

SJR

18

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 3/1/95
 3/23/95--SS introduced

FURTHER: State Affairs

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/30/95
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4/10/95

CRA Committee considered SSSJR 18

Establishment of an Arctic council.

and recommends:

- be replaced with ~~SS~~ CS SS SJR 18 (CRA)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
 - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
 - technical title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DP PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tim Kelly</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Community & Regional Affairs	4/4/95	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

CS FOR SS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS ADAMS, Zharoff, Lincoln, Hoffman, Phillips, Duncan

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to establishment of an Arctic council.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** there are many Arctic issues that are common to the nations of the
4 circumpolar north, and these issues can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum
5 that promotes cooperation and concerted action; and

6 **WHEREAS** a regional multilateral forum for the Arctic would provide a focus for
7 anticipating and addressing current and future problems of the Arctic, capitalizing on new
8 opportunities for the Arctic, and involving residents of the Arctic in a discussion of the issues
9 that affect them directly; and

10 **WHEREAS** the creation of a multinational Arctic council has been proposed to
11 provide a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum for the eight Arctic nations, including
12 the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska should play a prominent and active role in developing a policy
14 forum for the Arctic; and

15 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would be the only existing international institution that
16 is mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns; and

17 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would be a key body to ensure international cooperation

1 and coordination on sustainable development of the Arctic; and

2 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in
3 handling Arctic issues, by providing focus and, where appropriate, recommending policy
4 direction to existing agencies with authority over Arctic-related issues, creating by consensus
5 additional working groups only where necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with
6 other international organizations;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the establishment of
8 an Arctic council consisting of the eight nations having territory in the Arctic and urges the
9 President and the Congress of the United States to take whatever action is necessary to support
10 establishment of an Arctic council and to enable the United States to become an active
11 member of the council.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
13 United States; to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
14 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
15 Representatives; the Honorable Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of State; and to the
16 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
17 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

F A X T R A N S M I S S I O N
to follow

From: Senator John Torgerson, Alaska State Legislature
Phone: (907) 465-2828 Fax: (907) 465-4779

To: LEG LEGAL FAX#: 2029

Attn: TERRY BRIDGESTER

Date: 4-7-95 Pages, including this cover sheet: 2

Memoranda: AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY SENATE CRA —
PLEASE INCORPORATE INTO CS (CRA)

TUES

Telephone Contact: 4989 SANDOX

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR TORGERSON

TO: SSSJR 18

1 Page 1, lines 6 - 7:

2 Delete "political energy and"

3 Insert "a"

4 Page 1, lines 12 - 14:

5 Delete "Canada, the Clinton administration, and the administration of the State of
6 Alaska have indicated that they support creation of the council;"

7 Page 2, line 5, following "appropriate,":

8 Insert "recommending"

9 Page 2, line 6:

10 Delete "Arctic-related organizations"

11 Insert "agencies with authority over Arctic-related issues"

12 Page 2, lines 15 - 16:

13 Delete "the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate;"

ADOPTED
S.ERA
4/7/95

F A X T R A N S M I S S I O N
to follow

From: Senator John Torgerson, Alaska State Legislature
Phone: (907) 465-2828 Fax: (907) 465-4779

To: Leg. Legal FAX#: 2029

Attn: DRAFTS OF SS SJR 18 WORK ORDER 9-LS0818\F

Date: 4-6-95 Pages, including this cover sheet: 2

Memoranda: PLEASE PREPARE A PROPER AMENDMENT
PER ATTACHED FOR MEETING TOMORROW

TAKES -

Telephone Contact: 4989 SANDOZ

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ADAMS, Zharoff, Lincoln, Hoffman, Phillips, Duncan

Introduced: 3/23/95

Referred: CRA, STA

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to establishment of an Arctic council.

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** there are many Arctic issues that are common to the nations of the
4 circumpolar north, and these issues can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum
5 that promotes cooperation and concerted action; and

6 **WHEREAS** a regional multilateral forum for the Arctic would provide political energy
7 and focus for anticipating and addressing current and future problems of the Arctic,
8 capitalizing on new opportunities for the Arctic, and involving residents of the Arctic in a
9 discussion of the issues that affect them directly; and

10 **WHEREAS** the creation of a multinational Arctic council has been proposed to
11 provide a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum for the eight Arctic nations, including
12 the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden; Canada,
13 ~~they support~~ administration, and the administration of the State of Alaska have indicated that
14 ~~they support~~ creation of the council; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaska should play a prominent and active role in developing a policy
16 forum for the Arctic; and

17 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would be the only existing international institution that

1 is mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns; and

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3 and coordination on sustainable development of the Arctic; and

4 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in
5 handling Arctic issues, by providing focus and, where appropriate, ^{recommend} policy direction to existing
6 Arctic-related organizations, ^{create} creating by consensus additional working groups only where
7 necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with other international organizations;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the establishment of
9 an Arctic council consisting of the eight nations having territory in the Arctic and urges the
10 President and the Congress of the United States to take whatever action is necessary to support
11 establishment of an Arctic council and to enable the United States to become an active
12 member of the council.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
14 United States; to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
15 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
16 Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
17 Honorable Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
18 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

*Recommendation to existing agencies with
authority to create additional related issues*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE TO
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18 (ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARCTIC COUNCIL)
(WORK DRAFT 9-LS0818\F)

BY: SENATOR TORGERSON

TO PAGE 1, LINES 6 AND 7:

DELETE "POLITICAL ENERGY AND"

INSERT "A"

TO PAGE 1, LINES 13 AND 14:

DELETE "THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
STATE OF ALASKA HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY SUPPORT CREATION OF THE
COUNCIL"

TO PAGE 2, LINE 5:

AFTER THE WORD "APPROPRIATE,"

INSERT THE WORD "RECOMMEND"

TO PAGE 2, LINE 6:

DELETE "ARCTIC-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS"

REPLACE WITH: "AGENCIES WITH AUTHORITY ^{OR R} ~~IN~~ ARCTIC-RELATED ISSUES"

TO PAGE 2, LINES 15 AND 16:

DELETE "THE HONORABLE STROM THURMOND, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE
U.S. SENATE"

4-6-95

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SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ADAMS, Zharoff, Lincoln, Hoffman, Phillips, Duncan

Introduced:

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to establishment of an Arctic council.

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

3 WHEREAS there are many Arctic issues that are common to the nations of the
4 circumpolar north, and these issues can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum
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6 WHEREAS a regional multilateral forum for the Arctic would provide political energy
7 and focus for anticipating and addressing current and future problems of the Arctic,
8 capitalizing on new opportunities for the Arctic, and involving residents of the Arctic in a
9 discussion of the issues that affect them directly; and

10 WHEREAS the creation of a multinational Arctic council has been proposed to
11 provide a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum for the eight Arctic nations, including
12 the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden; Canada,
13 the Clinton administration, and the administration of the State of Alaska have indicated that
14 they support creation of the council; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska should play a prominent and active role in developing a policy
16 forum for the Arctic; and

17 WHEREAS an Arctic council would be the only existing international institution that

1 is mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns; and

2 WHEREAS an Arctic council would be a key body to ensure international cooperation
3 and coordination on sustainable development of the Arctic; and

4 WHEREAS an Arctic council would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in
5 handling Arctic issues, by providing focus and, where appropriate, policy direction to existing
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7 necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with other international organizations;

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10 President and the Congress of the United States to take whatever action is necessary to support
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12 member of the council.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
14 United States; to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
15 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
16 Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
17 Honorable Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
18 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: April 4, 1995 Dept. Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
 Title: Relating to establishment of an Arctic council BRU: none
 Component none
 Sponsor: Sen. Adams
 Requestor: Senate CRA COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current (FY94) impact \$ none

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

DCRA is not mentioned explicitly in this resolution and it is difficult to speculate as to specific fiscal implications of this resolution for the department. However, it is assumed that the department would participate in some form, probably involving travel and per diem at the Commissioner's Office level. It is assumed that any such travel would be absorbed within existing travel budgets.

Prepared by: Remond Henderson, Director *Remond Henderson* Phone: 465-4708
 Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 4/4/95
 Approved by Commissioner: *Nike Owen* Date: 4/4/95
 Agency: Community & Regional Affairs

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For further distribution information call the Governor's Legislative Office

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Al Adams

IN SESSION
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3707
Fax 463-4867

OUT OF SESSION
P.O. Box 333
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3245

Official Business

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1995

Ans'd.....

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Torgerson, Chair
Community and Regional Affairs

FROM: Senator Al Adams *AOA*

DATE: March 20, 1995

SUBJECT: SJR 18: Establishment of an Arctic Council

By means of this memorandum, I am requesting a hearing for SJR 18:
An Establishment of an Arctic Council.

Enclosed is a copy of the Sponsor Substitute for SJR 18. Also
enclosed is some back ground information.

I appreciate and thank you for your time.

enclosure

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Al Adams

WHILE IN SESSION
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3707
Fax 463-4867

OUT OF SESSION
PO Box 333
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3245

Official Business

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SJR 18: Establishment of an Arctic Council

This resolution supports a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum to address concerns that affect the eight countries of the Arctic. The eight countries are the United States, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Canada. The Arctic Council will provide focus and policy direction to existing Arctic countries.

Currently, there are no organizations to deal with issues regarding the Arctic countries on a collective basis. The Arctic Council would strengthen circumpolar initiatives, and contribute to international cooperation to meet the new challenges of sustainable development. Through this council, people of the northern countries would be involved in discussions of issues that affect them directly.

The council would operate by consensus of its members. Organizations such as: Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, Northern Forum, Arctic Leaders' Summit and other organizations would work with the Arctic Council to enhance life for people of the northern region. The organization will define criteria for different agencies that will participate in the Arctic Council. Ministerial level meetings will be rotated among the members. Each Arctic government will identify a coordinator.

The Arctic Council deals with environmental, business and health and safety issues. The Arctic Council will be a decision making body. They will provide directions and recommendations unilaterally that relate to the Arctic concerns.

Page 2

Sponsor Statement: SJR 18

Senator Al Adams

For example, if a country is throwing nuclear waste in the water stream and it is effecting the food source, that country may be urged to comply with the Arctic Council policy to stop throwing waste in the food chain.

Therefore, I urge you to support this resolution for an Arctic Council. It will make Alaska more self-sufficient and self-supporting with out dependence of the federal government.

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN ARCTIC COUNCIL**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada supports creation of the Arctic Council – a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum of the eight Arctic national governments comprised of US, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Canada.
- The Arctic Council would address issues of the Arctic such as: protection of the environment, economic development of Northern regions, circumpolar trade and movement of peoples, the development and expansion of transport and communications systems in the North, the social welfare of Northern residents, the provision of educational and medical services to Northern communities, and the promotion of tourism and cultural exchange.
- Relationship to Existing Circumpolar Initiatives: The Arctic Council would be the sole international institution—an umbrella body—mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns and would obviate the need to create a multiplicity of other, more specialized bodies. *— Secretariat*
- Function of the Proposed Arctic Council: Key body to ensure international cooperation and coordination on sustainable development by promoting the exchange of ideas and possible actions on:
 - closer cooperation between national and local governments and non-governmental organizations on economic development
 - the management of living resources and non-renewable resources.
 - value-added, traditionally-based economic, environmental and scientific enterprises
 - increased trade among Arctic countries and with other markets.
 - improved air and maritime transportation; telecommunication; and education links
 - closer indigenous cultural cooperation and cooperation on shared social problems.
- Structure of the Proposed Arctic Council:
 - Comprised of eight Arctic national governments.
 - Operate on basis of consensus by its members.
 - Representatives of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, and the Association of Aboriginal Peoples of Northern Russian will fully participate in the work and deliberations of the Council as permanent participants.
 - Necessary criteria for observership will be established. *NA*
 - Ministerial level meetings will be rotated among members.
 - Each Arctic government will identify a coordinator.
 - Canada is prepared to consider a small secretariat to support the work of the Council during the initial period.

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
JANUARY 16, 1995.

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN ARCTIC COUNCIL:
A COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR
THE EIGHT ARCTIC STATES**

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FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
JANUARY 16, 1995

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN ARCTIC COUNCIL:

A COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR
THE EIGHT ARCTIC STATES

CONTEXT

Over the past few years, a new international community has taken shape in the Arctic reflecting a growing awareness by the Arctic countries of the many common challenges facing the North and its peoples. This has resulted in a remarkable growth of circumpolar initiatives in response to these emerging issues of mutual concern and interest. Specific examples include:

- Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS)
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- Barents Euro-Arctic Region Council
- Northern Forum
- Arctic Leaders' Summit
- Circumpolar Health Society
- Circumpolar Agricultural Conference

In addition, there have been recently new bilateral initiatives addressing environmental concerns in the Arctic, including the November 1994 Joint Canadian-Russian Statement on Arctic Cooperation and the December 1994 Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Prevention of Pollution in the Arctic.

Many of these circumpolar initiatives have been created on an ad hoc basis and are issue specific.

Despite the success which has been achieved in these initiatives, especially AEPS, there are a number of shortcomings, including: the absence of a mechanism or mandate to address the full range of Arctic issues; and the lack of an overall coordinated approach to Arctic issues, many of which cut across various sectors. Canada is of the view that there is a compelling need for a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum of the eight Arctic governments-- the United States, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Canada-- to strengthen circumpolar initiatives, to contribute to international cooperation, to meet the new challenge of sustainable development, and to provide a broader and coordinated voice in response to critical issues being faced by all Arctic countries.

There is a wide range of Arctic issues common to the nations of the circumpolar North which can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum which promotes cooperation and concerted action. These issues go beyond those related to the protection of the environment, and include, for example: the economic development of Northern regions, circumpolar trade and movement of peoples, the development and expansion of transport and communications systems in the North, the social welfare of Northern residents, especially indigenous peoples, the

(11)

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
JANUARY 16, 1995.

-2-

provision of educational and medical services to Northern communities, and the promotion of tourism and cultural exchange.

An Arctic Council as a regional body could provide political energy and focus for: anticipating and addressing current problems, capitalizing on new opportunities, and involving Northerners in discussion of issues that affect them directly. Northern indigenous peoples, for example, have already made significant contributions through their interventions and representations at international fora (e.g. AEPS) on such critical issues as the environment.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING CIRCUMPOLAR INITIATIVES

The proposed Arctic Council would be the sole international institution mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns and would obviate the need to create a multiplicity of other, more specialized bodies which is the emerging trend. It is not intended to replace or duplicate existing circumpolar initiatives. Instead it would act as an umbrella body.

The Council would constitute a broad consultative instrument in support of specialized initiatives such as the AEPS and IASC. These initiatives could in turn become the functional bodies for the Council.

It would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness by providing focus and, where appropriate, policy direction to existing Arctic-related organizations, creating by consensus additional working groups only where necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with other international organizations.

The relationship between the Arctic Council and the other existing initiatives would be defined more precisely as part of the process to establish the Arctic Council.

FUNCTION OF THE PROPOSED ARCTIC COUNCIL

The terms of reference for an Arctic Council should reflect the elements of the Declaration of May 1993 on the establishment of an Arctic Council (adopted by seven Arctic countries). The Council would provide a forum wherein the Arctic governments would consider and address issues of common interest and make recommendations on follow-up tasks. In this sense, the Council would provide political impetus on actions and co-operative initiatives; ensure better coordination and interaction among the Arctic governments; and promote coherence among the Arctic countries on various aspects of northern development.

Through such a body, the Arctic countries would work to advance Arctic interests within other international organizations. The Council would provide a mechanism to mobilize the resources of the Arctic countries in cases of potential emergency situations or priority issues.

Also, the Council would constitute a significant instrument to address the concerns and aspirations of northern inhabitants, especially indigenous peoples.

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FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
JANUARY 16, 1995.

-3-

Sustainable development is a concept which integrates economic, environmental, and social considerations whose activities are crucial to the economic and cultural viability of northern peoples, and is a shared interest of all Arctic countries. Each element must be given appropriate consideration. The Arctic's unique environmental and cultural features require an integrated regional approach to Arctic sustainable development. These linkages, and the need for a broader integrated approach, have become apparent in the work of the AEPS. An Arctic Council would be the key body to ensure international cooperation and coordination on sustainable development by promoting the exchange of ideas and possible actions on:

- closer cooperation between national and local governments and non-governmental organizations on economic development;
 - the management of living resources (especially marine and land mammals and fish) and non-renewable resources (oil and gas; minerals);
 - value-added, traditionally-based economic, environmental and scientific enterprises;
 - increased trade among the Arctic countries and between the Arctic and other parts of the world;
 - improved air and maritime transportation; telecommunications; and educational links; and
 - closer indigenous cultural cooperation and cooperation on shared social problems.
- The proposed Arctic Council would assist in the regional implementation of global agreements, e.g. trade, and would address only the circumpolar dimension of issues.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSED ARCTIC COUNCIL

In the establishment of an Arctic Council, it is essential for Canada that the following criteria are met. They are based on the terms of reference of the 1993 Declaration:

1. The members of the Arctic Council are the national governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.
2. The Council will operate on the basis of consensus by its members.

The agenda will be a reflection of pressing issues agreed upon by consensus of the eight Arctic countries. The principle of consensus provides the appropriate safeguard to ensure that all parties are in agreement that an issue should be addressed, and that the work of the Arctic Council is based on common understandings and shared interests. Canada

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FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
JANUARY 16, 1995.

does not foresee the Arctic Council as an appropriate body to resolve strategic-military issues. Canada would suggest that in addition to efforts toward its establishment, the Arctic Council focuses initially on promoting sustainable development.

- 3. Representatives of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Association of Aboriginal peoples of northern Russia will fully participate in the work and deliberations of the Council as permanent participants.

The permanent participant status recognizes the primary interests of indigenous peoples in the Arctic and provides a vehicle for their meaningful participation in the inception and proceedings of the Council.

The initial inclusion of these three organizations is based on the recognition that they represent the majority of indigenous peoples throughout the circumpolar North and the important role that these organizations have played in circumpolar cooperation.

It is recognized that there are other indigenous peoples in the Arctic countries, including Canada which are not represented by these organizations. Canada would encourage each country to explore options to allow for meaningful indigenous participation in the national delegation or through other acceptable means.

- 4. The Council will establish the necessary criteria to invite observers to attend meetings of the Council, as appropriate.

This could include other non-governmental organizations, and non-Arctic national and sub-national governments.

- 5. The Council will meet at ministerial level in one of the member countries on a rotational basis, as needed. In addition, it may choose to meet at senior officials level.

- 6. Each Arctic government will identify a coordinator.

- 7. Canada is prepared to consider a small secretariat to support the work of the Council during the initial period.

This discussion paper was prepared jointly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

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February 16, 1995

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The State of Alaska supports an initiative sponsored by the government of Canada known as the Arctic Council. The Arctic Council, comprised of eight Arctic national governments, has an opportunity to be an umbrella body that encompasses the many organizations and issues facing the north. Those issues are very close to Alaska's interest as we are the only Arctic-oriented state, geographically and culturally.

Alaska encourages the United States government to focus on policies affecting the health of our indigenous people, as well as continuing its work on trade, economic development, transportation and research. Public health is of primary concern to Alaska. Solutions to problems, such as the high rates of alcoholism and suicide, affecting the people living in the harsh conditions of the Arctic need to be addressed. Additionally, we view the Arctic Council as a forum to discuss our interests and successes in environmentally responsible Arctic development, including the potential for development in federally designated areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The State of Alaska wants to be an active participant in the development of the United States' Arctic policies. Representation from Alaska's people is essential as they are affected by and knowledgeable about Arctic policies of our Nation.

Sincerely,

s/s Tony Knowles

Tony Knowles
Governor

The President
February 16, 1995
Page 2

bcc: Ambassador Mary Simon
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Representative Don Young
Lawton Jordan, The White House
John Katz
Commissioner Willie Hensley

TK/DR/KP/DCED/bph
clinton.tk

0824
Arctic Council support

16:39:21 EST: FOREIGN AFFAIR?->

286 443 1702

Page 828

Feb. 24, 1995 4:22PM DFAIT/BCD/BCC

No. 1636 P. 20/25

Government
of CanadaGouvernement
du Canada

Visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to Canada
February 23-24, 1995

BACKGROUNDER ON KEY RESULTS

Trade

- Leaders stressed the very positive impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (increase of US\$40 billion/C\$50 billion last year for total two-way trade of US\$270 billion/C\$371 billion).
- Leaders affirmed the need to manage trade disputes better. Trade Minister MacLaren and USTR Kantor will work with their Mexican colleague to address NAFTA trade remedies issues. They reviewed a range of trade irritants, including agricultural and cultural issues, and their expectation for progress towards a constructive dialogue on softwood lumber.

Air Agreement

- The air agreement will generate new economic activity and thousands of new jobs in both countries.
- The agreement will result in lower air fares, increased tourism, and new business in Canadian and U.S. cities.

Borders/Customs

- Leaders agreed to improve border services in order to continue expansion of trade and tourism.
- A binational steering committee has been tasked to develop, within six months, an action plan to make cross-border travel, trade and tourism easier.
- Measures to strengthen efforts against drugs, smuggling and illegal movement of people are also being envisioned.

Defence

- Leaders agreed to conclude successfully negotiations on the renewal of the NORAD agreement this year. Foreign Minister Ouellet and Defence Minister Collenette will follow up with Secretaries Christopher and Perry. .../2

Canada

Feb. 24. 1995 4:22PM DFAIT/BCD/BCC

No. 1636 P. 21/25

- 2 -

- Special negotiators have been appointed to review environmental clean-up and residual value issues relating to former U.S. military sites in Canada.

Environment

- Leaders remarked on the long and successful history of bilateral environmental cooperation and the importance of regular high-level meetings to address common environmental concerns.
- Leaders were pleased to note plans to:
 - convene a meeting of G-7 Environment Ministers in Hamilton in April;
 - work together to develop by February 1996 a binational strategy to address the most persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes environment;
 - undertake projects to assess regional and ground level ozone concentrations affecting both countries;
 - formalize cooperation on natural parks and historic sites; and
 - reaffirm their commitment to preserve and protect the Porcupine caribou herd in its habitat.

Fish

- Both leaders have made the successful completion of the Pacific Salmon Treaty a priority, and pledged their full support for their negotiators' continuing efforts to overcome outstanding differences.

Global Economic Issues

- The leaders discussed the G-7 Economic Summit, which Prime Minister Chrétien will host in Halifax this year.
- Leaders agreed to work together in the reform of international financial institutions and for the success of the World Trade Organization.

Western Hemisphere

- Leaders discussed implementation of their goal for a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005 and the desirability of Chile's early accession to NAFTA.

.../3

- 3 -

- Leaders reaffirmed their support for and confidence in President Zedillo and Mexico's long-term economic future.
- Leaders reviewed other developments in Latin America, including the successful ongoing action to restore democracy in Haiti.

NATO Expansion

- Leaders agreed that NATO expansion would contribute to the stability and security of Europe.

United Nations/Peacekeeping

- Leaders agreed on the importance of a reformed UN in keeping global peace.
- The Prime Minister congratulated the President on his leadership in fostering historic progress in the Middle East peace process and in addressing the Mexican economic crisis.
- The President expressed his appreciation of Canada's long-standing commitment to peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia and other regions of the world.

Arctic Council

- Leaders agreed to pursue the establishment of an Arctic Council by early 1996 to promote regional cooperation and sustainable development in the North. X

Other issues

- The two leaders also held very productive discussions on European security architecture, Russia and Ukraine, the former Yugoslavia and China.
- Canada took note of the U.S. request to address the Beaufort Sea boundary dispute and promised to provide a response.

THE NORTHERN FORUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

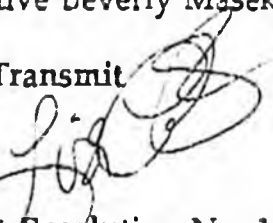
4101 University Drive -- Alaska Pacific University
Carr-Gottstein Academic Center, Suite 221
Anchorage AK 99508
Telephone (907) 561-3280 -- Facsimile (907) 561-6645

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

April 6, 1995

TO: Senator Albert Adams - Fax #465-4821
Senator Drue Pearce - Fax #465-3872
Representative Gail Phillips - Fax#465-3472
Representative Ramona Barnes - Fax #465-4565
Representative Beverly Masek - Fax #465-2294

7 Pages to Transmit

FROM Lisa Shaw 
RE: House Joint Resolution No. 18
The Arctic Council

THE NORTHERN FORUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

4101 University Drive, APU Carr-Gottstein Center, Suite 221

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone: 907 561-3290 FAX: 907 561-6645

Telex: 46597753 (NFOPUMAK)

April 5, 1995

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Knowles:

As you are aware, in February of this year, the U.S. voiced its support for the establishment of the Arctic Council, an organization representing the eight Arctic countries. The organizational details are now being finalized by Ambassador Mary Simon of Canada.

As you may also be aware, the initiative to create the Arctic Council was first developed by Canada's former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1991. Since then the Council has had three organizational meetings, one of which I had the opportunity to attend as an observer, in Ottawa, Canada, in May of 1993.

To date, The Northern Forum Board of Directors has not taken a formal position on the Arctic Council. The Board does, however, support the idea of increased federal resources for the Arctic.

However, there is a concern from the Board that the Arctic Council may duplicate the important work already being done by The Northern Forum, or conflict with the special region-to-region approach of the organization. To ensure that this does not occur, it is imperative that The Northern Forum and the Arctic Council develop a formal relationship of exchange. This could be done in one of two ways.

The first, and preferred, option would be that Northern Forum members be included as part of the official delegation at the Arctic Council's meetings. For example, there could be a stipulation that each federal delegation include at least one regional leader. This would ensure that regional interests are not duplicated or overlooked.

Membership Level I

Board of Directors

Chairman

Governor Sigbjørn Eriksen

Regional Authority of Northern Norway

Vice Chairman

President Mikhail Ye. Nikolayev

Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia

Vice Chairman

Governor Takahiro Yokomichi

Hokkaido Prefecture Japan

Secretary General

Walter J. Hickel

Alaska U.S.A.

Governor Tony Knowles

Alaska, U.S.A.

Premier Ralph Klein

Alberta, Canada

Governor Alexander V. Nazarov

Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Governor Damdinjavyn Batsukh

Darkhad Province, Mongolia

Governor Anatoly M. Yakimov

Evenk Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Governor Tian Fengshan

Hailongjiang Province, China

Governor Vladimir A. Biryukov

Kamchatka Oblast, Russia

Governor Viktor I. Ishaev

Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

Governor Alexander V. Philipenko

Khanty-Mansiysk

Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Governor Yuri A. Spiridonov

Komi Republic, Russia

Governor Hannale Pokka

Lapland Region, Finland

Governor Alexander S. Belyakov

Leningrad Oblast, Russia

Governor Victor G. Mikhailov

Magadan Oblast, Russia

Governor Yuri V. Komarovskiy

Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Governor Evgeny A. Kravtsov

Sakhalin Oblast, Russia

Governor Arnt Frøsteh

South Trøndelag, Norway

Governor Görel Bohlin

Västergötten, Sweden

Membership Level II

Republic of Korea

The Honorable Tony Knowles
State of Alaska
April 5, 1995
Page 2 of 2

Secondly, The Northern Forum could be granted Permanent Observer status. This privilege has been proposed for three indigenous groups thus far: The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), The Sami Council, and the Association of Aboriginal People of Northern Russia.

The distinction of "Permanent Observer" is important in this case because it distinguishes these groups from other classes of observers. Permanent Observers are each provided a seat at the table with the federal delegations. This is an important consideration given the fact that the Council votes on the basis of consensus.

There is currently a Resolution which has been proposed by Senator Al Adams to support the establishment of the Arctic Council. I believe this Resolution is of great importance to the State of Alaska. I further believe that this Resolution provides an opportunity for the State of Alaska to persuade the United States and the Arctic Council to formally recognize The Northern Forum. Enclosed is a draft of the suggested changes to this Resolution. Please be aware that I have discussed these issues with your Special Staff Assistant, Kurt Parkan.

I look for your support on this very important matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Shropshire
Executive Director

Enclosure

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE -- FIRST SESSION

A RESOLUTION

Relating to establishment of an Arctic council. (Original title)

Relating to Strengthening Alaska's role in Global Arctic Affairs.

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

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is an integral center for Arctic policy and has invested considerable resources through a region-to-region approach in establishing the Secretariat for The Northern Forum.

WHEREAS the Northern Forum is a functional, effective world organization, accredited by the United Nations.

WHEREAS The Northern Forum membership is represented by elected leaders from 23 Arctic regions.

WHEREAS there are many Arctic issues that are common to the nations of the circumpolar north, and these issues can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum that promotes cooperation and concerted action; and

WHEREAS a regional multilateral forum for the Arctic would provide political energy and focus for anticipating and addressing current and

future problems of the Arctic, capitalizing on new opportunities for the Arctic, and involving residents of the Arctic in a discussion of the issues that affect them directly; and

WHEREAS the creation of a multinational Arctic council has been proposed to provide a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum for the eight Arctic nations, including the United States, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Canada; and

WHEREAS Alaska should play a prominent and active role in developing a policy forum for the Arctic; and

WHEREAS The Northern Forum and the Arctic Council are the only institutions which are mandated to address and manage a full range of regional and federal Arctic issues; and

WHEREAS an Arctic council would be a key body to ensure international cooperation and coordination on sustainable development of the Arctic; and

WHEREAS an Arctic council would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in handling Arctic issues, by providing focus and, where appropriate, policy direction so existing Arctic-related organizations, creating by consensus additional working groups only where necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with other international organizations.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the establishment of the Arctic Council consisting of the eight nations having territory in the Arctic, as an umbrella policy organization for the Arctic, which formally recognizes and does not duplicate the important work undertaken by The Northern Forum.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Canadian carries torch for northern way of life

By CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH
The New York Times

OTTAWA — She speaks of the despair that leads some of her people to alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide and of their pessimism over the lack of job opportunities. Yet to Mary Simon, an Eskimo who recently became Canada's first Circumpolar ambassador, the news is not all bad.

"Not everybody is out drinking

and living a life of despair," she said. "Part of our culture is thriving, and there's a strong determination to pull through all of this. So I say we can make the changes that are necessary to bring back the pride and the self-esteem."

One of the changes she hopes to see as Canada's chief diplomat on northern issues is creation by the world's eight circumpolar nations of an Arctic Council to make policy

commitments in areas of overlapping concern such as environmental protection.

Not until the Cold War ended was it possible for either Canada or the Eskimos, 40,000 of them, to turn their attention to the enormous common problems of degradation of their environment and deterioration of their economy.

Please see Page B-3, **AMBASSADOR**



Does Northern Eskimo not have anything to do with this? or say like it??
Pinky

AMBASSADOR: Canadian Eskimo carries the torch for northern way of life

Continued from Page B-1

and social life.

"My own experience goes back 20 years working on both environmental and economic issues in the Canadian north," said Simon, a 47-year-old Inuk from Kuujuaq, a settlement on Ungava Bay in northern Quebec to which she returns frequently, "but now for the first time we have the possibility of a coherent approach by eight governments."

In addition to Canada, the circumpolar nations are the United States, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark, which administers Greenland.

Simon, the first Eskimo to hold the rank of ambassador in Canada, said she wants to look not only at environmental questions, "but at the broader picture of how people live in the north, how developmental

projects affect people in the different regions."

"Does that wealth go back into the north or is it just taken out?" she said. "Is there development taking place in such a way that will provide new jobs for the young people who are desperately in need of work?"

The council is a 6-year-old Canadian initiative that has won the backing of all polar powers except the United States. Washington has had reservations about creating a new international bureaucracy, but Simon's lobbying appears to have brought the Clinton administration around.

David Colson, the deputy assistant secretary of state responsible for polar affairs, said recently from Washington: "I would hope to be in a position to reconcile our differences and have a common point of view with Canada that we

could express to the other six countries in March."

The issue of environmental security has taken on a sense of urgency with the huge oil spill last year near the Russian arctic city of Utsinsk and the disclosure of dumping by the former Soviet Union of nuclear reactors in the shallow waters of the Kara Sea.

The eight polar countries adopted an Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy in 1991, but it was a non-binding agreement lacking enforcement provisions. Pollution also has been a top agenda item for the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, a nongovernmental group representing all the Native people in the north, which Simon headed from 1986 to 1992.

But the hope is that the new governmental body would be able to forestall such disasters and protect

the fragile arctic ecosystem.

By addressing standards required for proper environmental management and conservation, the council could set the stage for sustainable economic development, said Christopher Stephens, an arctic scholar who directs the Indigenous Development International program at the McDonald Institute of Cambridge University.

Canada, which occupies 30 percent of the arctic land mass, is particularly anxious about environmental deterioration. PCBs and chemicals associated with pesticides already have shown up in disconcertingly high concentrations in the Canadian north, borne by winds, rivers and ocean currents.

Through fish and marine mammals, which form a large part of Native diets,

they enter the food chain. PCB levels, for example, have been found to be five times higher in the breast milk of Eskimos in northern Quebec than in mothers in southern Canada.

Simon, who has three children, said people in the north feel an urgency about the contamination.

"The concern is something you feel — like it's in you, like I'm really worried about this," she said. "People are worried that they won't be able to eat fat anymore. And where are they going to get a nutritionally based food source because the cost of living is so great?"

A youth steeped in Eskimo culture gave Simon a deep understanding of the

people's concerns. Her mother is an Eskimo, and her father, a Hudson Bay post manager, is a white Canadian who has long lived in the north. The family spoke Inuktitut, the local language, and her mother speaks little English.

As a child, Simon and her seven brothers and sisters learned how to drive a dog team and to build igloos, but they were taught to appreciate both cultures. She went to high school through correspondence courses. Later she taught Inuktitut at McGill University in Montreal, then joined the Northern Service of CBC as a radio and television broadcaster.

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The Second Arctic Leaders' Summit, Tromsø January 25 - 27, 1995

Proposal for the Establishment of an Arctic Council

The participants in the workshop were generally positively interested in the establishment of an Arctic Council, although some scepticism and concerns were expressed with respect to the different levels of participation - these being the membership for Arctic states versus permanent participation status for Indigenous Peoples - represented by their International Indigenous Organizations of the Arctic.

The Arctic Leaders' Summit recommends that the following be embodied in the Declaration of the Arctic Council:

- The eight Arctic states recognize that the Arctic Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination within their nation-states.
- The right of Arctic Indigenous Peoples to participate fully and directly in an Arctic Council should be reflected as a key principle in the proposed structure of the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Leaders' Summit support the principle as stated on page 3 and 4 in the section on Structure of the Proposed Arctic Council in the Discussion Paper on the Establishment of an Arctic Council: A Collaborative Opportunity for the Eight Arctic States of January 16, 1995.

. Declaration of the Second Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit

We, the Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples organizations of the Arctic, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Association of the Indigenous Peoples in Russia, Siberia and the Far East.

Having convened the Second Arctic Leaders Summit at Tromsø, Norway to continue the cooperation among Arctic Indigenous Leaders to further identify common international issues of concern, to exchange experiences, and to develop strategies and solutions.

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the Summit is the achievement of international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural, political and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Recognizing the value and diversity of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Conscious of the need to improve the economic, social, cultural and political situation of Arctic indigenous peoples with full respect for distinctiveness and our own initiatives,

Recognizing the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples to self-determination, self-government, land and resources, in addition to cultural, social and economic rights;

Recognizing the special role of indigenous peoples in environmental management and development in the Arctic, and the significance of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices, and the need to promote our effective participation to achieve sustainable development in the Arctic;

Recalling the principles concerning indigenous peoples in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), Caring for the Earth, the Rio Declaration, the Nuuk Declaration, and the recommendations from the 1994 Seminar on the Integration of Indigenous Peoples Knowledge held at Reykjavik;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/163 of 21 december 1993, which proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the central theme of effective partnership and cooperation between indigenous peoples and member states, including participation of Indigenous peoples in the plan of action for the decade and its implementation;

Affirming the goal to adopt the Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Recognizing the importance of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system;

We adopt, as consensus recommendations of the Summit, the following:

- 1) Recommendations on International Issues
- 2) Recommendations on Business Development and Foreseen Opportunities
- 3) Recommendations on Russian Issues
- 4) Recommendations on Environmental Issues

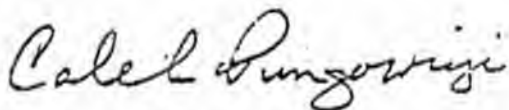
We agree to continue the cooperation, begun in Copenhagen 1991 and continued in Tromsø 1995 by holding our Third Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit in 1998.

We also agree to consider the establishment of a joint task force and procedures to coordinate common Arctic policies.

We further agree that in order to advance our mutual concerns, we will initiate a process leading up to the third Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit, to include some of the following issues:

- addressing the situation of the Indigenous Peoples of Russian North, Siberia and the Far East.
- implementation of the Rio Principles and Agenda 21
- indigenous strategies for sustainable and equitable development in the Arctic
- furthering of indigenous rights during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

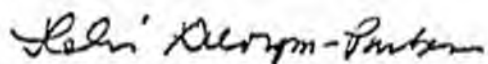
Tromsø, January 27, 1995



Signed by Caleb Pungowiyi, president
On the behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference



Signed by Efemye Aipin, president
On the behalf of the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and Far East



Signed by Helevi Nuorgam-Pouliasuo, president
On the behalf of the Saami Council

-- PRESS RELEASE --

Tromsø, Norway - Indigenous leaders of the Arctic from Russia, Scandinavia, Greenland, Canada and Alaska met at a 3-day summit in Tromsø, Norway which ended last Friday, January 27th. It was their first meeting since the inaugural and historic Arctic Indigenous Leaders' Summit of 1991.

The Arctic indigenous leaders, along with invited guests and observers, discussed issues of common concern such as increasing Arctic pollution, loss of indigenous rights over land, possible ways of building upon further cooperation among Arctic indigenous peoples, how to best deal with their respective national governments and how to promote economic opportunities among indigenous communities of the circumpolar region.

The Russian Arctic was the focus of much of the debate at the Tromsø Summit. Stories were heard about how the Soviet era left many people dispossessed, and about the current rapid changes which ironically are further hurting Arctic Russia's indigenous communities. Anna Prahova, an indigenous leader from the Kola Peninsula spoke passionately about how the Saami people had lost their right to fish the Ponoy, the Lumbovka and other rivers which they have used for thousands of years. Foreign-owned tourism companies from Finland, United States and elsewhere were buying up the rights to rivers so that "wealthy Americans, Canadian and Britons can catch our large salmon, take pictures and fly back home with them". Prahova told Summit delegates and observers that only one week ago much of the Lumbovka River had been put up for public auction. Local companies owned by indigenous peoples would have no chance of competing, she said, and local people would receive no economic benefit. "The benefit is all going to a few regional authorities and foreigners", she said.

Another indigenous leader from the Amur region, Nadezhda Bulatova, spoke of forests being sold to Korean firms by local authorities. She cited an example of Udigeya in the Primorski area in which 2000 indigenous peoples "might as well die when cutting of the forest begins". She did offer positive hope, however, by saying that where indigenous groups had gained a measure of autonomy and control over their traditional resources, sustainable use had been ensured. "It can and does work", she said, "but we need autonomous organizations".

Ms. Bulatova thanked the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) for its support and for sharing the experiences of other Arctic indigenous peoples like the Inuit of Nunavut, Canada, which ICC President, Caleb Pungowiyi, had talked about earlier. "We are sure that the experiences of the Inuit land claims process in Alaska, Canada and Greenland can help us", she said.

In his address to Summit delegates, the ICC President also spoke of the important role of women in Inuit society and Inuit economies. Mr. Pungowiyi used the example of his grandmother's knowledge of

the environment, community wealth and village trading potential in addition to her leadership skills to show how the rights of Inuit to use their living resources in a wise manner must be vigilantly maintained if Inuit culture is to survive and social problems are to be reduced. He was optimistic that it could, and told governmental observers that they must assist in reopening markets such as seal skins that had been taken away from them due to animal rights movements and laws in the United States and in the European Union.

Degradation of the Arctic environment was also a major focus of the Tromsø Summit. Anne Walker from Alaska said that each indigenous leader should take personal responsibility to take back to the local communities the stories heard at the Summit. Ms. Walker further demanded that scientists and governments carrying out environmental research in the Arctic provide plain-language advice on how contaminants arriving from elsewhere, and ending up in the indigenous peoples' food chain may affect them, so they could make their own assessment of whether or not the food they eat is free from unsafe levels of contaminants.

The Arctic indigenous leaders ended the Summit by making several statements on issues relating to Arctic cooperation, environment, rights to sustainable utilization of resources, business development and the Russian Arctic. The Arctic leaders supported a statement by Simeonie Nalukturuk, President of Makivik Corporation in Nunavik (Northern Quebec) that in the event of the province of Quebec separating from Canada, Quebec Inuit have the right to choose their own destiny. Delegates also made a statement in support of a proposed Arctic Council of the eight Arctic governments, but only if the indigenous organizations have full participatory rights in such a council.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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