gračanica Verona—1800—chief of police
8. Torello Firenze—1901—captain
9. Giovanni (?) Lassa—1907—SS Lieutenant
10. Mastellano Vivzina—1900—colonel
11. Leolo Vivas—1910—colonel
12. Pynalretta Piacenza—1900—died
13. Joradello Padova—1903—SS
14. Giovanni Bianchi—
15. Luigi Campanella—1901—SS
16. Lucca Brantyl (?)—1905
17. Messina Donato—1914—SS

The camp on Wrangel Island was an experimental camp, where experiments were conducted on living people. The experiments were in the form of tests, diets, oxygen tests on people who were ~~long~~ but were ~~about~~ that time (1962) and were working very hard in the camp. The guards and the administrative staff were former convicts, such as V. N. Rudnikov, A. I. Vasil'kov, a former convict and big-time bandit; Iv. Nik. Ivanov, Nikolay Artemevich Pitunov. The camp also had a military guard for a special camp in which people were trained for ~~spying~~ abroad. That camp was headed by Ivan Ivanovich Shevloy, a veteran MVD trooper. There were also many others, including Italian war prisoners. There was also Raoul Wallenberg, who had been Swedish consul in Budapest during the war and who under the German occupation, aided by money, helped Jews escape from Hungary, through Switzerland, into other countries. When the Russians entered Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg was immediately arrested at the request of the military commandant of the city of Budapest and sent by special train to Moscow. He was then 27 years old, and was a handsome, educated young man.

These are a few of the many facts which I know, having witnessed them personally. Unfortunately I cannot sign my real name [to the statement], as I still have some close relatives in Russia.

"Kozlov"

A true copy: [A stamp with Hebrew letters]

INDEX

(NOTE.—The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee attaches no significance to the mere fact of the appearance of the name of an individual or organization in this index.)

A

EDITORIAL NOTE: There are several accepted ways of transliterating names from Russian and Ukrainian into English. The *New York Times*, and most American newspapers, for example, will render the *ce* sound which terminates many Russian names with the "y". Library of Congress translators, however, following the Library of Congress style, use the letters "ly" to reproduce the same sound. The *New York Times* uses the letter "l" to reproduce the soft "l" sound in Russian. The Library of Congress reproduces the soft "l" with "ll". And so on through a whole series of differences in spelling, which nevertheless result in virtually identical pronunciations in English.

There will be differences, too, between transliteration of names and place names from Ukrainian into English by competent Ukrainian-English translators, and transliterations of the same names by competent Russian-English translators. For example, "Kiev" is the Russian-English transliteration and "Kyiv" the Ukrainian-English transliteration for the same city in the Ukraine.

Because the texts incorporated in this testimony come from several different sources, the spelling will vary according to the source. In general in this index we have followed the procedure of listing names under the dominant Russian transliteration. Although the spellings may vary slightly from one portion of the text to another, the reader should have no difficulty in recognizing the names because of the virtual uniformity of pronunciation.

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U.S.S.R. LABOR CAMPS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

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UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

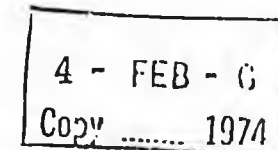
FIRST SESSION

PART 1

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

MORNING SESSION

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4

1961. The first stop in Tayshet was transportation camp No. 025, right alongside the main Moscow-Vladivostok line. There was a very high fence around the camp, so that the camp could not be seen from the railroad. The fence was higher at the corner to conceal the guard-towers.

THE INCIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN REPATRIATES FROM CHINA

In November '55, several days after Shifrin's arrival at Tayshet, there was a tragic incident involving repatriates from China. Shortly after the end of World War II the Soviets had launched a big campaign to entice White Russians who had fled to China and other countries after the Revolution to return to their motherland. Many White Russians in China were taken in by the lies and blandishments, and agreed to return with their children. The husbands were told that they would have to go first in order to get jobs and prepare homes for their families. Their wives and children would follow later. The husbands were sent to concentration camps instead.

On the day of the incident, some prisoners, including White Russians from China, were standing on the roofs of barracks in an effort to get a look at people in passing trains. A train stopped outside the camp and women and children got off. Some of the White Russians on the roof recognized their wives. They shouted to each other. The husbands asked their wives what they were doing there, at a concentration camp. "What do you mean, concentration camp?" the women shouted back. "The big sign on the fence says 'Petroleum Storage Depot.'"

The guards broke up the exchange by pulling the men from the roofs and pushing the women back aboard the train. Shifrin does not know what happened to the women afterwards. But before the exchange was broken up by the guards the women told the men that they had been informed that their husbands wanted them to join them.

SOME PEOPLE IN TAYSHET

Among the people Shifrin met in Tayshet were:

Aaron Yarkho, a Jewish general, who had been Chief of Chemical warfare troops. Assigned to occupation duty in Germany, he decided to defect and go to Israel. He was kidnapped from Milan in 1950 while on his way to Israel.

Siegfried Oelsner, a Wehrmacht captain, captured in World War II. He told Shifrin that Tayshet had housed at least 500,000 POWs at the end of the war. Now there were no more than 10,000. All the rest had died.

Oelsner told Shifrin that they had been sent into the forests with guards, had cut trees, built barracks and towers and fences. Then they made log roads from one camp to another, and from Tayshet to the Bodaybo gold mines. All the time, more and more prisoners—hundreds of thousands of Japanese, etc.—arrived in the camps. Then there came prisoners from all over the USSR. Oelsner said the death rate at times was almost ten per 1,000 per day.

Baron DeSainteur, a Frenchman, who said that he had been kidnapped from his office in Paris.

Henri Henyurts, a French officer, who told Shifrin that he had been a French major in Vienna, and had been kidnapped in 1949.

There were also many Soviet Jewish intellectuals who had been arrested after Stalin's death. The Jewish poet Grisha Bieryoskin said that he had been with a large group of Jewish writers arrested in 1947 and afterwards, and that most of them had been shot—including Markish, Bergelson, and approximately 30 other writers.

From the transportation camp, Shifrin was sent to penal concentration camp No. 306, approximately 300 km. from Tayshet. Along the entire route on both sides of the railway he saw an unbroken stretch of concentration camps. Sometimes they were interrupted for a mile or two, sometimes only a few hundred meters between camps. Each camp had its own cemetery nearby.

CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND REHABILITATION IN THE U.S.S.R.

Shifrin makes the interesting observation that mass political arrests in the U.S.S.R. occur with remarkable regularity at ten year intervals—1918, 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958, 1969-72.

Shifrin believes that the phenomenon of the ten year intervals and the fact that a great majority of the prisoners served a minimum of ten years is due to the fact that in most cases men are incapable of more than ten years hard labor in the camps, and the camp population had to be periodically replenished.

Prisoner labor on a mass scale was necessary for the Soviet regime because, in the absence of enormous economic incentives, no workers would normally go to God-forsaken places like Vorkuta, Karaganda, Norilsk, and Wrangel Island.

Shifrin was told by a Government friend that prisoners account for 30% of labor force.

The severity of the sentences handed down for political crimes, varied from one period to another. Thus, in the 1930s political prisoners were frequently sentenced to five years in the camps, while in 1951 the twenty-five year sentence became an almost universal rule—whether the prisoner in question had committed espionage, or had simply told a joke about the regime. Roughly 1958 there was a formal moderation in severity of sentence, when the theoretical maximum was set at 15 years.

Like so many other Soviet reforms, this limited concession to humanitarianism turned out to be fraudulent. Many criminal elements who had originally been sentenced to 25 years and had served more than 15 years were, in fact, released. But the same clemency was not extended to political prisoners, who continued to serve their full 25 year term. Among those released in 1972 after serving 25 years were Vladimir Gorbovoy, Ekaterina Zaritzkaya and Vasili Pirus, while Mikhail Soroka died after twenty-four years in prison. There were many others.

Legal maximums and the length of sentence handed down meant very little even in legal terms, because there were several legal devices for getting around the limitation.

Prisoners who were originally sentenced to three to five years were frequently resentenced in the camps to another three to five years. Shifrin met a Jewish Trotskyist by the name of Goldberg (or Goldbart) in camp No. 04 in Tayshet in 1955 who told him that he had been arrested as a Trotskyist in 1934 and he was then serving his fifth con-

this forest and built highway, and then near this highway they built railway. And they told me that now in my time—in 1954—it is here like resort. But I here heard this from living corpses. In 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 it—they told me—was days when people died in hundreds each day from starvation. They showed me kilometers of cemeteries on the side, and then, I told you, I have seen these cemeteries which go near the railway. They explained to me that along this railway was the Kwantung Army and hundreds of thousands of other POW's. And it was truth. I don't know how many died there—maybe million and maybe more because it is a 600 kilometers railway and highway, and on both sides cemeteries without intervals.

When I came I met not millions of POW's: I met only thousands. But we know that in Kwantung Army was million soldiers.

In 1956 when they released these prisoners, I have seen how they put them in the trains near our concentration camp. They brought them from all along the railway; from all the concentration camps, and I have seen that it was only some 10,000 people: Germans, French, Spanish, Japanese,

Now, try to understand how many died here.

I have seen only maybe hundreds of these German officers, and they told me that most of these prisoners of war died there. After 1956 KGB released other foreigners from Tayshet, it was citizens from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Iran, and other countries.

It was also Belgian officers. Was maybe 12 to 15 of these officers. I don't know why they didn't release them in 1956. I don't know. They were there to 1962. At the end of 1962 they released them.

When Queen of Belgians came to U.S.S.R., she asked to see these officers and in big hurry came, KGB, to our concentration camp. The Belgians was in concentration camp No. 7 in Potma because in these days we was not in Tayshet; we was in Potma.

I told you yesterday they brought us from Tayshet to Potma in 1960, and these Belgians came together with us. Only in 1962 KGB sent them home.

Also in 1963 once I have met with group of criminals which came to our concentration camp, No. 7, and when I asked them in which place they were, they told me we were in Island of Wrangel. I asked, "Island of Wrangel! KGB has concentration camps there?" They answered me, "Yes: there is three concentration camps for prisoners of war and there sits only big officers from Germany, Italy, France, and Spain."

I didn't believe them, but now in Israel I met with one man in 1971—we have his letter; I would show his letter—and he explained to me, this man, that he was also in Island of Wrangel in 1962 and he have seen there three concentration camps with thousands of prisoners of war, and he explained to me that they have in one concentration camp atomic reactor, and they make experiments on the live people with radiation. In another concentration camp, they have experiments with physicians on the people and in third they have submarines and they have experiments with live people under water. And it is big secret, and he was there in the group of prisoners which gave to the prisoners food; he was not inside secret camps. He have heard from other prisoners about this work, and he sent to you letter and I gave to you this letter in which he wrote real names of these prisoners in Wrangel.

Also he told about two big people which he met on Wrangel. One of them, Alexander Trushnovich, head of anti-Communist Russian organization, NTS; he was kidnaped in 1953 from West Berlin. And another man which he have seen there and all the world don't know nothing about his fate; this man is Raoul Wallenberg, diplomat of Sweden, consul in Budapest, who save many thousands of Hungarian Jews from Nazis. They kidnap him in 1945, this man, and they always answer to free world that they don't know nothing about this man.

Senator GURNEY. Do we have the letter?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes; you have letter.

Senator GURNEY. Proceed.

Mr. SHIFRIN. No; I think that is all I can tell about prisoners of war.

Senator GURNEY. In summary, then, what you have said was that the Russians kept their prisoners—and they probably captured hundreds of thousands during the course of the war—for a period of 10 to 15 years after the war and used them for slave labor all during that time?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes; they also was in slave labor.

Senator GURNEY. And probably a majority of them died in prison camps?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes; I am sure a majority.

Senator GURNEY. And then the other significant point was that in this prison camp in Island of Wrangel there was—

Mr. SHIFRIN. Italian, French, Spanish, and German.

Senator GURNEY. And they used prisoners for medical experiments, which were atomic medical experiments, I suppose, to see what the effect of radiation would be upon the human body?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes.

Senator GURNEY. Do you have any other points that you want to cover, Mr. Shifrin, not on prisoners of war, but any other points?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes; I wanted very much to tell you something about this Jewish process in Leningrad, this Jewish trial in Leningrad. When they arrest these 12 people and 1 girl in 1970, crime of these people was only one; they want to go to Israel. And all of these 12 have two and three times refusal from Soviet Government when they gave documents and ask permission to go to Israel. Then these people decided to steal Russian plane, not hijack, but steal plane and to go to Sweden from Leningrad. It was their goal, and they arrest them before they committed this crime. They arrest them on land, not in the plane. They arrest them before they came to this plane, and they gave to these people death sentence, to two of them, and two others 15 and 10 years in prison.

Among those people was Silva Zalmanson, a brave Jewish girl, which is now in such situation that we wait maybe her death from day to day because she cannot swallow food. Something is wrong with her throat, and they don't permit the physician to see this girl. And permit me to tell that only some weeks ago we got letter from the prison from another prisoner, Galanskov, we also told to all the world that Galanskov maybe would die; that he is ill. And no one hear our voice. Now Galanskov died some weeks ago. Maybe it will be same with Silva; maybe it will be with her husband, Eduard

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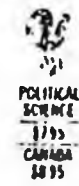
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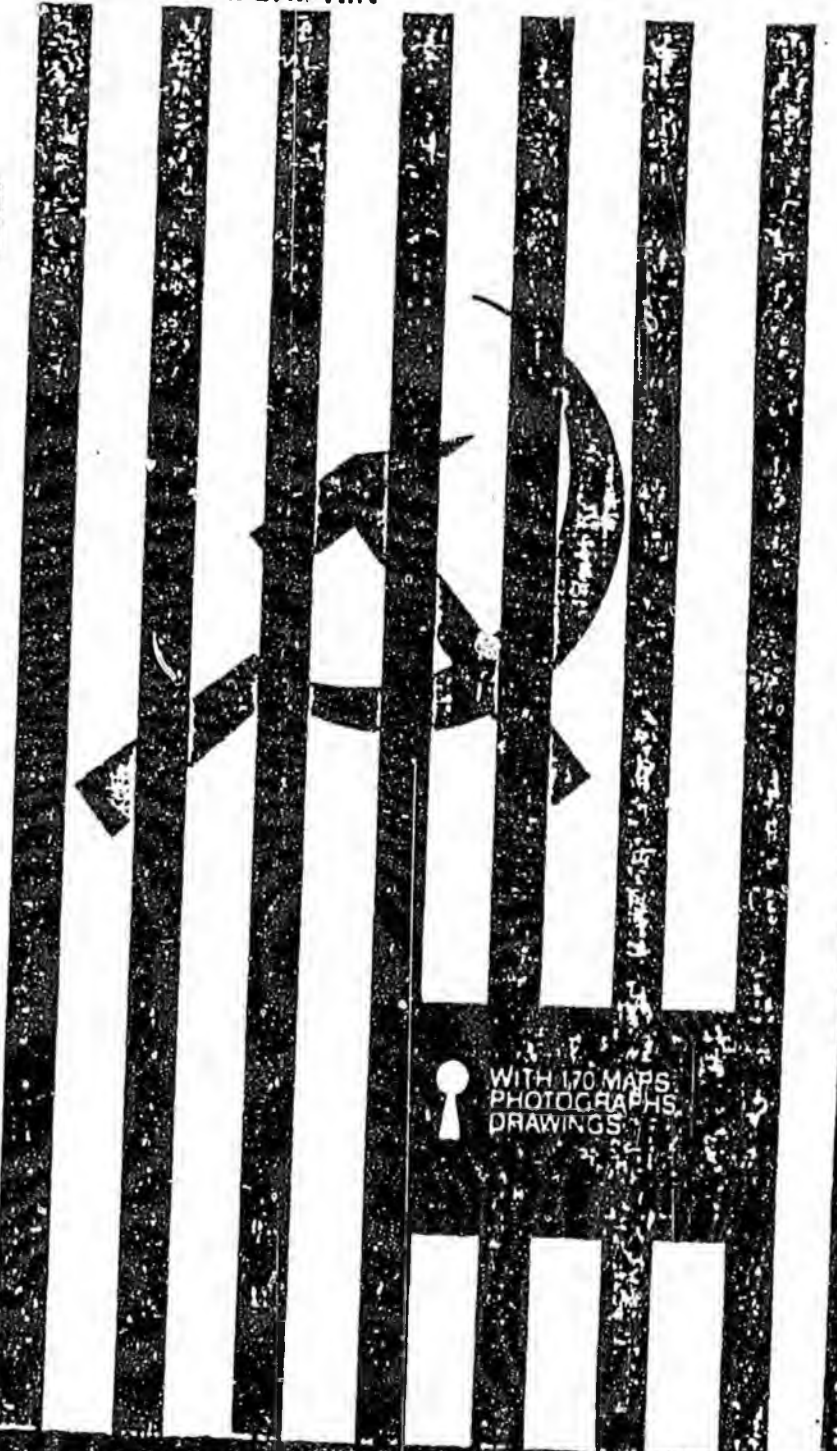


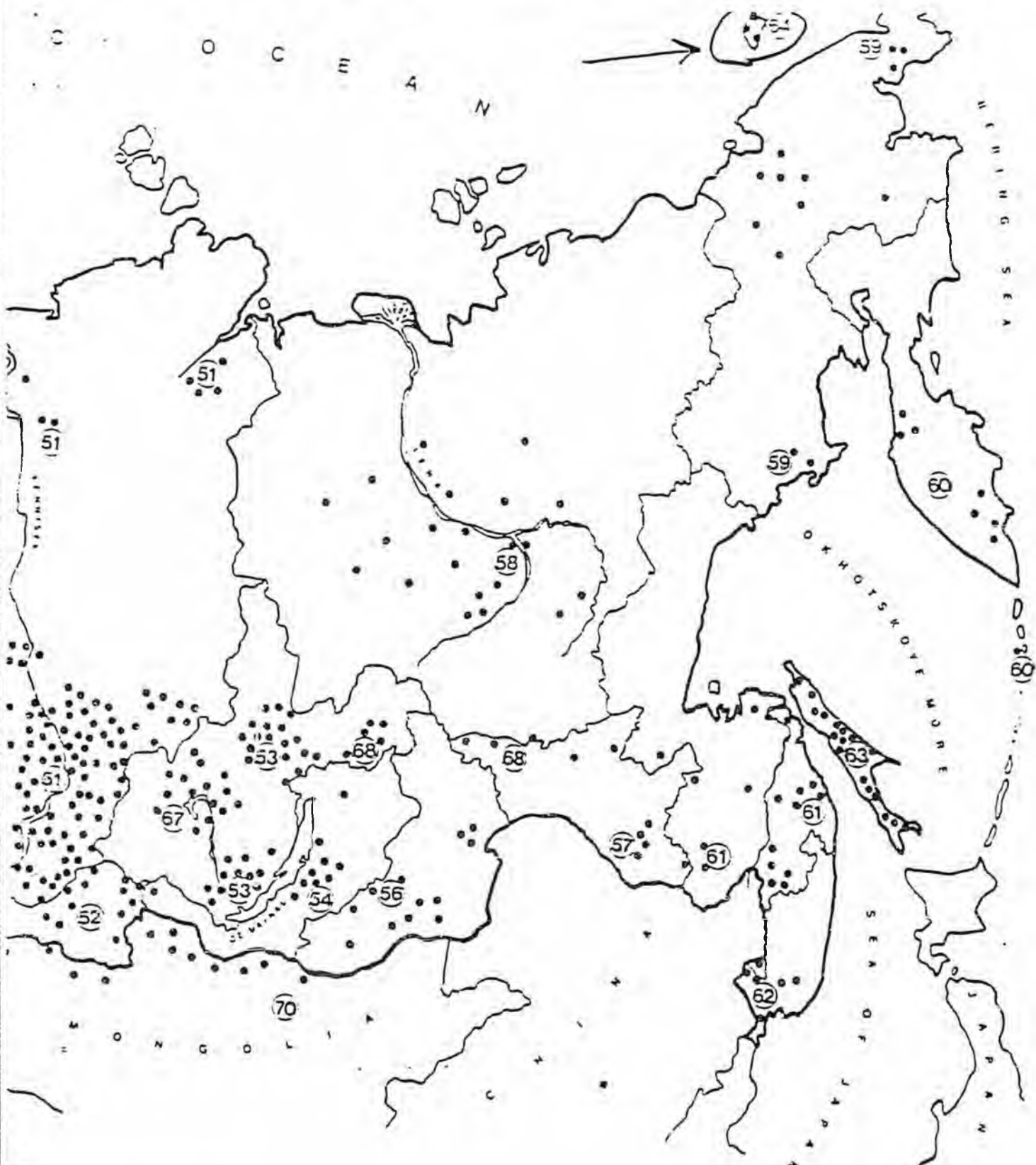
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BY AVRAHAM SHIFRIN





U.S.S.R.
Prisons and psychiatric prisons

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| 42 RSFSR) | 42 Karoslavl Region (RSFSR) | 52 Tuva A S S R | 62 Primorsk Territory |
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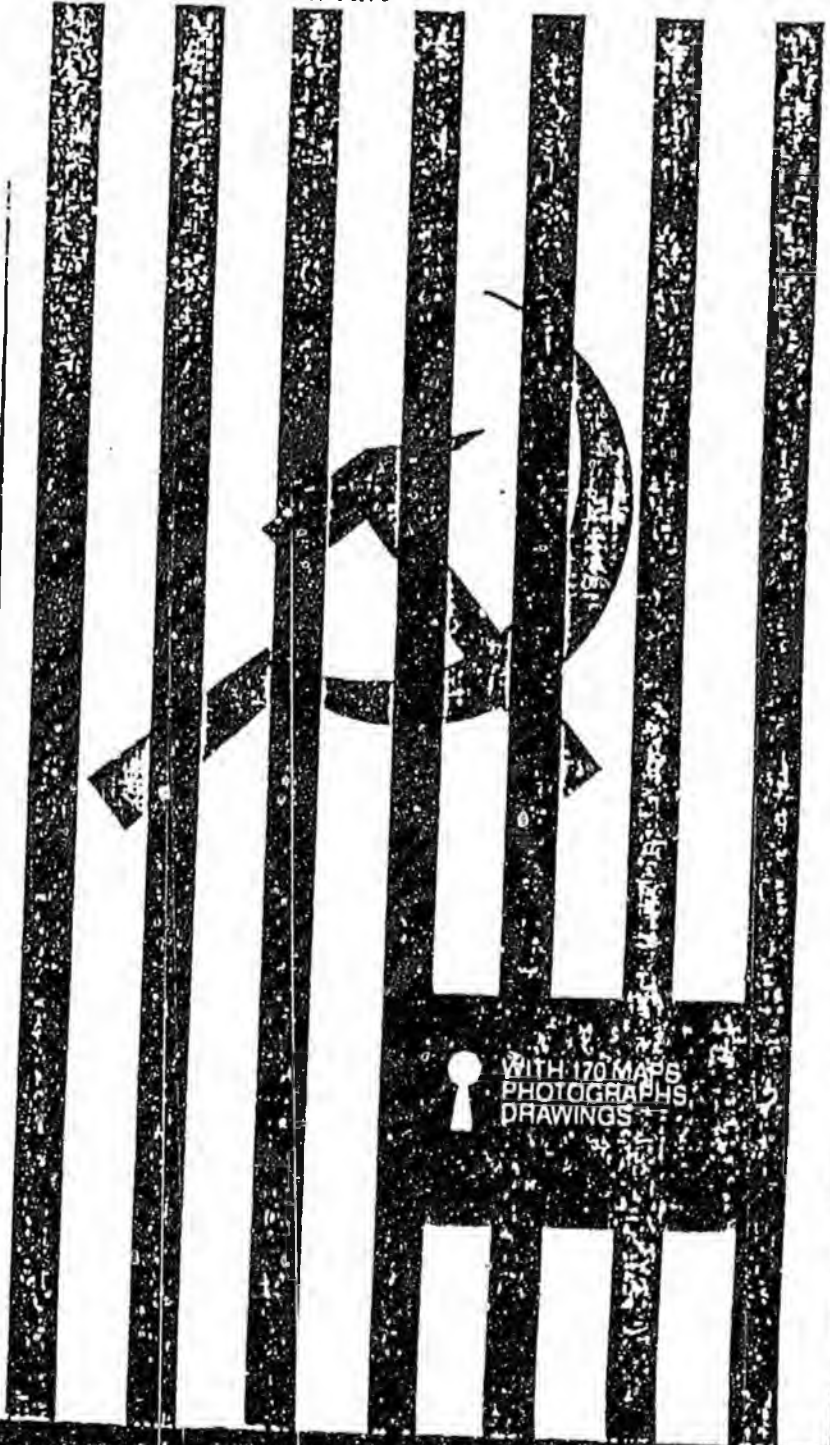


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BY AVRAHAM SHIFRIN



well as those of the prison, contain watchtowers (No. 18) for armed guards. Returning to the prison proper, we see the prison warehouse (No. 12) and the morgue (No. 11).

From this morgue, the corpses of prisoners are given to students in the medical institutes. Prior to delivery, however, the corpses are decapitated to prevent their being recognized.

No. 14 represents the small courtyards of the prison. The inmates are permitted to take a 30-minute walk every day in the small walled-off, roofless pathways around the facility. No. 13 indicates overhead connecting corridors used for transferring prisoners.

The final section of the prison, in the upper right corner of the diagram, is the work brigade area (No. 15) and the gates entering it (No. 16). In the same area, is the workers' prison building (No. 8). The two sections in the upper left of the diagram are far from the least important in the Vladimir prison: they house the Officer's School of the M.V.D. and its dormitory (No. 17).

The prison in Vladimir is reputed to be the strictest political isolation facility under the administration of the K.G.B. Inmates here are often not able to find out who is locked up in the neighboring cell.

The walls of this facility have come to know the tragic fate of many people. One of the most tragic cases here has been that of Raoul Wallenberg, the former Swedish diplomat. Kidnapped by the Communists in Budapest 35 years ago, this completely innocent human being, who rescued many Hungarian Jews at the end of World War II, has since been held prisoner in the camps and prisons of the Soviet Union.

Our Research Center has been able to trace Wallenberg's secret journey through the Soviet penal system. Soviet authorities have made two official statements on the case thus far; "Soviet authorities know nothing of the fate of Raoul Wallenberg" and "Raoul Wallenberg died in a K.G.B. prison in 1947".

We have found a number of witnesses, former political prisoners from the Soviet Union, who could name a series of camps and prisons in which Raoul Wallenberg was confined: on Vrangal' (Wrangell) Island; in a secret camp for foreigners in Zabalka, a prison in Verkhneuralsk, and the prison in Vladimir. We can confirm that Wallenberg was in building no. 4, cell no. 23. And he may still be there today.

The list of former inmates in Vladimir prison also includes Francis Gary Powers, the American pilot, and Vasilli Stalin, a son of the late Soviet dictator. More

recent inmates of the facility have included *Bukovski*, *Shcharanskii*, and other well-known political prisoners.

A.V., an eyewitness, describes life in this horrible prison: "Upon arriving in 1970, we were told by the prison authorities that we would first be put into quarantine. This meant living on starvation rations in a cell without mattresses, blankets, pillows, and without personal possessions or books. We were subsequently placed under strict regime for six months. The first of these six months was spent under isolation-cell conditions (approximately 800 calories).



The famous Swedish diplomat that saved thousands of Jews in WWII. He is an honorary American citizen.

Nadezhda Shumuk was arrested in 1978 for supporting Ukrainian independence. Her husband, D. Shumuk, and her brother, I. Svetichny, were also arrested. Her small son, N. Shumuk, was taken away from her upon her arrest. His fate is unknown.

but now occupied by the Soviet Union; part of *Sakhalin* Region)

Last but not least, the mascot of the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow 1980, Mishka himself, is a product of prisoner labor.

THE KIDNAPPING OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, was stationed in Hungary at the end of World War II. He successfully organized a whole series of measures that rescued the lives of Hungarian Jews. Thousands of Jews owe him their lives.

Soviet troops, however, soon entered Hungary. On 17 January, 1945, Wallenberg was summoned to the military headquarters of the Soviet army. In violation of international law, he was arrested, secretly taken into the Soviet Union, and incarcerated in *Lubyanka Prison* in Moscow. (See photograph of *Lubyanka* in this *Guidebook*).

In response to all queries of the Swedish government, the Soviet Union disclaimed any knowledge of the matter. In 1958, however, after having repeatedly been confronted with conclusive evidence that organs of the Soviet secret police had kidnapped Wallenberg, the Soviet government officially released a statement that "Raoul Wallenberg died in a Moscow prison in 1947"

After their return from several years' imprisonment in Soviet labor camps, many former German prisoners of war reported having seen Wallenberg in the Soviet Union after 1947.

E. *Moshinskii*, whom I met in Israel in 1972, was imprisoned in a camp on *Vranghel' (Wranget)* Island, where he saw Wallenberg in 1962. Inquiries in Israel led to A. *Kalinskii*, who testifies that he saw Wallenberg in *Vladimir* prison in 1959.*

Wallenberg was also seen in Soviet camps by former prisoners from Hungary and Rumania between 1950 and 1960.

Yan *Kaplan*, an eyewitness, saw Wallenberg by chance in the hospital of Moscow's *Butyrka* Prison (see

*See the earlier discussion of this on page 240

entered Budapest. (The Swedish Government addressed a whole series of inquiries to the Soviet Government *re* the fate of Wallenberg, but the Soviet Government always took the stand that it knew absolutely nothing about what happened to Wallenberg—this, in the face of eye-witness reports that Wallenberg was last seen being marched off under Red Army escort.)

Both the Israeli resident and the prisoners whom Shifrin met in Camp No. 7 before his release, told him that the POW's on Wrangel Island were used for medical experiments, some involving the effects of radiation on the human body, others involving the effects of prolonged submersion at great depths. (NOTE: A translation of this statement appears in the Appendix to Part 2, P. 127. The Israeli citizen who submitted it asks that his name not be made public because he still has family in the Soviet Union. His real name has been given in confidence to the subcommittee.)

Stalin's plan for the liquidation of the Jews

From prisoners whom he met in the Tayshet complex, Shifrin heard a bizarre story about Stalin's plan to liquidate the Jews. The prisoners told him that in 1952 (a time which coincides with the peak of the anti-Jewish terror) they had been sent to the Lake Baikal area to help construct a railroad spur. The spur ran from the main line of the TransSiberian railroad for a distance of two or three kilometers to the shore of the lake—to be more exact, to the edge of a vertical cliff several hundred feet high that overlooked the lake.

The prisoners worked overtime every day, seven days a week, on the project—and as a bonus for their special efforts they were told that each day of their labor would be counted as ten days of their term. For the three months that they worked on the railroad, therefore, they were credited with having served thirty months of their terms.

Because the railroad had no conceivable justification, the prisoners asked the officers in charge why they were building a railroad that led to the edge of a cliff. The officers explained to them that Stalin wanted the railroad completed in a hurry because he planned to announce the forcible deportation of all Soviet Jews to the already aborted "Jewish Soviet Republic" of Birobidjan. But, under the Stalin plan the Jews would never get as far as Birobidjan. The railway spur to the cliff overlooking Lake Baikal was being built so that the Jews could be liquidated without the trouble of building crematoria. (Lake Baikal at that point was many thousands of feet deep).

Shifrin was skeptical about the story at the time. But in the course of his travels around the Soviet Union in 1966-67 he made it a point to visit the point south of Lake Baikal which the prisoners had described; and, sure enough, the railroad spur was there terminating on the top of a cliff several hundred feet high. Everything was as the prisoners had described it, except that the roadbed was now overgrown with weeds and the rails were badly rusted.

Political, religious, and national resistance in the Soviet Union

Numerous underground groups and movements are springing up all over the Soviet Union. Many hundreds of freedom fighters have been arrested, and sent to jails and concentration camps for up to 15 years. The civil rights movement in the Soviet Union goes back to before the Hungarian revolution of 1956. Among the early heroes of this

resistance, Shifrin notes particularly the names of Eduard Kuznetsov, Ilya Bokstein, Igor Avdeev, Viktor Khaustov, and Yuri Osipov. They began their resistance with the public readings of poetry in Mayakovskiy Square. First they read the poems of Mayakowsky. Then they began to read some of their own poetry that contained criticisms of the Soviet regime. Then Bokstein one day climbed up on the statues of Mayakowsky and delivered a passionate oration against Soviet tyranny. A battle ensued with the secret police, and scores of those who took part in the demonstration were arrested and imprisoned.

Since that time there have been many similar public protests in the Soviet Union—some of them inspired by the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution, some of them inspired by the desire for more freedom and hatred of the regime of oppression, some of them inspired at least in part by the recurring food shortages. In every case the answer of the regime has been more arrests and more repression. Over the past 16 or 17 years in the Soviet Union there have been riots and even major clashes in a whole series of Soviet cities, including Ryazan, Timyr Tau, Krasnodar, Vladivostok, and Novocherkask. Only half a year ago there was a major riot in which many people were killed in the city of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, on the river Dnieper.

Intellectuals like Galanskov and Ginzburg tried during this period to publish an underground magazine. The *Samizdat* movement became nationwide—thousands of people participating in the laborious copying of documents of opposition. The *Chronicle of Current Events*, chief of the *Samizdat* publications, began to come out on a regular basis—and despite frantic efforts on the part of the regime it continues to come out until this day. A Jewish underground chronicle, *Exodus*, also began to appear on a regular basis. Entire books, like Marchenko's "My Testimony," were circulated in *Samizdat* form.

There were many casualties in this unrelenting battle for freedom—men and women whose names are justly honored throughout the world. Among the best known of these martyrs for freedom were Sinyavsky and Daniel, Pavl Litvinov, General Grigorenko, Anatoli Marchenko, Victor Krasin, and Victor Feinberg. All of these men are still in prison.

One of the principal heroes of the Soviet resistance to whom Shifrin wants to call attention is Vladimir Bukovsky, with whom he spent some time in prison.

Bukovsky was one of the initiators of the Russian democratic opposition. Out of 30 years of his life, 9 were spent in psychiatric prisons and concentration camps. In January 1972 he was sentenced to a total of 12 years for having sent to the West a collection of documents concerning the confinement of healthy dissenters to special psychiatric institutions. [These documents together with other materials were released by this subcommittee on December 4, 1972.]

Igor Ogurtsov, Mikhail Sado, Yevgeni Vagin, and Boris Averochkin, leaders of the *All-Russian Social-Christian Union for the Liberation of the People*, and some sixty of their followers were arrested in Leningrad, Tomsk, Irkutsk, Petrozavodsk, and other cities, because their patriotic appeal for the revival of Russia's spiritual and religious values did not fit into the pattern of the Communist-sponsored policy of "Russification."

The officer sat and watched Shifrin read this with a smirk on his face. He had contrived the entire situation for the satisfaction he derived from watching Shifrin's torment!

A few months later, the sadistic captain permitted Shifrin's mother to visit him—the first visit she had been permitted in eight years. When she came to Potma, the captain harangued her for several hours, telling her that her son was a criminal, that he had been a principal instigator of prison riots and uprisings, and that he would remain in prison until the end of his life. After this lengthy cheerful preface, he permitted Shifrin's mother to meet with him for four hours.

When Shifrin finally saw his mother, she was so upset and broken that virtually the entire four hours she begged him to be good and not to get into trouble. Shifrin tried to explain to his mother that the captain was a sadist who enjoyed tormenting people. But she was too frightened to listen. When she returned to Moscow she had a stroke, was in a coma for several months, and then died.

Concentration Camp No. 7

In February 1963, Shifrin was moved from prison Camp No. 10 to Camp No. 7, which was also in the Potma "Dubravlag," or complex, at a distance of 20 to 25 kms. from No. 10.

Concentration Camp No. 7 had a very strict regime, but here people lived in barracks rather than in cells. Shifrin was initially placed in an invalid barrack, which housed about 400 prisoners. The prisoners in this camp worked in a plant where they made furniture, including cabinets for TV and radio.

In this, Shifrin's last year in the camps, the camp regime became stricter from day to day. The rules governing meetings with relatives became constantly more arduous. There were frequent searches—body searches and barracks searches. When the guards went through the barracks, the prisoners were required to stand outside, sometimes for hours on end.

Returnees to the Soviet Union

In Camp No. 7 Shifrin met a number of one-time refugees from Communism, who had lived in France and Germany and other countries, and who had been foolish enough to believe the propaganda campaign which the Soviet regime had addressed to expatriates all over the world. When the expatriates returned to their "motherland," the press made a tremendous noise about them. But they carried the virus of foreign exposure, and, not very surprisingly, some months after their return quite a number of them found themselves sentenced to 10 years in the concentration camps. In this category, Shifrin recalls the names of Golub and Ponomarenko.

The Translation of Exodus

It was during his stay in Camp No. 7 that Shifrin translated Leon Uris' book, *Exodus* into Russian—a version which was subsequently widely circulated in the Soviet Union via numerous hand-typed *Samizdat* copies. A paperback copy of *Exodus* had been smuggled into the camp. As he read it, Shifrin would translate portions of it aloud to groups of Jewish prisoners. One day he decided to make a written translation. This was an enormously complicated and risky operation. Simply to get the paper on which to write, he had to enlist the aid of all the Jewish prisoners, and many non-Jewish pris-

oners. They brought him sheets of paper, one at a time, or two at a time. Although they all knew that Shifrin was working on something big, no one betrayed him. When the translation was completed, Shifrin decided to make one copy in a hurry—so that there would be a backup copy if anything happened to the original. He divided the translation between 30 prisoners, 20-30 pages per prisoner, and, working together they completed the second copy in very short order. Again, no one betrayed him.

When Shifrin was released on June 6, 1963 (he was informed shortly before his release that his sentence had been reduced from 25 years to 10 years) he was able to smuggle one of the two copies of the translation out of the camp in his baggage. A typewritten copy was subsequently made by a sympathetic non-Jewish girl in Odessa—and this became the beginning of the round-robin *Samizdat* copying operation on a national scale.

Among the signed statements which Shifrin has submitted for the record is one from a fellow-veteran of Camp No. 7 who worked on the translation of *Exodus* with Shifrin. (See Appendix to Part 2, P. 111)

FOREIGN POWS IN SOVIET CONCENTRATION CAMPS

From '53 to '56 Shifrin met many thousands of POWs of all nationalities—Germans, Italians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, etc.—scattered through most of the camps in which he was detained. In '55, 10 years after the war ended, there began large-scale repatriation of POWs—at least of those who had survived. By the end of 1956 the process of repatriation appeared to have been completed, or almost completed. Shifrin no longer met POWs in the long list of camps through which he moved. However, in 1962, 17 years after the war ended, he did encounter a group of some dozen Belgian officer POWs who, he believed, were finally released as a result of the intervention of the Belgian queen on visit to Moscow.

Some weeks before Shifrin's release in June of 1963, some new prisoners arrived in Camp No. 7 who told Shifrin that they had come there from a camp on Wrangel Island—one of the northernmost and bleakest outposts of Soviet territory. Shifrin was surprised at this, because he had not previously heard of a camp as far north as Wrangel Island. The prisoners said that they had served for five years on Wrangel Island, in a special detachment which brought food to three concentration camps in which lived only "fascist generals" and other high-ranking foreign officers. When Shifrin said that all POWs had been repatriated in 1956, they persisted in their statement that high-ranking foreign officers, POWs from 1945, were still on Wrangel Island.

Shifrin was not disposed to believe this at the time, but recently he has had confirmation from another source. He has received a statement from a recent immigrant to Israel, a former concentration camp inmate, who reported that he was interned on Wrangel Island until 1962; that there he met many former POWs, Italian, German, Spanish; that there he also met R. Trushnovich, the NTS leader [NTS is Russian anti-communist organization] who was kidnapped from West Germany in 1951, and Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who was credited with saving many thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation by the Nazis, and who disappeared when the Red Army

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes. And when I rest in this cell after this interrogation, also they brought me to Kabulov, Lieutenant General Kabulov, 1st adviser of Beria, and he told me:

You see, I permit to you rest because I see that you are not a person which can push to something with this way. I permit you to rest. Now speak with me openly, because I have in my arsenal such things that you cannot know about. You will talk. Now, it is the best way to tell you, because if another way, you could see what it would mean.

And I answered: "I have nothing to tell." And it was at night, 12 o'clock in the night—they always interrogate in the nights—and he shouted, "Bring him to special cell!" and they put me in Lefortovo in underground cell. It was—I do not remember now how many steps it has, but it was very many staircases underground. And it was a corridor with only nine cells. And in this corridor, I was put in the cell with the No. 3. It was a high cell, but only maybe a meter and half wide, in a square.

Senator GURNEY. Was this in the same prison?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, in Lefortovo prison.

Senator GURNEY. This was after you were transferred—

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, from Lubyanka to Lefortovo.

Senator GURNEY. All right.

Mr. SHIFRIN. And when I came to the cell, I was astonished because I stepped in mud, watery mud. It was not deep, maybe 15 centimeters deep only, 10 or 15, but you stay in the mud, in water. And all their walls were moldy, and you cannot lie in this cell. You have not bunk, you have not chair. And I was there 28 days in standing position.

Senator GURNEY. There was nothing in the cell at all except you?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Nothing absolutely. After 12—maybe 12, maybe 14 days—I sat in this mud, because it was impossible. My legs was like numbers.

Senator GURNEY. They were all swollen?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, because it is impossible to stand. And all the day, I asked the chief of the prison to come to me. Why I know exactly 28? Because I make stripes on this green mold. When they give me this piece of bread and glass of water, it is one day for me, because once in the day, such a piece of bread and one glass of water in the morning and in the evening. And that was my calendar on the wall, and with bread.

When the chief came to me and asked me why I asked him to see him, I asked only one question; where is the order of my arrest? And he answered me: I will tell it to the investigators; and he went out.

It was 28 days. Then they released me from this cell and put me in the simple cell in the same Lefortovo prison. And only after 6 months, after a court-martial when they sentenced me to death, I have known that in this day, when they permit me to go to the ordinary cell from this mud, they arrested Beria, Kabulov, Vladimirsky and the other. All these generals were arrested together with Beria.

Senator GURNEY. These are the ones that interrogated you?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, they were arrested and killed.

Senator GURNEY. Why was that?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Why? Ask the Soviet Government. They always kill all these interrogators. Always, they change them. They shot Beria

with thousands of interrogators; they shot Yezhov and Yagoda—they were ministers of the KGB.

Senator GURNEY. This was the purge after Stalin's death?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yagoda and Yezhov were before Stalin's death, but Communists can't change. They was in the days of Stalin this way, they are now this way. And they shot Beria because they knew that in another situation, Beria would shoot all government. It is only battle inside government. You have here elections; they have the KGB. That is the difference.

Senator GURNEY. You mean they purge their ranks periodically?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, if they want change, they send to KGB not with elections, but with arrests. It is another way of democracy—"Communist democracy."

Mr. SOURVINE. Who shot Beria, if you know?

Mr. SHIFRIN. I do not know this secret, who shot Beria. The Communist government shot Beria and all these generals of Beria. Now we have other killers in the head of this KGB and they put in the prisons other millions of people.

I have here only a little part of prisoners photos. Those are people which are now in the prisons which were arrested in 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972, and some of them died in the prisons.

Galanskov, Talantov—

Senator GURNEY. These are pictures of whom?

Mr. SHIFRIN. These are new prisoners; I show you new photos.

This woman, Ekaterina Zaritzkaya—they released this woman after 25 years' imprisonment. Her husband, Mikhail Soroka, was with me. He died in prison after 23 years and she was released in December of 1972, after 25 years imprisonment.

This man, Galanskov, died in December 1972 in concentration camp in Potma.

Senator GURNEY. Are these pictures of new political prisoners in the last few years?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes. This is photo of man who on the island of Wrangel met Dr. Trushnovich, one of leaders of Russian underground NTS.

This man, Talantov, died in prison now, he was theologian, a Christian theologian.

That is General Grigorenko. Now he is in a mental prison asylum, because he is dissident.

And that is only a little part of photographs. This is Anatoli Marchonko. Maybe you know his book about prisons and concentration camps.

Senator GURNEY. Are these important people in government?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Some of them. Some of them like General Grigorenko, he was very important. He was a head of cybernetics department in the War Academy of Officers in the U.S.S.R. in Moscow.

Senator GURNEY. How do you know about the imprisonment of these particular people?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Because all these people are my friends. I know them personally.

Senator GURNEY. You know each one of them?

Mr. SHIFRIN. I know each one of them personally. I can tell their biographies to you, I met them many times.

signature and I cannot go to another place. But I was in a little special position, because I said that it was "prisoner land." In Karaganda it was maybe a million people living, and 800,000 former prisoners. And that is why they permit a prisoner sometimes to be in a high position. After prison I was their chief legal adviser in the industry of coal mining. And that is why they permitted me to go to another part of the country when I must go with my business, with my work. That is why I was not there only in one place.

Mr. SOURVINE. Mr. Shifrin, just one question. You say you went down there in Kazakhstan and you were free. You were free to go wherever you wanted to go, if you did not leave your cage. That is right, is it not?

Mr. SHIFRIN. No, I was not absolutely free. All former prisoners in exile, they are not free. They must live in one place, or one village.

Mr. SOURVINE. That is what I wanted to get clear.

Mr. SHIFRIN. But I was a little more free because of my position. I also was not free because when I made a special trip to another part of the country, always two KGB came to me in my back, secret service. They came with me.

Senator GURNEY. And you were not free to do what you wanted to, you had to do the work that they assigned to you?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes, but they gave me good work in my education. It was very good for me.

Senator GURNEY. And you could only move around at their orders to perform your particular position?

Mr. SHIFRIN. Yes.

Now maybe you would hear these parts of the letters—not all the letters, but parts of the letters, because I cannot tell only my words. You can hear these words of prisoners also. Permit me, please, to have Mr. Boldyreff read them for me.

Mr. BOLDYREFF. Here is a statement of Alexander Krimgold, who now resides in Israel.

In July 1971, I had occasion to visit Potma while escorting Nina Krasnova, the wife of Anatoll Altman, who had been sentenced in prison during the Leningrad trial. A narrow gauge railroad, on both sides of which like so many boils lie scattered the terrible labor camps of Mordovia. This railroad runs deep into the forest from the main junction. Potma is a fearful place which readily evokes Nazi concentration camps—barbed-wire fences, watch towers, dogs set in pursuit of people. These camps are the worthy heirs of Hitler's and Stalin's work.

Senator GURNEY. What date is that?

Mr. BOLDYREFF. This is July 1971. He describes the condition when he says about these boils, describing Potma, the area that Mr. Shifrin has shown first.

Senator GURNEY. If you will just excuse me for a moment, for the purposes of the record, all letters will be received in evidence, but the chairman will make a determination later what letters will be printed in the written record.

(The letters referred to may be found in the appendix, Part 2, p. 107.)

Senator GURNEY. Also for the purposes of the record, all of the maps that have been referred to so far this morning will also be received in evidence and will be printed in the record.

Mr. SOURVINE. May I make a suggestion, Mr. Chairman. It might be, since these maps are being printed in color, that the maps should be

reduced to line drawings in black and white for printing in the record. I also note that the witness has submitted a list of Soviet concentration camps. I wish to suggest that this list be printed in the record.

Senator GURNEY. Yes, that may be done.

(The prison map of Moscow is on p. 41. The other maps referred to may be found on pp. 2 and 3. The list of Soviet concentration camps will be found in the appendix Part 2, p. 105.)

Mr. SHIFRIN. Now another letter.

Mr. BOLDYREFF. This is a letter of December 1972 from Reyza Palatnik. She arrived on the 21st of December 1972 to Israel. She gives her deposition. She said, "This is a womens' camp. The camps were located in a swamp, indicative of special care and concern for women."

She got out herself on December 1, 1972.

A continuously semleold and hungry existence. No medical service. Grippe and quinsy were not considered illness. One had to lose consciousness to be allowed off for a day. Only the prison uniform was allowed—in summer a cotton dress, in winter the same dress and a padded jacket which provided no warmth. The camp had approximately 1,100 persons despite the fact that it was designed for only 700. The result, terribly crowded conditions. I was intentionally placed in the venereal disease ward. Hot water for laundry and bathing was available only once in 10 days. The food—garbage. Pigs are fed better by good masters.

Now, there is a third testimony here. The writer of the following statement could not sign his real name because he still has close relatives in Russia. However, Shifrin knows him and could supply his name confidentially to the subcommittee. Now, he writes here: He was **arrested and located** in Wrangel Island. This is the little island there at the very top, over in the Arctic.

I was arrested again in 1958, thrown into prison, and without any trial, sent to autonomous republic, and from there to the Island of Wrangel, where I remained until 1962. At the camp I made the acquaintance of a former physician, Vasily Ivanovich Polakov, Colonel, of Vlassov Army, a larger number of SS and Gestapo Germans and many Italians, who had long been declared dead but who are actually still living on Wrangel in the Belopolyar'ye.

There follows a list of 17 German and Italian names.

Now I quote further:

The camp of Wrangel Island was an experimental camp where experiments were conducted on living people. The experiments were in the form of injections, diets, oxygen tests on people who were long declared dead but were alive at that time—1962—and were working very hard in the camp. There was also Raoul Wallenberg who was [Swedish] consul in Budapest during the War and who under the German occupation, aided by money, helped Jews escape from Hungary through Switzerland into other countries. When the Soviets entered Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg was immediately arrested at the order of the Commandant of Budapest and sent by special train to Moscow. He was then 27 years old and was a handsome, educated young man.

I think that is enough.

Mr. SHIFRIN. Can I continue?

Senator GURNEY. Yes.

Mr. SHIFRIN. Also my experience about these concentration camps in the U.S.S.R. I can prove with my other trip. After exile, I made a trip in this line. You can see this trip on the map of U.S.S.R. which I made—you see this line to Chita. I made this trip because I was too long in one place and also because I want to see my friends. I have thousands of friends all over the world from concentration camps. I have also many in Hawaii and I have in Japan also, and here also in the

Alaska fears U.S. giveaway of oil reserve Soviets covet

By Bill Kling
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Some Alaskan state legislators fear the United States may be about to settle a long-standing boundary dispute with the Soviet Union by ceding to the Russians a potentially petroleum-rich stretch of the Bering Sea.

Because the area is somewhat removed from Alaska's shores, the issue has not yet attracted wide attention from many Alaska public officials, most of whom are focusing right now on oil development and environmental concerns of their state's Bristol Bay.

But Roger Jenkins, a Republican state representative from Anchorage, has the support of 16 of his fellow Alaska House members as co-sponsors of his pending resolution protesting any giveaway of what they contend is U.S. territory.

With underwater oil exploration of the outer continental shelf a hot political item here, the lawmakers are concerned about the possible deal, which could involve five islands they claim really belong to Alaska, as well as hundreds of thousands of miles of surrounding seabeds.

At the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors just concluded here, former Alaska Gov. Jay Hammond concurred that the issue could be an important one, "but right now we have no idea what the oil resources are in that area."

Gerry O'Connor, an Anchorage assemblyman, said Bristol Bay oil development is the dominant factor here right now, and Chip Dennerlein, Anchorage's director of intergovernmental affairs, said Mr. Jenkins' efforts are generating the first information many Alaskans have heard on the issue.

At issue in negotiations already under way between the two superpowers is a part of the off-shore Navarin Basin oil and gas lease area, including Wrangell Island, which the Soviets wrested by force from Nome-based

merchants in 1924, sending 14 Americans to Siberia. The island is believed to be the site of Soviet slave labor camps as well as military installations targeted on the United States.

The boundary is in dispute because of differences in the way the United States and the U.S.S.R. interpret the 1867 convention under which the United States bought Alaska from Russia. The United States believes the boundary is described in the convention as a great circle while the Soviets contend it should follow a constant compass bearing.

Negotiations over the boundary began in earnest last July when a State Department team journeyed to Moscow for talks the Associated Press said were "seen by diplomatic observers as another in a series of steps taken in recent days by the Reagan administration to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union."

Other islands in the negotiations begun several years ago between the United States and the Soviets are Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette, which were discovered after the Alaska purchase, and Herald, which was discovered by Great Britain in 1849 and later ceded to the United States.

Wrangell Island was discovered in 1881 by a landing party that included the famed explorer, John Muir.

Four energy companies have deposited more than \$21 million with the Interior Department on their bid of \$108 million to lease sections of the Navarin Basin for oil and gas exploration.

Mr. Jenkins, in an interview, said he hopes to generate enough interest in the issue "to win approval of our resolution in the next session of the Legislature next year."

Since the issue arose last year, opposition to ceding the territory to the Soviets has been expressed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Military Order of the World Wars and the Young Americans for Freedom. The Conservative Caucus has sought to spread information about it.

26 July 1984

THE NOME NUGGET, T

Soviet boundary talks begin

WASHINGTON (AP) - A team of American diplomats began negotiations in Moscow Monday over the boundary between the two nations in the Bering Sea.

The exact line is in dispute because of differences in the way each country interprets the language of the 1867 convention under which the United States bought Alaska from Russia.

The boundary was described in the articles of the convention but no maps were attached. The United States believes the line is described by a great circle while the Soviet Union says it should follow a constant compass bearing.

The long-standing but generally dormant dispute was brought to the public's attention earlier this year when the U.S. held an oil and gas lease

sale which included tracts in the disputed area.

Although most oil companies stayed away from the area known as the Navarin Basin, a consortium of Shell and AMOCO offered \$100 million dollars for 18 tracts there. The government said before the sale it won't allow any exploration until it is determined who owns the ocean floor.

Although the federal government may decide at any time not to lease the disputed area, the companies won't be able to withdraw their bids or get their money back, with interest, for five years.

The decision to open the talks is seen by diplomatic observers as another in a series of steps taken in recent days by the Reagan administration to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

Group claims Navarin, Wrangell are American

An Anti-communist group based near Washington D.C. has accused the State Department of planning to give away U.S. territory to the Soviet Union.

Stockholders for World Freedom has declared its opposition to any settlement which would recognize the 1867 Convention Line as the official boundary between the two nations.

At issue is a part of the Navarin Basin lease area, as well as five disputed islands west of the line, including Wrangell Island which was taken from Nome-based merchants by the Soviets in 1924.

Carl Olson, founder and president of Stockholders for World Freedom, said the convention line was never intended as a national boundary. The 1867 convention simply states that the Russian government was selling its rights in territory east of the line to America, he said.

Olson called for a boundary line either 200 miles off the coast of St. Matthew Island which would include all of the Navarin Basin, or equidistant

between American and Soviet land.

He also called for the U.S. to reassert its claim to Wrangell Island and four other islands in the Arctic Ocean west of the convention line.

The Lomen Brothers Company the Nome-based reindeer herding and mercantile firm, had in the spring of 1924 bought a camp on Wrangell Island, off the northern coast of Siberia, from a Canadian enterprise. The United States and the Soviet Union both claimed the island.

In August of that year, the Red Army landed on Wrangell Island and confiscated the camp transferring its occupants to Siberia and later releasing them.

Olson said the U.S. has never abandoned its claim to Wrangell and the other four islands.

Claiming State Department in Secret Negotiations . . .

Groups Oppose Giving Soviets Wrangel, Four Other Islands

18,000 Square Miles Area Said Rich in Oil and Fishery Resources



Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel, center, talks with Roger Parry, of the Alaska Miners Association, left, and Borough Mayor Bill Allen shortly before speaking at a breakfast meeting Monday at Tarewell Inn.

\$108 Million Placed In Escrow, Lease Fees For Disputed Area

By Tom Snapp
Editor

The national organizations, the Conservative Caucus Foundation, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Military Order of the World War, along with seventeen members of the Alaska House of Representatives are urging the U.S. State Department to take a strong stand regarding the U.S.-Soviet Union boundary dispute involving an 18,000 square mile area in the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea considered rich in oil and fishery resources.

The area includes five islands, Wrangel, Bennett, Herald, Henrietta and Jeanette.

The groups claim the U.S. State Department has been in secret negotiations with the Soviet Union for years and has already made concessions to the Soviet Union, including use of the 2,000-square-mile Wrangel Island.

The groups, which claim the U.S. owns the area in question, vehemently opposes giving any of it to the Soviet Union and instead is calling on Congress to hold hearings to investigate the activities of the State Department.

On May 12 this year, seventeen members of the Alaska House of Representatives introduced a resolution, House Joint Resolution 53, on the subject. While the resolution did not pass this session and was left stranded at the end of the legislative session in the House Resources Committee, reportedly it will be revived at the beginning of next year's session.

The resolution explains the background of the dispute this way:

"The Navarin Basin oil and gas lease sale in April 1984 resulted in total accepted bids of \$631,200,000, of which \$108,174,000 was for an area claimed by the Soviet Union.

"The winning bidders for the 17 tracts in the area claimed by the Soviet Union not only are precluded from exploring for oil and gas in these valuable seabed areas, but their bid deposit money is being held in a suspense account

—Continued on page 3

Man, 19, Girl, 14, Charged With Killing Three Elderly Alaskans

A 14-year-old Anchorage girl and her 19-year-old boyfriend, Cornell Boyd, also of Anchorage, were arrested this week on charges of murdering three elderly Alaskans on April 22.

The pair, who have also been charged with a string of Anchorage burglaries, are charged with killing plumbing supply businessman Tom Faccio, 69, his wife, Ann Faccio, 70, and Ann's sister Emeline Elliott, 76. They were found in their East Anchorage home the morning of April 23. All three had been shot through the head, execution-style.

The case which baffled police for quite some time was finally broken when Boyd and the girl were identified through the CrimeStoppers program

which at the time was offering a \$50,000 reward.

Court papers describe the young pair as having been living together for two months, crashing in vacant rooms and apartments, and buying food and drugs from the loot of their burglaries.

Both Boyd and the girl have been seen frequently at a state owned housing project near Chester Creek and C Street. Boyd's family still lives there. The girl is listed as a runaway and her parents have moved away.

On May 30 police nabbed the pair in the process of burglarizing two apartments at 907 W 27th Avenue. The girl was captured at the scene but Boyd made his escape.

The girl was taken to police headquarters where she was in the midst of giving a taped confession of participating with Boyd in a series of burglaries dating back to February when Boyd called the station to find out what was happening to her.

Police kept Boyd on the line long enough until the call could be traced to the Sears Mall. Police moved in to arrest him but Boyd spotted them and eluded them in a one-hour chase across town. He was arrested the next day on seven burglary charges and two theft of weapon charges.

Assistant District Attorney Stephen Branchflower said more burglary charges — perhaps as many as seven — will be lodged against the pair.

Giving Soviets . . .

—Continued from page 1
by the U.S. Department of the Interior and a yielding only the U.S. Treasury rate of return.

There are hundreds of American jobs at stake at the drilling sites and at industry support sites.

"The question of territorial jurisdiction also has implications for bottom fishery operations for America's fishermen."

"The normal depiction of lines on the globe are by the arc of a great circle, especially when they involve great distances in the open ocean, such as the 1867 Convention Line marking the boundary between the United States and Russia."

"The U.S. Department of State's International Boundary Study No. 14 ('U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867'), which was published in 1965, depicted the 1867 Convention Line by arcs of a great circle."

"Discussions have been conducted between the U.S. Department of State and the Soviet Government over this issue since 1981, with the latest round being held in Moscow on July 23 and 24, 1984, with the American delegation led by Davis R. Robinson, the Legal Advisor of the U.S. Department of State.

"Article IV, Sec. 3 of the United States Constitution provides that 'The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.'

"The Westernmost limit to the oil and gas leasing program of the U.S. Department of Interior for the Outer Continental Shelf in the Bering Sea has been set by the U.S. Department of State in the U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867.

"The leasing program involving the 1867 Convention Line in the Bering Sea includes the Norton Basin and the Norton Basin; there are highly significant oil and gas deposits estimated by the U.S. Department of Interior in three basins; and these potential hydrocarbon energy deposits are a vital part of the future energy production for the United States and as a goal of energy independence.

"The leasing schedule for sales of oil and gas includes the Norton Basin in April last year and March 1986, the St. George Basin in May, this year, and April 1987, and the Norton Basin in December of this year.

"The area is estimated to contain about 100,000 tons of sustainable yield pebbles that is presently being leased exclusively by foreign fishing fleets."

"During the announcement of the Norton Basin's April 1984 sale, the U.S. Department of Interior revealed that the Soviet Union was demanding part of the Outer Continental Shelf in the Norton Basin and that the U.S. Department of State was requiring that the proposed oil and gas lease areas in the area claimed by the Soviet Government be held in abeyance, that is, the bids received and retained but the leases not awarded until the matter is resolved.

"The Federal Register announcement described the dispute as follows:

"The differing claims relate to differing depictions of the line established by the 1867 Convention Ceding Alaska between the United States and Russia. The United States depicts the 1867 Convention Line as the maritime boundary by arcs of a great circle while the Soviet Union depicts the 1867 Convention Line as a straight line."

"The area of the Outer Continental Shelf demanded by the Soviet Union between the arc-of-a-great-circle and the rhumb-line depictions in the Bering Sea amounts to about 18,000 square miles."

In their resolution, legislators urge the U.S. Department of State "not to yield to the demands of the Soviet Union" and urge it to adopt a firm stance and aggressively pursue a resolution of the dispute favorable to the interests of the government and the people of the United States.

In a resolution adopted by the 94th Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution in April this year, one resolution claimed:

"The Soviet Union is now occupying Wrangel Island, without the consent of Congress, and the existence of a special maritime training facility has been discovered on United States Territory."

"The United States is also considering transfer to the Soviet Union of the outer Outer Continental Shelf in the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean, which contains some 15,400 square miles of petroleum-rich seabeds with an estimated four to twenty-five billion barrels of oil in addition to vast deposits of heavy metals."

In a resolution passed by the Military Order of the World War in January of this year, it claimed the "Arctic Alaska Islands of Wrangel, Bennett, Henrietta and Jennette were discovered and claimed in the name of the United States, under international law during the period of 1879-1881 and the island of Herald was discovered and claimed in the

name of Orvel Braun in 1849 and subsequently ceded to the United States."

The resolution claims the Soviet Union invaded the island of Wrangel, taking all Americans prisoner in 1924 and confiscating all property real and personal in violation of international law.

The U.S. State Department, it says, as late as 1973 made the unequivocal statement "The United States has not relinquished its claims to Wrangel Island." But it says the U.S. State Department has been conducting secret negotiations with the Soviet Union, without participation of the Department of Interior, Energy, or Defense, since at least 1981 on surrender of the sovereignty. And it adds that the Constitution of the U.S. provides that only the Congress by treaty, signed by the President and debated and ratified by the Senate, may surrender American real estate and seabeds.

The State Department is close-mouthed about Wrangel Island. Scott Hoppa, who has been involved in discussions with the Soviets for many years over the dispute, says information about the talks is classified.

The three islands, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jennette, were discovered and claimed for the United States by Navy Commander George Washington DeLong in an 1879-1881 expedition to which a monument still stands at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The three islands are still known as the DeLong Islands.

In 1881 an American flag was raised over Wrangel Island by the U.S. Revenue Marine, but no claim of ownership was made. In 1911, the Russians first visited Wrangel and erected a beacon. In 1921, Canadian explorer Vilhelmine Stefansson tried to colonize the island but that venture ended in disaster, when most of the members died. In 1923, Stefansson tried again but this time the Russians removed the colonists from the island. Neither the U.S. or Canada asserted a claim of ownership, but Stefansson said "whatever interest he had in the island to the Lomen Brothers of Nome."

Mark Seltenberg, a resident of Alexandria, Va., in 1976 arranged with Ralph Lomen, one of the Lomen Brothers that claimed to be owners of the island, to trade a square foot of Alaskan land he had acquired near Anchorage for 33,000 acres on Wrangel so he could challenge the Soviet presence there.

"The U.S. Claim to Wrangel Island," study done for the State Department in 1976, says the island was first sighted by American captain Thomas DeLong in 1867, the year the

United States purchased Alaska. Another American, Calvin Hooper, landed on the island and claimed it for the U.S. in 1881, according to the study.

In the mid-70s, the executor of Mildred Lomen's will filed a claim with the State Department regarding Wrangel Island. The executor was told that U.S. Soviet scientific studies taking place at the time on Wrangel Island involved much ocean and migratory birds and did not affect ownership.

The studies consisted from an agreement, the Protocol of Anchorage, signed September 19, 1974 by the United States and the Soviets.

On August 27, 1974 the U.S. and U.S.S.R. met in Moscow to write up the proposed protocol, which if approved would grant Russia formal use of Wrangel Island without going to the U.S. Congress, with only approval by the Department of State.

At 10:30 p.m. September 19, 1974 at the Westward Hotel

in Anchorage, the proposed protocol was approved and signed by V. Danes and Vyacheslav Komzomarchuk for the U.S.S.R. and Ronald O. Skoug and Harold T. Johnson for the U.S. On November 24, 1974 Gerald Ford, president of the United States, at the direction of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger approved it at Vladivostok, U.S.S.R.

On December 12, 1974, in Moscow, Russian Train signed for the U.S. government a memo "In the field of environmental protection" which includes the protocol signed in Anchorage on September 19. The memo was also signed by Y. L'vov for the Russian government.

On April 14, 1976 there was a ceremony held at the Bethel Alaska airport in which Russia was given the formal use of Wrangel Island in the protocol of Anchorage, signed Sept. 19, 1974. The U.S. made a big concession. For the first time, it referred to the disputed real estate as "Soviet Island Wrangel."

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Chena Flood Control . . .

—Continued from page 2
seen 10,000 acre-feet, retained in June 1984.

The project had been operated four times previously once in 1981 and three times in 1984. The Memorial Day week end operation was the first time the Corps used the project to prevent close melt flooding. Rain caused high water in all previous operations.

The Chena's normal volume during the end of May is 1,200 cubic feet per second. The Corps estimates that the melt would

have swollen to 14,000 cfs in downtown Fairbanks if the gates had not been closed on May 25. This compares to 64,000 cfs that flooded Fairbanks in August, 1967 causing property damage worth \$85 million in 1967 dollars.

Though the 1987 flood was the worst it was not the only flood in Fairbanks history. Between 1905 and 1967, more than 14 major floods inundated the city, an average of one every four and a half years.

The Chena River Lakes

Flood Control Project is the Army Corps of Engineer's largest civil works project in Alaska. Its main features are an 11.2 mile-long Tanana River levee and drainage channels.

Except during periods of flooding, there is no pool or reservoir. When the project is activated, the flood gates in the outlet works are closed, impounding excess Chena River water in the floodway behind the dam. During high floods, water in the floodway would

—Continued on page 4

Tiny Wrangell Island embroiled in budding international tempest

by Heidi Fosner
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Washington — In 1967, when he was 20, Mark Seidenberg opened a savings account at the promotion-minded State Mutual Savings and Loan Association in Los Angeles and, like all new customers at the time, was given title to one square foot of land near Anchorage.

That tiny plot was the beginning of a long and tangled story that now finds Seidenberg accusing the State Department of illegally bowing to the Soviet takeover in 1924 of 2,600 square miles of American-owned property, Wrangell Island in the East Siberian Sea.

But the story — which goes back to the U.S. purchase of Alaska from the Russians in 1867, a century before Seidenberg opened his savings account — is far from over. The Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has become interested in Seidenberg's crusade and may hold hearings on the subject in 1985.

And there is more to the story than just one American's claim of injustice. The old Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1973 heard testimony that the Soviet Union used Wrangell Island during and after World War II as a forced labor camp. There also was testimony that long-lost Raoul Wallenberg, the war-time Swedish consul in Budapest who saved many Jews from the Nazi occupation, was incarcerated there as late as 1962.

Furthermore, the ownership of four other islands in the vicinity is at stake in secret negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union that have been going on since 1961.

The State Department will not talk much about Wrangell Island, which is 85 miles from the northeast coast of Siberia and 270 miles from Cape Lisburne. Scott Hajost, who has been involved for several years in discussion with the Soviets of the island and the whole question of the boundary between the Soviet Union and Alaska, said information about the talks is classified.

He did say he considered Seidenberg a "fringe-type person" and that the department has no time for him.

Seidenberg, 37, a resident of nearby Alexandria, Va., and himself a middle-level bureaucrat in the Agriculture Department, says of the State Department: "They're gutless and they operate under a policy of detente by appeasement."

Added a colleague, Carl Olson, chairman of something called Stockholders for World Freedom in Vienna, Va., with which Seidenberg is also associated. "The State Department is not empowered to surrender American real estate and seabeds. Only Congress has that power. It must be brought up in the form of a treaty, signed by the president, and debated and ratified by the Senate in order to receive full force of the law."

Hajost's feeling about Seidenberg may stem from Seidenberg's, and Olson's, persistent and dogged course of confrontation with the department.

Seidenberg is a subscriber to Stockholders for World Freedom. He is also the vice chairman of the American Sovereignty Task Force, with Olson as chairman. And Seidenberg is vice chairman of State Department Watch, with Olson as chairman. The Task Force and State Department Watch have the same nine people as participants. Seidenberg is also a member of Americans for a Sound Foreign Policy in Washington. All of these groups, located in the Washington metropolitan area, are hostile to the State Department.

Seidenberg and Olson, who also lives in Alexandria, get some agreement in their crusade for Wrangell Island from an aide to Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee.

"It would certainly be worth holding hearings on," the aide said. "I would think there would have to be a treaty. There is a senatorial role and responsibility when American real estate and resources are involved. . . . The (U.S.-Soviet) negotiations follow a consistent pattern of the State Department over the last 30 years. They seem intent on giving things to the Soviets."

The same aide, who asked not to be identified, said the subcommittee staff was already researching Wrangell Island and the U.S.-Soviet boundary negotiations. Seidenberg said at one point that Helms had promised hearings would be held, but the aide denied that and Seidenberg said subsequently that Helms had only urged him to "keep up the good work."

Meanwhile, Seidenberg has a June 23, 1978, letter from the State Department, signed by M. James Wilkinson, deputy director of the Office of Soviet Affairs, that says:

"The United States has never had occasion to formally recognize Soviet ownership of Wrangell Island. The United States, however, has long since adopted the practice of dealing with the authorities in de facto control of territory, and we do not consider that recent scientific cooperative activities with the Soviet Union with respect to Wrangell Island necessarily import any recognition of legal status."

Seidenberg's attention was first drawn to Wrangell Island by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee's 1973 hearings into forced labor.

"The camp on Wrangell Island was an experimental camp where experiments were conducted on living people," said one witness named "Koslov." "The experiments were in the form of injections, diets, oxygen tests on people who were long declared dead but were alive at that time — 1962 — and were working very hard in the camp. There was also Raoul Wallenberg who was (Swedish)

Soviets may have used Wrangell Island as forced labor camp

consul in Budapest during the war and who under the German occupation, aided by money, helped Jews escape from Hungary through Switzerland into other countries. When the Soviets entered Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg was immediately arrested at the order of the Commandant of Budapest and sent by special train to Moscow. He was then 27 years old and was a handsome, educated young man."

The State Department's office of Soviet affairs wrote Seidenberg that it couldn't verify that testimony by "Koslov," later identified as E. Moshinskii, who claimed to be an ex-prisoner on Wrangell Island and who now lives in Israel. Moshinskii said he had testified under the "Koslov" name because he had relatives in Moscow who he feared would be persecuted.

Avraham Shifrin, the leading expert on Soviet labor camps, corroborated Moshinskii's testimony to the subcommittee. He said the Soviets held Italian, French, Spanish and German prisoners-of-war on the island and used them for "atomic medical experiments."

Shifrin's book, "The first Guidebook to Prisons and Concentration Camps of the Soviet Union," reported that Moshinskii had access to some of the records of the Wrangell Island camp. Moshinskii's list of Italian prisoners on Wrangell matched some names on a list of prisoners maintained by Italy.

Seidenberg said he received an anonymous telephone call from a State Department employee the year after the subcommittee hearings. He said the caller told him that the Soviet Union, which took over the uninhabited island in 1924 with its gunboat Red October, wanted to discuss the status of Wrangell with the United States. The first talks were Aug. 27, 1974, and led to the secret negotiations that began seven years later.

Seidenberg said that when he asked about the talks, the State Department denied they were occurring. He said the Soviets responded to his inquiry by telling him the subject of the talks.

The chief result of the negotiations to date is an agreement (which the State Department confirms) to use as a U.S.-Soviet boundary in the area the "convention line" that was established in 1867, at the time of the Alaska purchase, to set a boundary between the two nations.

If that line becomes a permanent boundary — and there is some debate over how to establish the line — then the claimants to Wrangell will lose to the Russians. The United States would stand to lose more than Wrangell. It would lose any claim to the nearby islands of Herald, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette, all west of the convention line, and some huge seabeds extending from the Aleutian Islands through the Bering Strait and north to the Eastern Siberian and Chukchi Seas that reportedly is rich in oil reserves.

There is some evidence that Olson and, to some extent, Seidenberg are more interested in the oil potential of the seabeds — which Olson says contain 25 billion barrels of oil — than they are in Wrangell.

Olson calls the "giveaway" of literally billions of barrels of America's oil reserves "a situation that makes the Panama Canal fiasco look insignificant in comparison."

Herald Island was first claimed by the British in 1849 and later acquired by the United States, according to Olson and Seidenberg. The islands Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette were discovered and claimed for the United States, by Navy Commander George Washington DeLong in an 1870 expedition to which a monument still stands at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The three islands are still known as the DeLong Islands.

Even before he became interested in Wrangell Island, Seidenberg was an adversary of the State Department. In 1973, he sued Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, unsuccessfully, for refusing to permit him and four lawyer friends to open a trading company in the South Pacific and practice law there.

The anonymous call from a State Department employee, who knew of Seidenberg because of the Kissinger suit, and the Senate hearings heightened his adversarial senses. He said his phones have been tapped and he has been under FBI surveillance since deciding to fight the department over Wrangell.

In 1976, he arranged with Ralph Lomen, last of the Lomen brothers, who claimed to be owners of the island, to trade his square foot of Alaskan land for 93,000 acres on Wrangell so that he could challenge the Soviet presence there. Two years later he sold 30 acres each to the Supreme Rabbi, Court of America, Inc., and the Jewish Survival League, Inc., organizations that are joining his fight for humanitarian reasons. The rest of the island ostensibly belongs to the estate of Mildred Lomen, Ralph's widow.

A contract study, "The U.S. Claim to Wrangell Island," done for the State Department in 1977 says the island was first sighted by an American captain, Thomas Long, in 1867 — the year the United States purchased Alaska. Another American, Calvin Hooper, landed on the island and claimed it for the United States in 1881. More than 40 years later, a Canadian, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, organized a company to live on Wrangell in an attempt to assert British sovereignty there. In 1900 he sold whatever interest he had in the island to the Lomen brothers, American citizens.

In the mid-1970s, the executor of Mildred Lomen's will filed a claim with the State Department about Wrangell. Like Seidenberg, who filed a similar claim, he was told that U.S.-Soviet scientific studies taking place then on Wrangell Island involving musk oxen and migratory birds did not affect its ownership.

The scientific studies stemmed from the Protocol of Anchorage that was signed Sept. 19, 1974, by the United States and the Soviets. In that document, the United States referred to the "Soviet Island Wrangell," the first time such a U.S. concession was made.

Seidenberg makes no bones about the fact that he thinks the concession is permanent.

Wrangell Island: Chronology of a Polar Panama

by Mark Seidenberg

At the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) national convention in New York City on August 27, 1977, a resolution was passed by nearly 500 delegates requesting President Carter to close down three forced-labor concentration camps operated by the Soviet KGB (Committee of State Security), and a special camp for the training of foreign espionage agents operated by the VKR (Organization for Counter-Infiltration) on Wrangell Island, Alaska.

Wrangell Island, Alaska is a large island in the Arctic Ocean about 270 miles northwest of Cape Lisburne. It was discovered by Captain Thomas Long of the New London, Connecticut whaler 'NILE' and named by him in honor of Admiral Baron Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangell, IRN, on 14 August 1867. In 1877, the U.S. Department of War transferred jurisdiction of Alaska to the U.S. Treasury Department. Treasury administered Alaska until Congress passed the Alaskan Organic Act in 1884. The Secretary of Treasury placed the duty of administering Alaska in the U.S. Revenue-Marine (known since 28 January 1915 as the U.S. Coast Guard).

In 1880, Captain Calvin L. Hooper was placed in charge of the Bering Sea Patrol, which made him the de facto governor of Alaska. Captain Hooper USRM with a party from the USRM Steamer 'THOMAS CORWIN' landed on Wrangell Island on 12 August 1881 and took formal possession in the name of the United States Government based on the right of discovery by the American Barque 'NILE' in 1867. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Service then placed this newly annexed island in the district of Alaska. The official survey of the island was carried out by the crew of the U.S.S. 'JOHN RODGERS' between 26 August and 13 September 1881.

Between 1881 and 1910 the island was used only by the American whalers and hunters of walrus. On 8 September 1889 the U.S.S. Thetis went to Wrangell Island to reinforce the U.S. claim of sovereignty. In 1910 the ship 'Adler' of Nome, Alaska with a motion picture company from Hollywood landed on Wrangell Island to make a movie about a polar bear hunt and left an U.S. ensign standing when they finished.

In the summer of 1911, the Imperial Russian Steamer 'Vaigatch' under the command of Konstantin V. Loman made the first Russian landing on Wrangell Island. They anchored at the Bay of Kolchak only long enough to establish the astronomical position of the landing place.

In 1913 the National Geographic Society was planning to finance an expedition in Arctic to look for Harris Land (like Baron Wrangell 90 years prior, Dr. Rollin A. Harris in 1911 hypothesized the existence of Peringia to explain his theory of tidal movements in the Arctic) in the Beaufort Sea. Sir Robert L. Borden did not want U.S. Citizens to find and claim new lands in the Arctic north of Canada for the U.S. Government, because of the past conflicts with Otto Sverdrup of Norway and Adolphus W. Greely of the

United States. Therefore, the Canadian Government offered to finance the expedition if it was headed by a Canadian and under a British flag. The Canadian Government placed the expedition under the command of famous Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson. The flag ship of the expedition was to be a whaling ship 'KAR-

LUK' under the command of Captain Robert A. (Bob) Bartlett, a citizen of the United States, who commanded the U.S.S. 'ROOSEVELT' for the Peary & Henson expedition to the North Pole in 1909.



On 26 July 1913 the 'KARLUK' departed Port Clarence, B.C. for Herschel Island. By mid-September the 'KARLUK' was caught in the Arctic Ice Pack far short of its goal. Stefansson departed his ship to go hunting for fresh meat. Before he could return, a strong gale came up and caused the ship to drift.

On January 11, 1914, the 'KARLUK' sank in the ice pack north of Wrangell Island. The survivors began a two month track south towards Wrangell on foot over the polar ice cap. On 12 March they landed at Icy Spit, Wrangell Island. The island was their home until removed by the ship 'KING & WINGE' of Seattle, Washington engaged in hunting of walrus. Bartlett walked across the ice pack to Siberia with an Eskimo crew member to find a ship that would go to the island and remove the rest of his crew. On September 7, 1914, the 'KING & WINGE', transferred the 'KARLUK' party to the U.S. Revenue Cutter 'BEAR', the ship that Captain Bartlett was aboard. The 'BEAR' was on its way to Wrangell to remove Bartlett's crew off the island, but was 75 miles from the island when it met up with the 'KING & WINGE'.

By 1920, Stefansson became worried that the new Soviet state on orders from Moscow might try to take Wrangell Island for herself. On September 15, 1921 the 'SILVER WAVE' of Nome, Alaska arrived at Wrangell Island and raised the U.S. Flag again over the island. Unknown to the crew of the 'SILVER WAVE', a passenger named Allen Crawford took formal possession of Wrangell Island in the name of the Stefansson Arctic Expedition of 1921, based on the occupation of the island by the survivors of the brigantine 'KARLUK' from March 12, 1914 to September 7, 1914.

On April 1, 1924 Stefansson sold Wrangell Island to the Lomen Bros. Company of Nome, Alaska. Then on May 13, 1924 Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes declared that the Lomen Bros. were the owners of the island.

On August 20, 1924 the Soviet gun boat 'KRASNI OKTYABR' armed with six pound cannon and Soviet soldiers landed at Wrangell Island and kidnapped Mr. Charles Wells, manager of the Lomen Bros. Company, and 13 American Es-

On February 18, 1930, U.S. Navy General William DeWitt Mitchell acknowledged that the Lomen Bros. Company was the owner of Wrangell Island, Alaska and that the Soviet occupation was in violation of international law.

In 1939 the Department of the Navy was planning to build a naval air station on Wrangell Island (in order to protect the Philippines from an attack from Japan, since Wrangell Island lies on the great circle route between Washington, D.C. and Manila), but Secretary of State Hull did not want to bring up the dispute with the U.S.S.R. at that time, so the idea was tabled.

On February 1-2, 1973, the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Laws of the Committee of the Judiciary, U.S. Senate discovered that the Soviets were already operating a special KGB camp for the training of foreign espionage agents, as well as having established three concentration camp zones for torturing Soviet political prisoners on Wrangell Island.

On August 27, 1974 at a meeting in Moscow, U.S.S.R., the U.S. and U.S.S.R. wrote up a proposed Protocol which if approved by the Department of State would grant the Soviet Union the formal use of Wrangell Island, Alaska without going to the U.S. Congress for its approval.

On September 19, 1974 at 10:30 p.m. in the Westward Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska the approved Protocol was signed by V. Denisov & Vytautas Kontrimavichus for the U.S.S.R. and Ronald O. Skoog & Harold T. Jorgenson for the U.S.A.

On November 24, 1974 at Vladivostok, U.S.S.R. President Gerald Ford in the direction of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger approved the above Protocol.

On December 12, 1974 at a meeting in Moscow, U.S.S.R. Mr. Russell Train signed for the U.S. Government a memorandum "in the field of environmental protection" which included the Protocol of Anchorage of September 19, 1974. This memorandum was also signed by Y. Izrael for the government of the U.S.S.R.

On April 14, 1975 in a transfer ceremony at the Bethel, Alaska airport, the formal use of Wrangell Island was given to the U.S.S.R. by the United States Government.

Incredible as it seems, the United States government has sanctioned the forcible takeover of American territory by Soviet Communists! This outrage further justifies the skepticism most Americans have over State Department assurances about American rights in Panama. If the government won't stand up for our rights, we as citizens must protest loudly enough to give our leaders some backbone. If you want to help, contact California Young Americans for Freedom, 1250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 101, Los Angeles 90017, or call them at (213) 492-822.



Are Russians buying back Alaska from U.S. secretly?

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NOVEMBER 9, 1984

The Story Of Five Islands EDITORIAL

You probably have never heard of five little islands with the funny names of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette. But they and the waters that surround them could be important to you. There is a serious question as to whether they will end up being American — or be part of the Soviet Union.

The issue began before four of the islands were discovered. It was in 1867 that the United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. Though that has turned out to be a tremendous bargain, at the time it was ridiculed by many Americans who opposed the action of Secretary of State William H. Seward, calling Alaska "Seward's Folly" and "Seward's Icebox." Of course, over the years that huge land that was to become an American state has yielded more valuable furs, gold, other products and now oil than Mr. Seward could ever have dreamed. And just think how we would feel if we hadn't bought Alaska and it were a part of the Soviet Union today!

The question involving the five islands and the waters around them arises from the original "U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867." It's explained this way: "The wording of the Convention is rather precise. The principal question left unsolved is whether the lines between fixed points should cartographically be expressed as 'rhumb lines' or as 'great circle lines'. It was

decided that great circle lines should be understood by the convention wording as 'straight lines' on the earth . . ."

While this is obviously quite technical, the matter has boiled down to negotiations between the United States and the U.S. State Department. The Conservative Caucus Research, Analysis & Education Foundation is warning that "The State Department appears ready and willing to surrender the five strategic Alaskan islands and hundreds of thousands of square miles of oil-rich Alaskan outer continental shelf to the Soviet Union without full public debate and Senate ratification of a treaty."

Carl Olson, executive vice president of the foundation, says, "This giveaway of literally billions of barrels of America's oil reserves and Alaskan sovereign territory makes the Panama Canal fiasco look insignificant by comparison."

Wrangell Island is the largest of the five, being about the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. It was discovered and claimed by the United States in 1881. The four other islands were discovered, claimed or acquired subsequent to the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Certainly, this is a matter that does deserve extensive Senate scrutiny and general public attention to determine the appropriate U.S. position on these lands, waters and potential mineral wealth.

Sir:
To Secretary of State George Shultz:

As a proud Alaskan and a proud American, I don't want to think that your department could negotiate away five of our strategic Alaskan Arctic islands and tens of thousands of square miles of oil-rich seabeds.

Is President Reagan aware of what you are doing?

Please make public the State Department's plans for giving up our Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette and for turning over billions of barrels of probable oil reserves to the communist masters of the Soviet Union.

Your negotiations with the Soviets on this issue have been secret long enough. Now is the time to come forth and let the American people know what losses to expect.

Any deals that you try to make with the Kremlin should be in the form of a treaty so that full public debate can occur in the U.S. Senate.

To Concerned Americans:

Your immediate aid is needed to stop this one dead in its tracks.

How does the State Department think it can pull the wool over the public's eyes?

Its first strategy is to throw a veil of secrecy over the negotiations. Inquiries to the State Department

are met with cries of "top secret" and "sensitive matters" — and then a lot of bureaucratic legalese and smokescreens.

For your information, the chief negotiators of this giveaway scheme, are the State Department's legal adviser Davis Robinson, his staff members Elizabeth Verville and Scott Hajost; Robert W. Smith of the department's Office of the Geographer; and Harry Marshall and Richard T. Scully of the Bureau of Oceans and International, Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

All of these foggy bottom officials traveled to Moscow for negotiations with the Kremlin commissars during the week of July 23-27. Who knows how soon they will spring this surprise on the unsuspecting American public?

Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the international boundary study by calling the Office of the Geographer, Room 8744, State Department Building, Department of State, Washington, 25, D.C. (Telephone: Code 182, Extension 4507).

Write to your representatives and senators to get this information.

For much more important information, write: Carl Olson, 450 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia, 22180.

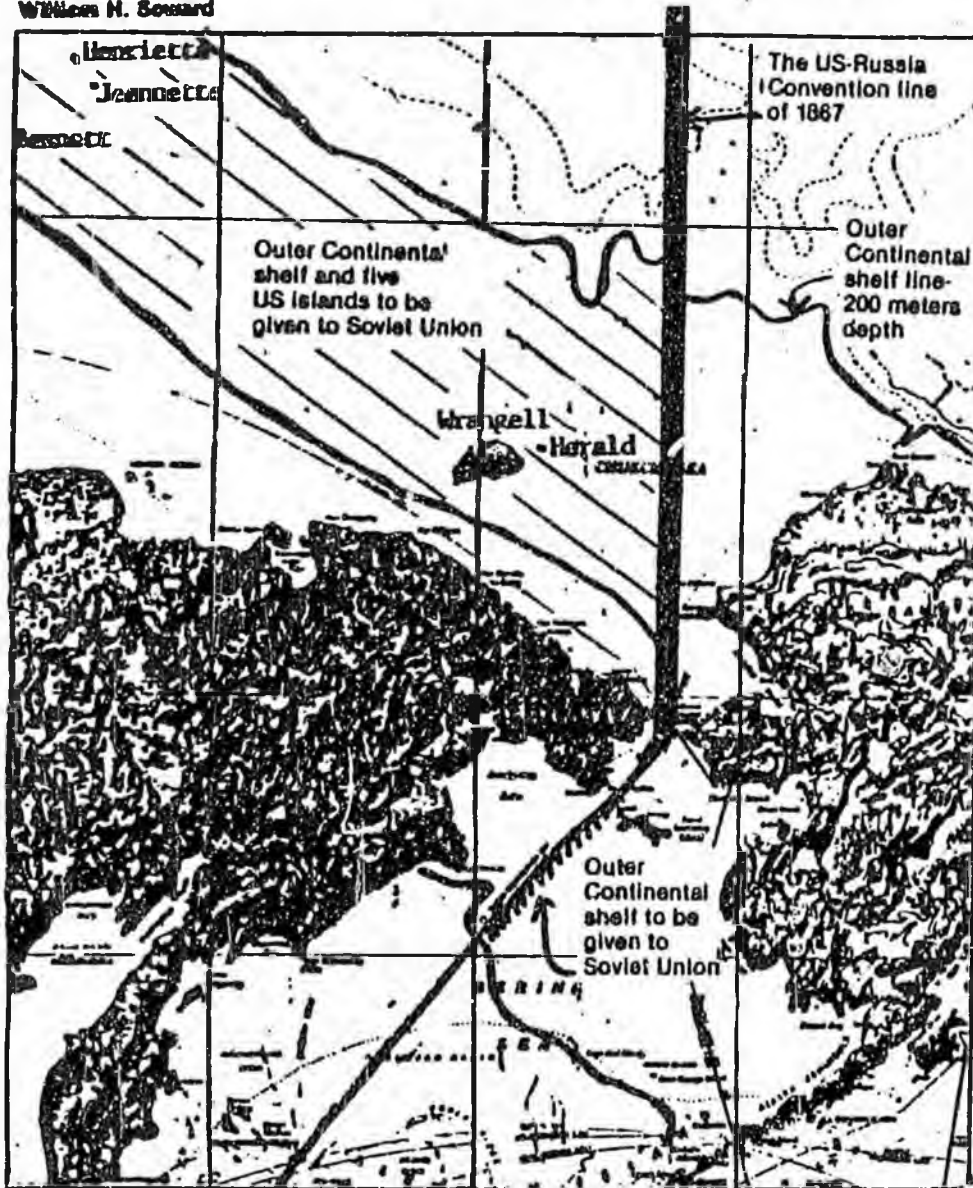
WALTER H. PAULO
Canfield



Negotiations would give rights to Soviets

State Dept. Charged With Oil Give-Away

William H. Seward



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Alaskan State Senator Don Bennett (Rep.-Fairbanks) has indicated he will seek a resolution to "protest the US State Department's plan to give to the Soviet Union five Alaskan islands and tens of thousands of square miles of oil-rich outercontinental shelf."

Spearheading an effort to alert the public to this give-away is Carl Olson, Chairman of Stockholders for World Freedom, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. "The US State Department has stone-walled. Their spokesmen refuse to give out any information. Several Senate and Congressional members have been rebuffed in their attempts to get information."

Olson was also severely critical of the failure of Alaska's Congressional delegation to respond. "The absence of any stated position whatever by Alaska's two U.S. Senators and one Congressman is especially disturbing, since their offices were contacted in July with a full account of the State Department's intentions."

State Department officials led a US

delegation to Moscow for the week of July 23 to 27 for the purpose of firming details of the give-away. "Its rationale," according to Olson, "was a new interpretation of the old 1867 US-Russian Convention Line which it decided to elevate to the status of an international boundary."

Alaska was purchased in 1867 from Russia for the price of \$7.2 million in gold. At the time, it was named "Seward's Fo'ly" after Secretary of State William H. Seward who negotiated the treaty.

According to Olson, "this position would surrender not only five Alaskan islands (Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Jeanette, and Henrietta) but it abandons the valid US claims to tens of thousands of square miles of oil-rich outercontinental shelf. At stake are billions of barrels of probable oil reserves that would go to support the Soviet war machine, losses of 100's of Alaskan jobs, and surrender of military strategic areas."

The State Department's reversal of position was revealed in the Federal Register of March 16, 1984. The position had been that the 1867 line doesn't constitute a boundary line. The five islands west of the Convention have been claimed by the United States. ■

SOVIET GIVE-AWAY is illustrated by broad vertical line which indicates the US-Russian Convention Line of 1867. Islands west of the line were claimed subsequently by the United States. Oil drilling rights would likewise be given to the Soviets east of the line off the southeastern coast of Alaska.

Why hand oil over to the Soviets?

The State Department persists in negotiations to surrender to the Soviet Union vast areas of oil-rich seabeds in the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean, territory long considered to be under U.S. sovereignty.

Why? Because "the United States never made formal claims," said a State Department spokesman. An unnamed diplomat called it "another step... by the Reagan administration to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union."

Whatever the rationalization, the fact remains that this quiet diplomacy could result in the loss of up to 25 billion barrels of oil reserves very important to national security. Even more damaging would be U.S. surrender to illegal Russian claims.

The argument centers on the interpretation of the U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867, established when the United States purchased Alaska. Contrary to historical evidence, the *American Journal of International Law*, and its own geographer, the Reagan State Department would now define this "convention line" as the international boundary between the two countries.

The "convention line," however, is not an international boundary, and in 1951 the State Department's own special adviser in geography, S. Witemore Boggs, said so in plain language: "Most lines in water areas which are defined in treaties are not boundaries between waters under the jurisdiction of the contracting parties, but a cartographic device to simplify description of the land areas involved..." (*American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 45, April 1951, p. 240).

Mr. Boggs described such a line simply as a "line of allocation" of land. Therefore, the land areas to the east of the convention line of 1867 belong to the United States; and land

areas to the west belong to the Soviet Union without regard to the water areas involved. Moreover, since this line does not constitute a state boundary, the cartographic symbol for an international boundary should never be used.

This principle was reaffirmed by the State Department Office of the Geographer's *International Boundary Study*, Oct. 1, 1965, and again by William E. Butler, professor of comparative law, University

This quiet diplomacy could result in the loss of up to 25 billion barrels of oil reserves important to national security.

of London, in 1978. "The Russo-American Convention Line of 1867 is not regarded as a state frontier, and the continental shelf boundary in the Chukchi Sea and northward remains to be negotiated."

Under quiet negotiations with Moscow in July 1984, Washington would accept the 1967 convention line as the official boundary and eventually draw it as a rhumb line instead of a great circle, thereby giving the Soviets even more oil reserves on the continental shelf. But more important, the State Department would extend this line into the Arctic Ocean as the boundary line and surrender five strategic islands that lie to the westward: Wrangel, Herald, Jeannette, Henrietta, and Bennett—all discovered and claimed for the United States long after the 1867 purchase



of Alaska from the Russians.

The largest islands, Wrangel and Herald, are in the outer continental shelf with vast petroleum potentials. Wrangel was once considered as a prime site for a U.S. air base. U.S. claims to the other three islands; some 900 miles west of Point Barrow, Alaska, resulted from the heroic Jeannette expedition of 1879-81 under Navy Lt. Commander George Washington De Long.

Documents and land records of the state of Alaska, the U.S. Navy, and the Treasury Department (Revenue Cutter Service) trace the American origins of these five islands. An international court ruling in 1959 under the International Claims Settlement Act established U.S. claims to Wrangel Island, and underscored the illegality of Soviet claims.

Thirty-five years earlier, in 1924,

Alfred J. Lomen had filed his claim against the Soviets for confiscation of his property on the island. Mr. Lomen was one of 13 Americans engaged in processing furs in the early 1920s. In 1924 the Soviets sent the gunboat *Red October*, seized the Americans and their property, and sent them to Siberia, 90 miles away. The new Soviet nation claimed the island. However, after a long delay, the court awarded compensation to the Lomen family, thereby providing yet another validation that the island is U.S. territory.

The current State Department negotiations have apparently ignored America's 200-mile economic zone, which would give the United States exclusive maritime resource jurisdiction—meaning maritime oil rights 200 miles offshore from U.S. territory. Further complicating the State Department's surrender plan is the acceptance by the Interior Department of millions of dollars in escrow funds from four U.S. oil firms binding on tracts in the disputed areas.

This scheme for appeasing the Soviet Union whose empire already spreads over one fifth of the Earth's land and controls another 10% would cede 2,900 square miles of strategic islands and oil beds four times the size of California, or 630,000 square miles of energy sources.

This cannot be done constitutionally without the consent of Congress, which alone can dispose of U.S. territory (Art. IV, Sec. 3, of the Constitution). It must not be done without full debate and disclosure.

Do the senators and representatives in Congress understand what the State Department is up to? Or have they been asked to intervene?

Border Dispute

Question: What country was the first to lose territory to Soviet aggression?

Answer: Not Finland, not even the unfortunate Baltic States, but the United States of America.

That happened on Aug. 20, 1924, when the crew of the Soviet gunboat Krasny Oktober (Red October) landed on Wrangel Island off the northeast coast of Siberia and took as prisoners the 14 American fur trappers encamped there. Twelve survivors were eventually released. Two men died in captivity. The Soviets claimed Wrangell and now operate a political prison camp on the island.

On "Face the Nation" last month, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane indicated that the Wrangell "boundary dispute" will be on the table at the Geneva summit. Some members of Congress believe the State Department wants to finally resolve the island's status—in the Soviets' favor. Resolutions demanding that any agreement be subject to congressional approval have been drafted by Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Mark Siljander.

A U.S. irredentist claim to a chilly piece of Arctic real estate might sound like small potatoes. But the congressmen figure that it doesn't make much sense to complain to the Soviets about their expansionist tendencies—as President Reagan clearly intends to do—while at the same time politely forgetting that they once grabbed some land from the U.S. itself.

The U.S. claim to Wrangell and four small nearby islands dates from 1881. A U.S. Revenue Marine (Coast Guard) party that included John Muir, the famed naturalist and founder of the Sierra Club, visited the area that year. Mr. Muir later wrote that they "landed on Wrangell Land and took possession of it in the name of the United States." A czarist explorer, Lt. Ferdinand Wrangell, ad-

mitted in his memoirs that he never actually discovered the island that bears his name. Until the Krasny Oktober showed up, there was no official Russian presence.

Several U.S. oil companies are interested in searching for oil on the continental shelf between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. When last year the Interior Department announced it would begin leasing tracts in the Arctic Ocean, the State Department warned that anyone bidding on tracts to the west of the so-called 1867 Convention Line should be aware that the area might become Soviet territory.

As recently as 1973, the State Department maintained that the U.S. had never relinquished its claims to Wrangell and the other islands, and that the "convention lines" depicted on maps *did not* constitute an international boundary. But in December 1984, after some negotiations in Moscow, the department said it had not "found any evidence that the Government of the United States has ever formally asserted a claim to any of the islands." That seems to contradict the John Muir account. It also ignores a 1959 ruling of the Foreign Claims Settlement Board that the property of the fur trappers was illegally expropriated. *Russian* maps made early in this century show the islands as American.

We've had our own doubts about irredentist claims. The further back in history you go, the greater amount of disputed acreage there is. But the Soviets themselves are among history's most aggressive irredentists. Aside from their grab of the Baltic States and their expansion of the old czarist empire westward to the Elbe and southward to Kandahar, they have border disputes with Norway, Sweden, Japan and China. Whatever the prospects for satisfaction, the U.S. should hang tough over Wrangell Island just to demonstrate its resistance to Soviet imperialism.

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WATCH
STATE DEPARTMENT

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202-546-3224

LUCE CALLS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT AND SENATE RESOLUTION
ON U.S. GIVE-WAY OF WRANGEL ISLAND TO SOVIETS

9 July 1984, Washington, DC--The United States State Department is "giving away" five Alaskan islands--including Wrangel--to the Soviet Union in an attempt "to appease the land-hungry appetites of the Kremlin military bosses," charged Phillip Abbott Luce, President of Americans for a Sound Foreign Policy, here today.

"I demand an immediate and thoroughly detailed report by the State Department before the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee or this mindless give-away of strategic and sovereign U.S. territory," said Luce, adding, "I furthermore strongly urge and respectfully request a Senate Resolution opposing this give-away and also implore all concerned citizens of the Republic to contact their respective Senators and do the same."

The State Department--eager to establish a meaningless maritime boundary in the Arctic--has offered the Soviets five islands in the states of Alaska and an additional 27,500 square miles of territory in the oil-rich Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. An agreement is expected later this year.

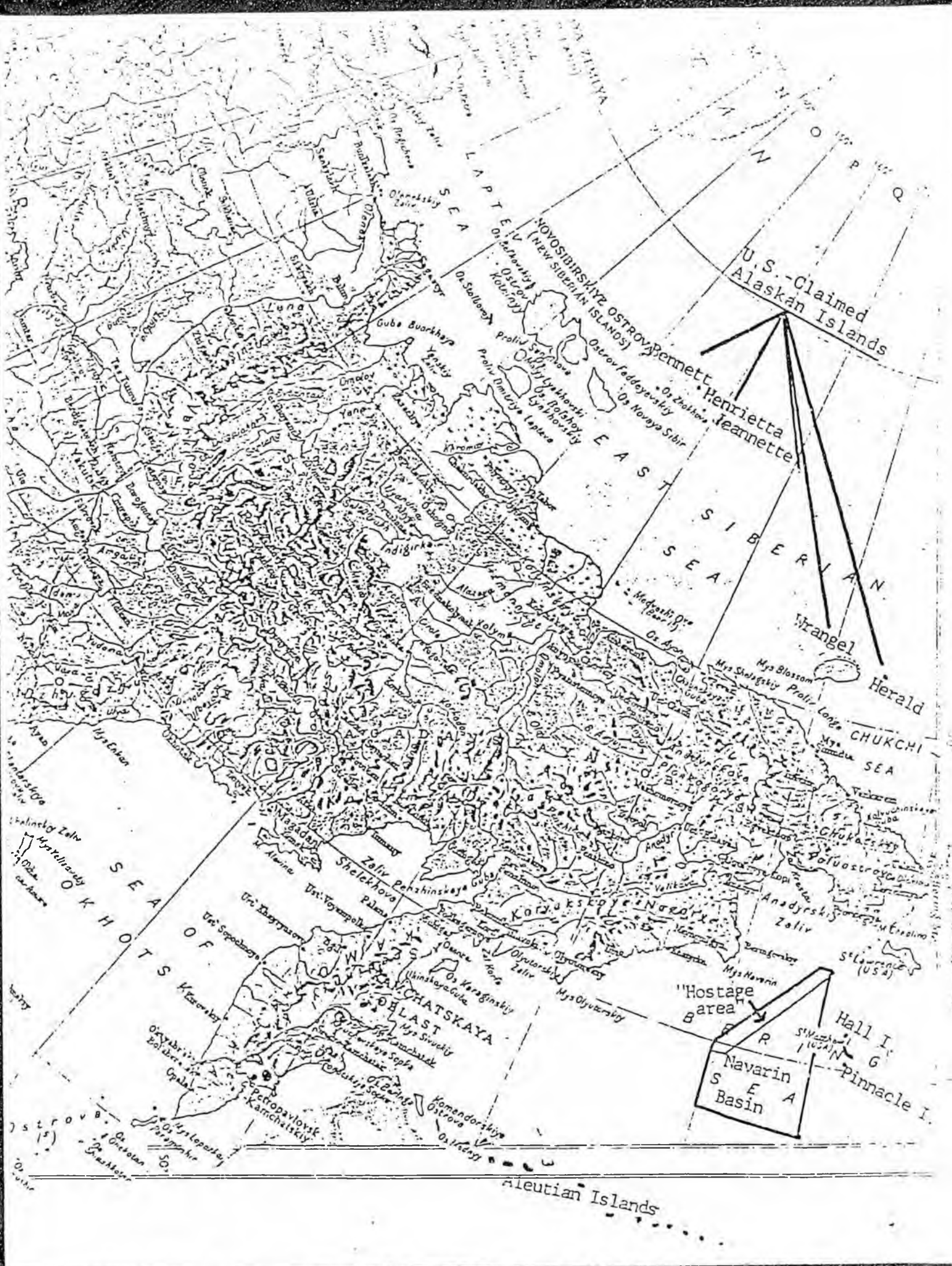
One of the islands to be divvied up--Wrangel--has been so strategically important that columnist Jack Anderson has compared its give-away to the Panama Canal treaties. Indeed, the Soviets

have already constructed submarine bases on the island. In addition, according to The First Guide to Prisons and Concentration Camps of the Soviet Union, Wrangel Island is a repudiated Gulag--or political prisoner-occupied concentration camp--where witnesses have testified that Raoul Wallenberg once was detained. (Wallenberg--a former Swedish diplomat--rescued many Hungarian Jews during WWII. The USSR has officially said that Wallenberg died in a KGB prison in 1947 but eyewitnesses say he is still alive in the Gulag, possibly still on Wrangel.)

"We will assuredly be committing the 'Suicide of the West' if we do not take a stand on this critical issue of national security and territorial sovereignty," Luce said, concluding, "The time is now for the Senate to act--before it is too late."

(Luce--a former Maoist revolutionary--is President of the 70,000-member Americans for a Sound Foreign Policy (AFSP). AFSP--founded in 1978--exists in its belief that the Soviet Union stands as the greatest threat to world peace today.)

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U.S.-Claimed
Alaskan Islands

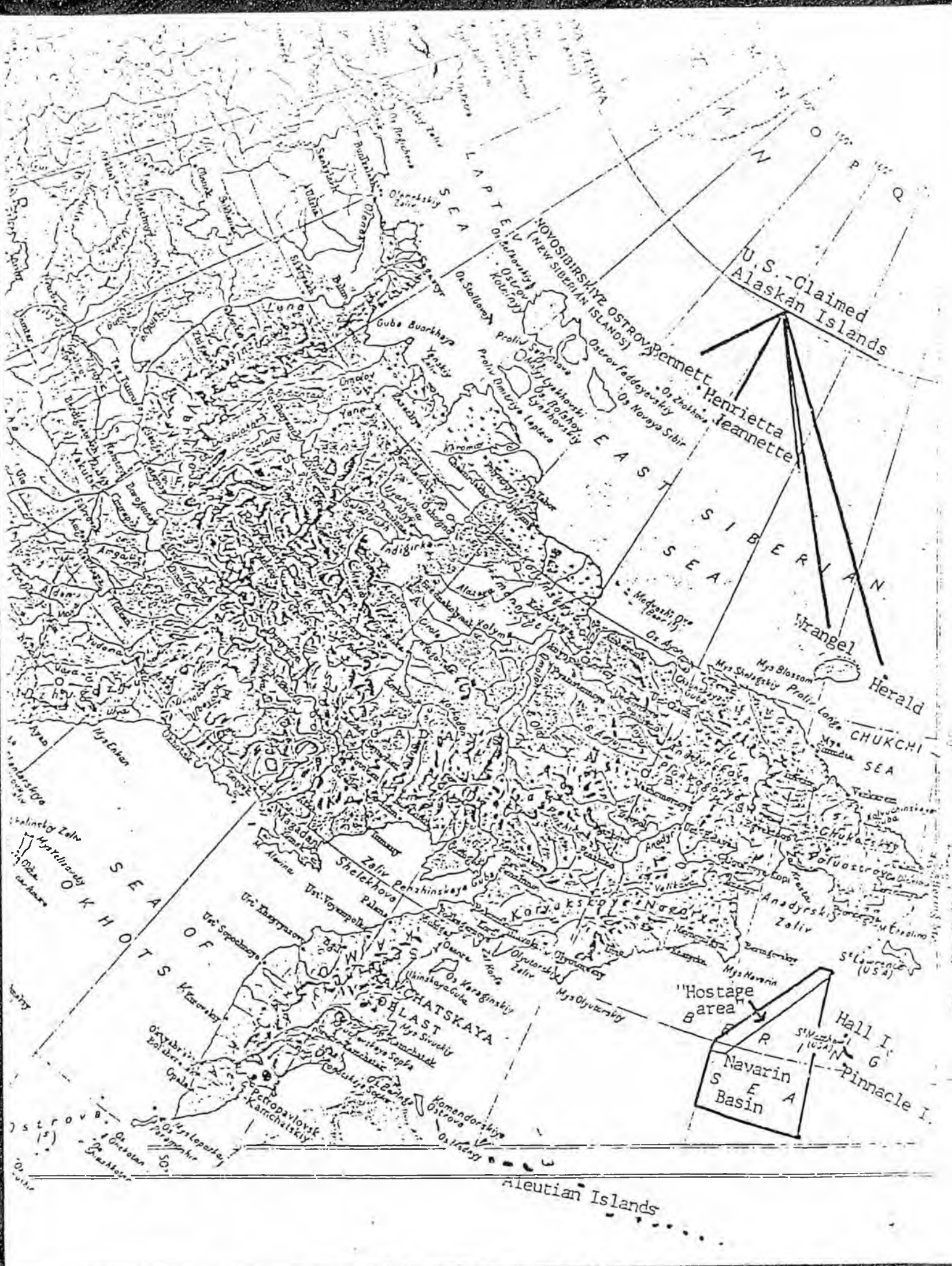
Bennett
Henrietta
Jeannette

Strangel
Herald

"Hostage
area"
Navarin
SEA
Basin

Hall I.
Pinnacle I.

Aleutian Islands



THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
435 N. Lee Street
Alexandria, VA. 22314
703-683-4911

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the Arctic Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette were discovered and claimed in the name of the United States, under international law during the period of 1879-1881; and

WHEREAS, the Arctic Alaskan island of Herald was discovered and claimed in the name of Great Britain in 1849, and subsequently ceded to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union invaded the island of Wrangell, taking all Americans prisoner in 1924 and confiscating all property, real and personal, in violation of international law; and

WHEREAS, the United States State Department, as late as 1973, made the unequivocal statement "The United States has not relinquished its claim to Wrangell Island; and

WHEREAS, these islands include the oil rich seabeds of the outer continental shelf in the Navarin Basin, estimated at 25 billion barrels of oil; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department has been conducting secret negotiations with the Soviet Union, without participation of the Departments of Interior, Energy, or Defense, since at least 1981 on surrender of this sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides that only the Congress, by treaty, signed by the President and debated and ratified by the Senate, may surrender American real estate and seabeds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Staff of the Military Order of the World Wars that its deep concern over the aforesaid action be expressed most strongly to the Congress and the Administration, and that the Congress take immediate action to hold open hearings and debate prior to implementation of any plan to give away the islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette, and the seabeds included therein.

Adopted at

1985 Midwinter General Staff Meeting
Arlington, VA. 25-26 January 1985

ADOPTED AUGUST 2, 1985

THIRTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM

DENVER, COLORADO

REPORTED BY DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE

WHEREAS, YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM HAS RESOLVED AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN NEW YORK CITY, AUGUST 1981, THAT THE SOVIETS OCCUPYING WRANGELL ISLAND, ALASKA BE REMOVED FORTHWITH AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT CEASE AND DESIST ITS PLAN TO GIVE PERMANENT CONTROL OF SAID ISLAND TO THE SOVIET UNION,

WHEREAS, IN 1981 THE STATE DEPARTMENT BEGAN MARITIME BOUNDARY NEGOTIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION OVER A ALASKAN-SIBERIAN BOUNDARY, WHICH DID NOT BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN UNTIL 1984. DURING THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFERED TO CEDE TO THE SOVIET UNION FIVE ARCTIC ISLANDS NOW PART OF THE STATE OF ALASKA AND HALF OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE UNITED STATES,

WHEREAS, IN 1973 THE GENERAL PUBLIC BECAME AWARE THAT THE KGB WAS USING WRANGELL ISLAND, ALASKA AS A PRISON CAMP FOR AMERICAN-SOVIET PRISONERS. [SOURCE: USSR LABOR CAMPS. HEARINGS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY, U.S. SENATE, 93RD CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, FEBRUARY 1 & 2, 1973. WASHINGTON, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1973]

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM CALL ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO REMOVE FROM FEDERAL OFFICE THOSE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFERING THE SOVIET UNION THE ALASKAN ISLANDS OF WRANGELL, HERALD, HENRIETTA, BENNETT, AND JEANNETTE WITH HALF OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE UNITED STATES.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE ALASKAN-SIBERIAN BOUNDARY BE BROKEN OFF FORTHWITH AND PRESIDENT REAGAN REMOVE SOVIET NATIONALS FROM THESE FIVE ALASKAN ISLANDS.

Military Order of the World Wars



435 N. Lee Street
Alexandria, VA. 22314
703-683-4911

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the Arctic Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette were discovered and claimed in the name of the United States, under international law during the period of 1879-1881; and

WHEREAS, the Arctic Alaskan island of Herald was discovered and claimed in the name of Great Britain in 1849, and subsequently ceded to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union invaded the island of Wrangell, taking all Americans prisoner in 1924 and confiscating all property, real and personal, in violation of international law; and

WHEREAS, the United States State Department, as late as 1973, made the unequivocal statement "The United States has not relinquished its claim to Wrangell Island; and

WHEREAS, these islands include the oil rich seabeds of the outer continental shelf in the Navarin Basin, estimated at 25 billion barrels of oil; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department has been conducting secret negotiations with the Soviet Union, without participation of the Departments of Interior, Energy, or Defense, since at least 1981 on surrender of this sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides that only the Congress, by treaty, signed by the President and debated and ratified by the Senate, may surrender American real estate and seabeds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Staff of the Military Order of the World Wars that its deep concern over the aforesaid action be expressed most strongly to the Congress and the Administration, and that the Congress take immediate action to hold open hearings and debate prior to implementation of any plan to giveaway the islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeanette, and the seabeds included therein.

Adopted at

1985 Midwinter General Staff Meeting
Arlington, VA. 25-26 January 1985

ALASKAN ISLAND GIVEAWAY

Whereas, The State Department, during unpublicized negotiations with the Soviet Union, is reportedly agreeing to abandon militarily strategic territory discovered and formally claimed by the United States between 1879-1881, territory located in the Arctic Ocean, including the islands of Wrangell, Bennett, Herald, Henrietta and Jeanette; and

Whereas, In 1867 the United States purchased Alaska and its adjacent islands for \$7.2 million from the Russian emperor and recognized the Demarcation or 1867 Convention Line as the maritime boundary of the great circle; and

Whereas, The purchase of Alaska did not prohibit exploration and sovereignty claims over lands lying west of the 1867 Convention Line; and

Whereas, The Soviet Union is now occupying Wrangell Island, without the consent of Congress, and the existence of a special espionage training facility has been discovered on United States Territory; and

Whereas, The United States is also considering transfer to the Soviet Union of the oil-rich Outer Continental Shelf in the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean, which contains some 15,400 square miles of petroleum-rich seabeds with an estimated four to twenty-five billion barrels of oil in addition to vast deposits of heavy metals; and

Whereas, Four of the largest United States energy corporations have submitted to the Department of the Interior bids totalling over a hundred million dollars for leases to drill in the Bering Sea; and \$21 million is in escrow pending State Department negotiations; and

Whereas, The State Department does not have the authority to surrender United States territory and seabeds because Art. 4, Sec. 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution states, "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States;" and

Whereas, Energy is an essential part of both our national defense and economic well being, and this "giveaway" would be but one more concession in our continuing appeasement of the Soviet Union, a shocking reversal of traditional United States diplomacy;

ALASKAN ISLAND GIVEAWAY (continued)

RESOLVED, That the members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, as individuals, oppose any attempt to transfer to the Soviet Union any territory of the United States in the Arctic Ocean and in the Bering Sea and stress the threat posed to our national sovereignty through the loss of five strategic islands and the Outer Continental Shelf with its oil and mineral resources;

RESOLVED, That members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, as individuals, urge Congress to hold hearings to fully explore and explain the activities of the State Department including the negotiations to transfer property in the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Sea.

FUND FOR
STOCKOWNERS
RIGHTS

8.

THE STOCKOWNERS' NEWS

Post Office Box 956
Vienna, Virginia 22180-0956
United States of America
703-281-9050

Issue Number 4
December 1984
Contact: Carl Olson

Giveaway of Alaskan Islands and Oil-Rich Seabeds to the Soviet Union Imperils Investments of 500,000 Stockowners of ARCO, UNOCAL, Amoco, and Shell

Corporate managements of four major petroleum companies have exhibited extreme dereliction of duty to their stockowners by failing to fight the State Department's plan to give their multi-million dollar oil and gas leases in the Bering Sea to the Soviet Union, it was charged by Carl Olson, Chairman of Fund for Stockowners Rights, headquartered in Vienna, Virginia. "Over 860,000 stockowners find themselves under the gun," Olson noted.

Right now the State Department has these four oil companies' fortunes at risk due to its current negotiations with the Soviet Union over just how much of the Bering Sea outercontinental shelf is to be surrendered in the Navarin Basin. These four oil companies--ARCO, Shell, UNOCAL, and Standard Oil (Indiana)--won the competitive process for these leases at the Department of Interior auction on 24 April 1984, bidding over \$108 million on 17 blocks. All the other block winners were given their leases, but the State Department put a hold on these in the anticipation that these would be delivered over to the Soviet Union.

"To this day, none of these four oil companies has uttered so much as one public peep in defense of their highly profitable oil leases that the State Department wants to hand over to the greatest enemy of the United States and the free enterprise system--the Soviet Union," Olson reported. "On numerous occasions the managements of these firms have been pressed not only for their views on this giveaway of oil-rich seabeds, but for their advocacy plans to stop the impending losses of millions of dollars for their stockowners. All four have, by their silence, become tacit supporters of this incomprehensibly unprecedented turnover of American property to foreign enemies. They have betrayed the trust of their stockowners and their larger corporate responsibility to the American public," Olson declared.

NAVARIN BASIN SUMMARY (blocks subject to State Department surrender to Soviets):

<u>Company</u>	<u>No. of Blocks</u>	<u>Total Winning Bids</u>	<u>Stockowners</u>
Shell Oil/Transport	14	\$ 50,975,667	395,000
Standard Oil (Indiana)	14	45,173,333	190,000 (Amoco)
AtlanticRichfield	2	10,138,750	198,000
UNOCAL	1	1,886,250	88,000
		<hr/> <u>\$108,174,000</u>	<hr/> <u>861,000</u>

These areas were the subject of a high-level delegation led by the State Department's Legal Adviser Davis Robinson which traveled to Moscow for negotiations with the Kremlin's representatives in the week of 23-27 July 1984. These meetings apparently resolved nothing

(more)

The Fund for Stockowners Rights is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to advancing the concept of stockowners as owners of corporations and to promoting the free enterprise economic system--which makes ownership of corporations possible. Model resolutions for votes at annual meetings and instructions on submitting them will be sent at no charge. Donations to the Fund, an IRS 501(c)(3) group, are tax deductible.

Permission to reprint is granted, provided the name and address of the Fund for Stockowners Rights, as included in the report 1984, 22180-0956

since no word was announced one way or the other, and no further negotiation eventually was announced. Extreme secrecy has shrouded these talks, including the complete refusal of the State Department to reveal who was on the delegation. By other means it was discovered that in addition to Robinson, the delegation included two other members of the Legal Adviser's office Elizabeth Verville and Scott Hajost; Harry Marshall and Richard T. Scully of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Robert W. Smith of the Office of the Geographer.

While these negotiations continue without any resolution, the stakes of billions of barrels of oil, billions of dollars of revenue, thousands of American jobs, the loss of a significant part of America's strategic petroleum reserves, and the irreparable damage to American diplomatic prestige become more and more apparent and credible. The leasing of future oil basins in the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean off Alaska are also imperilled due to the State Department's declared policy of abandoning all Alaskan territory and outercontinental shelf to the west of the 1867 U.S.-Russia Convention Line.

SECRET POLICY PARTIALLY REVEALED

Fortunately for the American public, the State Department had to reveal part of its surrender policy in public last March. When the Navarin Basin was put up for bid on its billions-of-barrel-of-oil blocks, the announcement in the Federal Register for 16 March 1984 (pages 10056 to 10068) disclosed that the State Department could not figure out where the boundary of American territory and outercontinental shelf was in relation to the Soviet Union. Even more startling was the revelation that the State Department was going on a policy that had no basis either in historical fact or international law.

Somehow between 1965 and 1984 the State Department had elevated the old 1867 U.S.-Russia Convention Line (which was used in the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million) from an arbitrary map line up to the status of an international boundary. This creation of an international boundary by the State Department had been done without any treaty being enacted or ratified by the United States Senate. To this day there is no treaty establishing any boundary between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In 1965 the State Department's International Boundary Study No. 14, titled "U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867", flatly stated: "Rather than an ordinary boundary per se, this report concerns a convention line which ordinarily appears on official maps in the same manner as a boundary. ...in keeping with the policy that this line does not constitute a boundary, the standard symbol for the representation of an international boundary should never be used." By 1984, the status of this line has been completely reversed by the State Department, as noted in the 16 March 1984 Federal Register statement (page 10065), which declared: "The United States depicts the 1867 Convention Line as the maritime boundary...."

Even more significant than just the Navarin Basin leases, this State Department policy means that it is surrendering to the Soviet Union vast, strategic, and oil-rich Alaskan islands and outercontinental shelf. Incontrovertible historical fact shows the U.S. sovereignty over the Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette. Wrangell Island, the largest of the five with 2,800 square miles (the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined), was found and claimed for the U.S. in 1881 by Capt. Calvin Leighton Hooper aboard the U.S. Revenue Marine (Coast Guard) ship Thomas Corwin; and included in the landing party was the famed explorer John Muir, whose book The Cruise of the Corwin gives a vivid account of the exciting addition to American territory. The three islands of Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette are part of the DeLong Islands, which were named after their discoverer U.S. Navy Commander George Washington DeLong, whose expedition aboard the ship Jeannette is memorialized in a statue at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Along with the summary jettisoning of American territory, the State Department is in the same act renouncing all of the oil-rich outercontinental shelf--which is equivalent to approximately four times the state of California. The owners of the islands are not even being compensated for this governmental condemnation of property. Many owners have been fighting this non-treaty usurpation by the State Department for years.

"It's now time for the four oil companies to fight for their 851,000 stockowners, so that they don't find themselves abandoned by the State Department to the wolves, too, or should I say, the bears?" Olson challenged.

WATCH STATE DEPARTMENT

NEWS REPORT

For immediate release
14 January 1986
Contact: Carl Olson
818-766-9716

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Post Office Box 48857
Washington, D.C. 20050
703-379-1070

WEST COAST OFFICE
Post Office Box 2161
Toluca Lake, Calif. 91602
818-766-9716

CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES TO STOP THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FROM GIVING AWAY FIVE ALASKAN ISLANDS AND VAST OIL-RICH ARCTIC SEABEDS TO THE SOVIET UNION

The campaign to stop the U.S. State Department from giving away five strategic Alaskan islands and vast oil-rich seabeds to the Soviet Union has spread to both houses of the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature of Alaska, it was reported by Carl Olson, Chairman of State Department Watch, a public interest foreign policy watchdog group.

Specifically naming the Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) would outlaw any surrender of American territory or ocean rights without a public treaty. Introduced just prior to the New Year's recess of the Senate, Helms' Senate Resolution 279 has already acquired co-sponsorship from Senators Chic Hecht (R-Nev.), John East (R.-N.C.), and Jeremiah Denton (R.-Ala.).

Addressing the Senate, Helms stated, "There is far more at stake here than the ownership of five small islands covered with ice and snow. What is at stake is how, under the rules of international law, the United States will define its Outer Continental Shelf. If we surrender these islands, we will be surrendering an area that amounts to almost half of our entire Outer Continental Shelf.

"Moreover, these islands lie in the Arctic between the Soviet Union and the North Pole. If we surrender the islands to Soviet sovereignty, we may well be surrendering control of the Arctic Ocean to Soviet nuclear submarines."

Legislation to stop this impending giveaway is also contained in a bill introduced by Congressman Mark Siljander (R-Mich.) in November. In addition to requiring all transfers of territory to be disclosed in the form of public treaties, Siljander's bill (H.R. 3766) would prohibit the establishment of land or ocean boundaries without a treaty. The bill has picked up thirteen co-sponsors from coast to coast: Representatives Robert K. Dornan (R-Cal.), William E. Dannemeyer (R-Cal.), G. William Whitehurst (R-Va.), Helen D. Bentley (R-Md.), Ron Marlenee (R-Mont.), William F. Goodling (R-Pa.), George C. Wortley (R-N.Y.), Dan Burton (R-Ind.), Robert C. Smith (R-N.H.), Thomas N. Kindness (R-Ohio), John P. Hiler (R-Ind.), Doug Bernard Jr. (D-Ga.), and Robert E. Badham (R-Cal.).

The two U.S. Senators from Alaska, Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, and the Congressman, Don Young, have so far not declared their support or opposition to these measures. Senator Murkowski, however, in a letter to the Wall St. Journal on 2 December 1985, stated, "I am considering legislation to require our government to give the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a full report (on the claims over Wrangell, Henrietta, and the other islands)...." No such legislation has yet been introduced by Sen. Murkowski's office.

Prompting the fears of a unilateral abandonment of this immense stretch of American territory by the State Department to the Soviet Empire have been

---MORE---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Carl Olson
(703) 281-6782

GIVEAWAY OF FIVE ALASKAN ISLANDS AND EXTENSIVE OIL-RICH SEABEDS TO THE
SOVIET UNION PLANNED BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT;
25 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL INVOLVED; PUBLIC TREATY DEBATE REQUESTED

"The State Department appears ready and willing to surrender five strategic Alaskan islands and hundreds of thousands of square miles of oil-rich Alaskan outer continental shelf to the Soviet Union without full public debate and Senate ratification of a treaty," according to Carl Olson, Executive Vice President of The Conservative Caucus Research, Analysis & Education Foundation, Inc., of Vienna, Virginia.

"This giveaway of literally billions of barrels of America's oil reserves and Alaskan sovereign territory makes the Panama Canal fiasco look insignificant in comparison," Olson declared.

This giveaway was the subject of a high-level State Department delegation which went to Moscow for the week of July 23-27, headed by the department's Legal Adviser Davis Robinson and supported by his staff members Elizabeth Verville and Scott Hajost, and by Harry Marshall and Richard T. Scully of the department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and by Robert W. Smith of the Office of the Geographer.

Secret negotiations over this surrender of sovereignty have been conducted since at least 1981. They came to light in March of this year when the Department of the Interior announced the proposed leasing of oil-rich seabeds of the outer continental shelf in the Navarin Basin off the coast of Alaska in the Bering Sea. At the instruction of the State Department, the Department of the Interior was unable to guarantee that the successful bidders for these oil and gas leases would be able to keep their leases, since this area was being actively considered for turnover to the Soviet Union. As it turned out, four energy companies (Shell, ARCO, Amoco, and UNOCAL) were so certain of rich petroleum finds that they bid \$108,000,000 for leases in the seabed tracts that are currently being held hostage to the State Department's negotiations. Because of the potential giveaway, these companies have over \$21,000,000 tied up in deposits with the Department of the Interior for an indefinite time period, hundreds of potential jobs are imperilled, and hundreds of millions of dollars of revenues and billions of barrels of oil are at stake.

in official Department of the Interior estimates. The portion of the continental shelf off Alaska is equal in area to six Californias--or three-quarters of the entire U.S. outer continental shelf. Seabeds equal to about twice the size of California lie to the east of the 1867 Convention Line, and seabeds equal to about four Californias lie the west in the vicinity of the Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette. The estimated hydrocarbon reserves of the seabeds to the east of the 1867 Convention Line are 12.2 billion barrels of oil equivalent. (The Navarin Basin alone contains 1.9 billion barrels of reserves.) To the west of the 1867 Line, which has twice the area, the reserves have not been officially estimated, but it would not be unreasonable to place them at twice the amount for the area to the east of the line. Or, in other words, the State Department is contemplating giving away about 25 billion barrels of oil equivalent to the Soviets.

The State Department's basis for the giveaway involves its novel (and incorrect) portrayal of the "U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867", which was used in the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000.

This stance by the State Department appeared in the Federal Register notice of the leasing of the Navarin Basin (p. 10065, March 16, 1984). In paragraph 16, under the heading "Jurisdiction", was the following language: "The differing claims relate to differing depictions of the line established by the 1867 Convention Ceding Alaska between the United States and Russia. The United States depicts the 1867 Convention Line as the maritime boundary by arcs of great circles while the Soviet Union depicts the 1867 Convention Line as rhumb lines." There is no question in the State Department's position that the 1867 Convention Line is "the maritime boundary".

Contradicting this characterization is a mass of historical evidence and even the State Department's own words. In the State Department's International Boundary Study No. 14 (revised 1965) on "U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867", the language is very clear:

"Rather than a boundary per se, this report concerns a convention line which ordinarily appears on official maps in the same manner as a boundary. ...

"Furthermore, in keeping with the policy that the line does not constitute a boundary, the standard symbol for the representation of an international boundary should never be used."

So far, the State Department has failed to explain how the United States has relinquished its claim to the islands and seabeds between 1965 and 1984. No treaty, agreement, or other public understanding had been cited for this surrender of American sovereignty.

Even as late as 1973 one noted authority on William E. Butler, Professor of Comparative Law at the University of London, wrote in the book International Straits of the World, Volume 1 "Northeast Arctic Passage" as follows:

"The Russo-American Convention Line of 1867 is not regarded as a state frontier, and the continental shelf boundary in the Chukchi Sea and northward remain to be negotiated."

The five Arctic Alaskan islands--Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette--were never considered in the purchase of Alaska. Four had not yet been discovered in 1867. Americans discovered and claimed them on Arctic expeditions in following decades. Herald Island was discovered and claimed by the British in 1849, and was later acquired by the United States.

Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette Islands were discovered and claimed by U.S.N. Commander George Washington DeLong aboard the Jeannette in the 1879-81 expedition. The islands still bear his name (the DeLong Islands), and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis has a monument to that expedition.

Wrangell Island, the largest of the five with an area of 2,800 square miles (the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined), was discovered and claimed on August 12, 1881, by Captain Calvin Leighton Hooper aboard the U.S. Revenue Marine (Coast Guard) ship Thomas Corwin. Among the landing party on Wrangell Island was the famed explorer John Muir, who wrote of his trip in the book The Cruise of the Corwin. Various surveys, expeditions, and settlements were made on Wrangell Island in the next four decades by Americans. This ended when the Soviet Union invaded the island with a landing of infantry from the ship Red October on August 30, 1924, and took as prisoners the 14 Americans of the Lomen Brothers Company's fur settlement and confiscated all the gear, pelts, and other property. The 12 surviving Americans were eventually released from their imprisonment in Vladivostok. The Soviets currently maintain slave labor camps on the island.

It is significant to note that in the State Department's reissue of the book Digest of International Law by Green Haywood Hackworth in 1973, the unequivocal settlement is made: "The United States has not relinquished its claim to Wrangell Island."

Numerous efforts by various parties, including the owners of Wrangell Island, have been made over the decades to take back their property and collect damages for the unlawful occupation by the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the State Department has not seen fit yet to honor those claims or even the decision by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in 1959 in favor of the Lomen Brothers.

-more-

...this opening gateway of the five islands and the massive, rich oil-rich outer continental shelf to the Soviets demands the most searching public scrutiny and debate. It must be made an issue for a national decision-making," Olson stated. "The State Department is not empowered to surrender American real estate and seabeds. Only the Congress has that power. It must be brought up in the form of a treaty, signed by the President, and debated and ratified by the Senate in order to receive the full force of law. The Constitution cannot be ignored in this potentially massive cession of strategic American interests so close to home."

In an ironic comparison with the apparent lenient attitude that the State Department has exhibited toward the Soviets over the seabed boundaries, the State Department has adopted a hardline position toward cur ally Canada over the seabed boundary between Alaska and Canada in the Arctic. This position came to light with the leasing on August 22 of the Diapir Field which borders Canada. The Federal Register announcement of July 23, 1984 (p. 29726) noted a "Jurisdictional Dispute" with Canada over some of the blocks being offered. Although the notice did not say so explicitly, the U.S. position is that the seabed boundary should reflect the "equidistant" theory of boundaries, while the Canadians want a more favorable drawing of the line. While this dispute continues, the three petroleum companies which bid on these leases (Union Oil Co. of Calif., Amoco Production Co., and Shell Western E & P Inc.) will have their bid money deposit lie in escrow. Their total winning bids for the four blocks totalled \$5,105,000--a substantial affirmation of the rich nature of the Arctic Alaskan outer continental shelf.

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS'
AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

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FEDERAL BUILDING, BOX 184
(907) 886-7400

February 21, 1986

The Honorable Paul Fischer
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811


Dear Paul:

Thanks for your interest in the status of the Arctic islands issue. I have enclosed some information that you may find useful in your consideration of S.J.Res.32.

I have also included a copy of a letter I wrote recently to Secretary Shultz asking whether there are any plans to change the islands' status either by asserting a claim or by relinquishing our right to make one over the islands at some future date. I have also asked for an analysis of what U.S. interests would be served by either course of action. I am awaiting the State Department's response.

I hope this information helps to clarify this issue. Thank you again for contacting me. With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

Enclosures

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE
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United States Senate

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January 21, 1986

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Shultz:

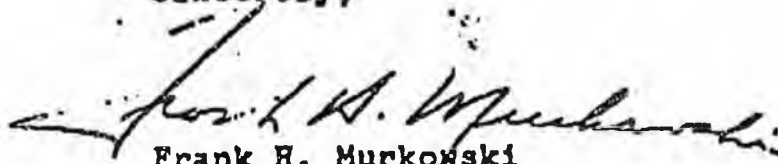
I am writing in regard to the issue of potential U.S. claims to five Arctic islands -- Wrangel, Herald, Henriette, Jeannette and Bennett -- near Alaska's boundary with the Soviet Union. The question of sovereignty over the islands has been raised by some of my constituents in Alaska. In Congress, bills to prevent the State Department from relinquishing a putative U.S. claim to the islands have been introduced by Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Mark Siljander.

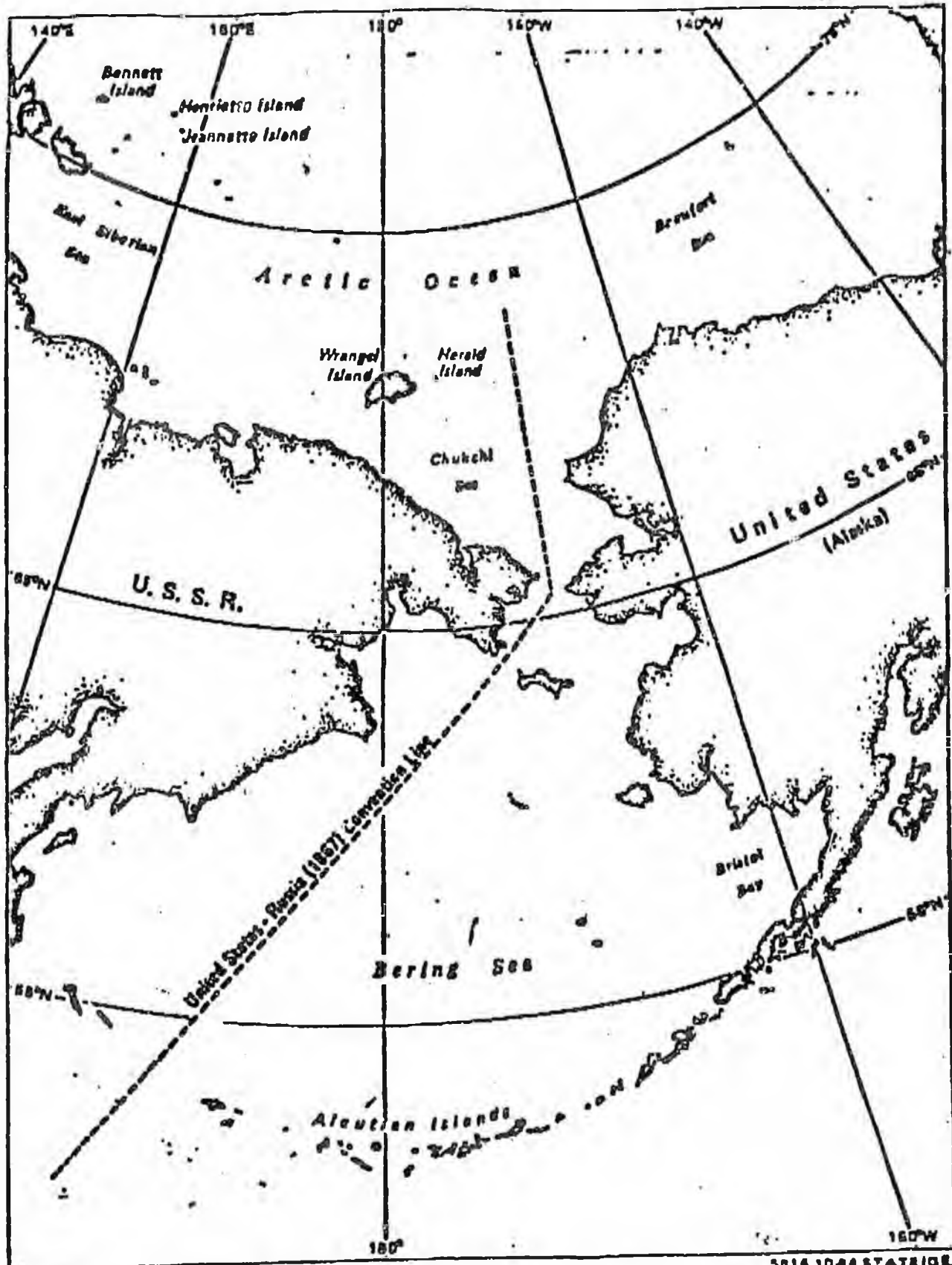
In light of the continuing concern over this issue, I would appreciate a statement from you of the U.S. view of the official status of these islands. A preliminary, unofficial statement by the Legal Adviser's Office has already been most helpful in providing a general background on the complex legal history to this point. I would like to know whether there are any plans to change the islands' status either by asserting a claim or by relinquishing our right to make one at some future date.

I would also be very interested in an analysis by the State Department of whether any specific U.S. resource, strategic, or other interest would be served by either advancing or relinquishing whatever U.S. claim to these islands does exist.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of my request and look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,


Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator



WRANGEL ISLAND

Wrangel Island is an island of approximately 3,700 square miles found in the Chukchi Sea, north of Siberia, approximately 200 nautical miles west of the line established by the 1867 Russia-United States Convention Ceding Alaska. (This island is not to be confused with Wrangell Island in the Alexander Archipelago of southeast Alaska.) Although U.S. citizens were reportedly involved in the early exploration and discovery of Wrangel Island and the island was listed in some early publications such as the U.S. Geological Survey's 1906 Geographic Dictionary of Alaska, extensive research by the Department of State has not produced any evidence that the United States has ever formally asserted a claim to Wrangel Island, protested Russian and Soviet claims dating from 1916 and 1924, respectively, or protested Soviet occupation of the island dating from 1924.

Wrangel Island is named for the Russian explorer Baron von Wrangell (or Wrangel), who unsuccessfully attempted to locate this island in the early 1800's. Dates of discovery of the island are variously listed as 1849 by a British ship, the H.M.S. Herald and 1881 by Captain Hooper of the U.S. Navy vessel Corwin. The British crew of the Herald reportedly saw Wrangel Island but did not land on it. After several attempts to land on the island by other American vessels and whaling ships, Captain Hooper is reported to have landed on the island and raised the American flag in 1881. Later in 1881, the crew of another U.S. vessel, the Rodgers, also reportedly landed on the island and mapped it.

In 1911, a crew from the Russian vessel, the Vaigach, reportedly landed on the island, surveyed it and erected a beacon which served as an astronomical positioning station. This led to a formal claim to the island by the Russian Government in 1916. The United States reportedly acknowledged receipt of the Russian note but made no substantive response.

In the early 1920's the Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson reportedly formed a Canadian company and under its auspices organized a private expedition to occupy Wrangel Island, apparently with the intention of establishing British or Canadian sovereignty. Several successive Stefansson expeditions, including some U.S. citizens, occupied Wrangel Island. Stefansson, however, was unable to interest either the Canadian Government or the British Government in asserting a claim.

After having attempted to assert its claim to Wrangel Island by requiring a 1923 relief ship to call at a Soviet port on its way to Wrangel Island, the Soviet Union in 1924 formally asserted a claim to Wrangel Island by diplomatic note transmitted to the United States and other countries. Extensive research has not produced any evidence of a U.S. reply to this note.

In 1924, an American company, Lomen Bros., of Nome, Alaska reportedly purchased whatever rights the Stefansson group had acquired in Wrangel Island. Representative Sutherland of Alaska wrote to Secretary of State Hughes informing him of the purchase and asked what attitude the United States Government was likely to assume in the matter of sovereignty over the island. In July, 1924, the Acting Secretary of State replied that the Department did not desire to express an opinion respecting the question of the international status of Wrangel Island and that the Department also refrained from expressing approval or disapproval of a project which, it understood, was entirely commercial in nature.

In August, 1924, the crew of the Soviet vessel Red October arrived on Wrangel Island, hoisted the Soviet flag and transported the occupants to Siberia. Since that time, the Soviet Union has occupied Wrangel Island. In addition, the Soviet Union reasserted a formal claim to the island in 1926 via a decree transmitted to the United States and other governments. In the early 1940's, the Senate considered resolutions requesting reports from the Secretary of State concerning whether or not the United States had a valid claim to sovereignty over Wrangel Island. In 1940 and 1941, the Secretary of State responded that the United States had not formally claimed sovereignty over Wrangel Island and that it was desirable to avoid raising the question of sovereignty.

Although the United States has never formally recognized Soviet sovereignty over Wrangel Island and has from time to time indicated that it has not formally relinquished any claim, extensive research has not produced evidence of any formal U.S. assertion of a claim to the island, or of any U.S. protest of the Soviet claims to or occupation of the island.

HERALD, BENNETT, HENRIETTA AND JEANNETTE ISLANDS

Herald Island is an island of approximately 10 square miles located in the Chukchi Sea, north of Siberia, near Wrangel Island. Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette Islands have areas of approximately 64, 5 and 7 square miles, respectively, and are located in the East Siberian Sea north of Siberia. Herald Island was reportedly discovered by a British Captain, Captain Kellett, in 1849. Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette islands were reportedly discovered by the crew of the U.S. vessel Jeannette in 1881, although the vessel apparently only sighted but did not land on Jeannette Island. Although these islands were apparently listed in the 1906 Geographic Dictionary of Alaska, and some may have been listed in some subsequent publications of a similar nature, extensive research has not produced any evidence that the United States Government has ever formally asserted a claim to any of these islands or protested Russian or Soviet claims (from 1916 and 1924 respectively) or activities with respect to the islands.

A brief description of events with regard to each of these islands follows.

Herald Island

After the British discovery of Herald Island in 1849, the crews of several U.S. vessels reportedly landed on the island, including crews of the Vincennes in 1855 and Corwin and Rodgers in 1881. Perhaps because the crews were aware of the British discovery, none of them are reported to have claimed the island for the United States.

In 1916, the Russian Government formally asserted a claim to Herald Island via diplomatic note. The United States reportedly acknowledged receipt of the note but made no substantive response. In 1924, there were press reports that two U.S. citizens had landed on Herald Island and claimed it for the United States. The State Department responded to a 1926 Congressional inquiry concerning the expedition by stating that the Department was not prepared to make any statement with regard to the international status of the island.

In 1924 and 1926 the Soviet Government asserted claims to Herald Island by diplomatic note and decree, respectively, which were transmitted to the United States and other governments. In 1926 and again in 1934, crews of Soviet vessels are reported to have landed on the island and planted the Soviet flag. Although the United States has never formally recognized Soviet sovereignty over Herald Island, extensive research has produced no evidence of a U.S. claim to the island or of any U.S. protest of Soviet claims or activities.

- 2 -

Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette Islands

Crews of several Russian ships reportedly landed on Bennett Island in 1902 (when a Russian expedition is reported to have stayed for approximately three and a half months) and 1913. In addition, in 1914, the Russian crew of the vessel Vaigach is reported to have received orders to survey Henrietta and Jeannette islands and to hoist the Russian flag; however, ice apparently prevented the expedition from carrying out these orders. Thereafter, in 1916, the Russian Government asserted a claim to all of these islands by diplomatic note. The United States is reported to have acknowledged receipt of the note but no evidence has been found of a substantive reply.

In 1924 and again in 1926, the Soviet Government also asserted claims to these islands by diplomatic note and decree, respectively. Research has produced no evidence of U.S. response to these claims. In 1937, the Soviet vessel Sadko is reported to have visited all the islands and to have raised the Soviet flag on Henrietta and Jeannette islands. In addition, in 1956, a Soviet expedition reportedly reached Bennett Island by air and remained there for three to five months. Although the United States has never formally recognized Soviet sovereignty over any of these islands, extensive research has produced no evidence that the United States has ever formally asserted a claim to the islands or protested Soviet claims or activities with regard to them.

- 2 -

Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette Islands

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

9/13/85

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter of July 10, 1985, forwarding to the Secretary a copy of the resolution recently introduced on the Alaska House of Representatives, regarding the U.S.-Soviet maritime boundary. We appreciate the statement of interest by Alaska state officials on this issue. We share their concerns for maximizing United States interests in resolution of the boundary. We have had these concerns fully in mind in our discussions on the Soviet Union as well as in the adoption of the special procedures for the Navarin Basin 1984 Lease Sale. As you requested, I have enclosed a situation paper on the boundary dispute. I hope you and your colleagues find it useful.

In addition to the boundary issue, you asked questions about the Lomen Brothers' claims case. This was one of 1,925 claims awards made by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC) under the provisions of section 305(a) of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended. This Act provided for the FCSC to receive and determine, in accordance with applicable substantive law, the validity and amounts, inter alia, of "claims, arising prior to November 16, 1933, of nationals of the United States against the Soviet Government," 22 U.S.C. §1641d (a)(2).

The Lomen Brothers sought compensation for salary and transportation charges and personal property confiscated by the Soviet Government on August 20, 1924 when the Soviet Union first occupied Wrangel Island. In its decision of May 15, 1959, the FCSC denied claims made by the Lomen Brothers for salary and transportation charges because they were not the subject of any taking by the Soviet Government. The claimants

The Honorable
Frank H. Murkowski,
United States Senate.

were awarded \$30,000 plus interest, for the confiscated personal property. This award dealt solely with personal property and had no bearing on the status of the territory of Wrangel Island.

Claimants under the Soviet claims program received partial payment of their claims from funds received by the United States as a result of the 1933 Litvinov assignment under which certain U.S. and Soviet claims were settled. The Lomen Brothers are reported to have received a partial payment of \$3,817.83. We are attaching for your reference a copy of the claims award.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William L. Ball, III
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Attachments:

- 1) 1959 Lowman Brothers Claims Award
- 2) Situation Paper

Paid \$ 1,000
Plus 9.717%
Interest (\$ 25,177.13)
for total of \$ 35,177.13

SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
UNITED STATES
Washington 25, D. C.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
CARL J. LOMEN
1223 Spring Street
Seattle, Washington
**RALPH LOMEN, individually, and as
Administrator of the estate of
HARRY LOMEN, deceased**
600 McGilvra Boulevard
Seattle, Washington
MILDRED GRACE LOMEN
5748 East 34th Street
Seattle, Washington
Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. SOY-40,944
Decision No. SOY-5115

Counsel for Claimants:

MABEL WALKER WILLEBRANDT
9110 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles 46, California

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim for \$36,184.80, plus interest, against the Soviet Government under the provisions of section 303(a)(2) of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, filed by Carl J. Lomen and Ralph Lomen, is based upon the loss sustained by Carl J. Lomen, Harry Lomen, Ralph Lomen and Alfred J. Lomen as the owners of property confiscated in 1924 by the Soviet Government on Wrangel Island, off the Siberian Coast.

The records before the Commission disclose that during the years 1921 through 1923 the Stefansson Arctic Exploration and Development Company, Limited, maintained a colony consisting of a camp with

goods, wares, supplies, traps and equipment, on the island of Wrangel, off the Siberian Coast, as a reloading camp and for the trapping of Arctic fur animals. The records further disclose that on April 1, 1924, the aforesaid Stefansson Arctic Exploration and Development Company, Ltd., sold and transferred all of its rights, title and interest in and to the company's property in its colony on Wrangel Island, to Carl J. Lomen, Harry Lomen, Ralph Lomen and Alfred J. Lomen, four brothers then residing at Nome, Alaska, all nationals of the United States by birth; that the Lomen Brothers took possession of the camp and the goods therein; that they displayed the flag of the United States on the grounds of the camp; and that on or about August 20, 1924, forces of the Soviet Government occupied the camp, arrested and deported all the members of the colony to Siberia, and confiscated the entire property in the camp, consisting of equipment, food, clothing supplies, furs and ivory tusks.

The Commission finds that the aforesaid action of the Soviet Government in 1924, gave rise to a claim for the confiscated property in favor of the four Lomen Brothers; that in 1930, upon the death of Alfred J. Lomen, his interest in the claim passed to Mildred Grace Lomen, the residuary legatee under his Last Will and Testament; and that in 1937, upon the death of Harry Lomen, his interest in the claim passed to Ralph Lomen, Administrator of the Estate of Harry Lomen, deceased. On the basis of this evidence, Mildred Grace Lomen and Ralph Lomen, as Executor of the Estate of Harry Lomen, deceased, are hereby added as claimants in this claim.

Claimants seek compensation for the following property:

(1) Camp equipment	\$ 0
(2) Food supplies	5.
(3) Clothing supplies	3,000.
(4) Salaries to personnel	2,600.00
(5) Expense of chartering ships to bring supplies to Wrangel Island	2,300.00
(6) 314 white fox furs, 80 polar bear furs, 150 seal skins, and ivory tusks	<u>21,950.00</u>
Total	\$ 26,150.00

As indicated above, claim is made for salaries to personnel (\$2,600.00) and expenses for chartering ships to bring supplies to Wrangel Island (\$2,300.00). Such expenditures, made in ordinary course of business prior to confiscation of the physical property on Wrangel Island, were not the subject of any taking by the Soviet Government. Accordingly, a valid claim against the Soviet Government under Section 303(a)(2) of the Act based on these two items has not been established. That part of the claim predicated on salaries and chartering of ships is, therefore, denied.

The evidence before the Commission indicates, however, that the remaining property items, listed above, were confiscated by the Soviet Government on August 20, 1926, and that such confiscated property had a value of \$30,000.00. This determination as to the value of the confiscated property is, among other evidence, supported by a statement made on May 22, 1926, by Carl J. Lomon, on behalf of Lomon Brothers, and addressed to the Secretary of State, that the financial losses of the company by reason of the action of the Soviet Government, total \$30,000.

The Commission, therefore, finds that claimants are justly entitled to an award in the principal amount of \$30,000, plus 6% interest per annum, moreover, from August 20, 1926, the date of the confiscation of the property, until November 16, 1933, the date of the Litvinov Assignment (Section 301(c) of the Act).

A W A R D

On the above evidence and grounds, and pursuant to section 210(d) of the Act, a consolidated award for the principal amount of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) plus 6% interest per annum thereon in the amount of Sixteen thousand six hundred and thirty dollars (\$16,650.00) is hereby made jointly to the claimants herein, their respective shares in such award being as follows:

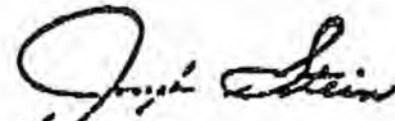
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
CARL J. LOMEN	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 4,157.50
RALPH LOMEN, individually	7,500.00	4,157.50
RALPH LOMEN, administrator of the estate of HARRY LOMEN, deceased	7,500.00	4,157.50
MILDRED GRACE LOMEN	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>4,157.50</u>
Total	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 16,650.00</u>

No determination is made with respect to interest for any period subsequent to November 16, 1933.

Payment of the award herein, in whole or in part, shall not be construed to have divested claimant herein, or the Government of the United States on their behalf, of any rights against the Government of the Soviet Union, for the unpaid balance, if any, of the claim.

Dated at Washington, D. C.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER



Joseph Stein, Director
General Claims Division

MAY 18 1950

Conservatives attentive to who owns Wrangel, 4 other islands

By PAUL MONAGHAN
News-Miner Bureau

WASHINGTON—One item not on the agenda of the recent superpower summit continues to attract attention from conservative political groups.

It involves ownership of five little-known islands in the East Siberian Sea between Alaska and the Soviet Union. The largest of the islands is Wrangel, about the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. The others are Herald, Bennett, Henrietta and Jeannette.

The outer continental shelf surrounding the islands may or may not contain oil reserves. More importantly, it seems, the islands are an opportunity to contest Soviet expansion.

The Virginia-based Conservative Caucus, which traces U.S. sovereignty over the islands back to 1851, had predicted the U.S. State Department would "give away" the islands when President Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev sat down in Geneva. It didn't happen.

The Wall Street Journal joined the conservative chorus, writing that the United States "should hang tough" over Wrangel Island "to de-

monstrate its resistance to Soviet imperialism."

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, responded to the newspaper article. He pointed out that there is a much more important dispute going on between the two countries—the ownership of thousands of square miles of undersea lands in the Navarin Basin.

This "wrangle" is rooted to the 1867 sale of Alaska to America. When Russia sold Alaska to the United States, a map line was drawn through the Bering Sea as a boundary line.

Only when the two nations began undersea oil development did they notice that they interpreted the original boundary line differently. Quiet negotiations have been going on for four years to resolve the dispute.

The State Department doesn't appear interested in challenging Russia's claim to the five islands. It notes that the United States never has formally claimed sovereignty over the islands. Neither did it object when the Soviet Union claimed ownership in the 1920s.

The State Department, however, says it is committed to holding on to as much Navarin Basin territory as

possible. The Conservative Caucus disputes this, saying the State Department will turn it over to Russia along with the five islands.

In April 1984, the U.S. Interior Department held a lease sale to award oil and gas drilling rights within the Navarin Basin. Oil companies bid a total of \$693 million for the undersea tracts. Of that, \$108 million was bid for tracts on disputed lands.

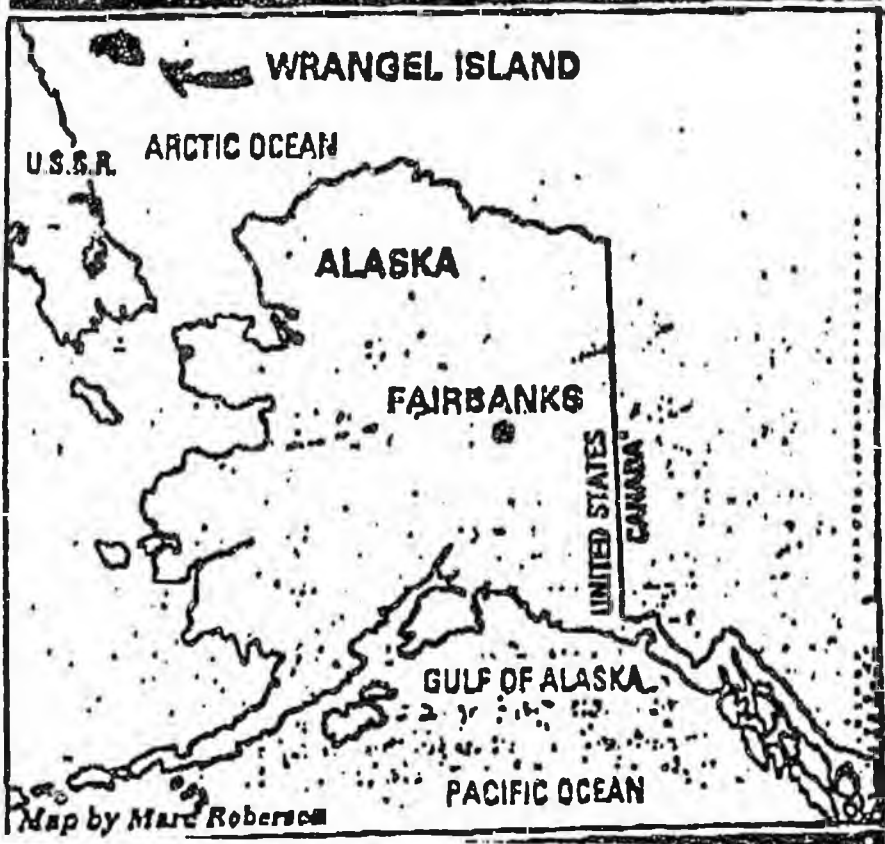
The U.S. has placed the \$108 million in an escrow account until a settlement is reached with the Soviet Union.

The drilling moratorium within the disputed area has been criticized by lawmakers in the Alaska Legislature. They have passed a resolution urging the State Department to take a firm stand in negotiations with the Soviets. The resolution doesn't mention the separate issue of the five islands.

Murkowski says he is monitoring those negotiations. "The Navarin Basin issue requires our immediate attention because Soviet activities in the waters off Alaska have become increasingly worrisome. This summer, the Soviets deliberately harassed U.S. drilling rigs involved in energy exploration in the Navarin Basin area."

As for the five islands dispute, Murkowski acknowledges that "the record is not clear." Any treaty negotiated with the Soviets that gave up territory claimed by the U.S. would be subject to Senate review, Murkowski said.

Rep. Mark Ellender, R-Mich., has submitted a bill in the House to require a treaty to be ratified before any U.S. claim is relinquished.



Map by Marc Robertson

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