

SCOMM

83:15

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU 99811
(907) 465-2973



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 1992

TO: Senator Paul Fischer, Chair
Senate Special Committee on
International Trade and Tourism

FROM: Representative Tom Moyer, Chair *TM*
House Special Committee on
International Trade and Tourism

RE: HJR 81 "Relating to travel advisories issued by the
Department of State"

I would like to respectfully request that you schedule HJR 81, which relates to travel advisories issued by the Department of State, for a hearing at your earliest convenience. I've attached back-up information on this resolution, along with copies of numerous articles on the Alaska-Canada Highway. The resolution passed the House unanimously on Friday, March 20.

As you probably know, the resolution is the direct result of a travel advisory issued by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs in early February. The State Department issued this advisory on the Yukon and the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway, which was very negative for both Alaska and the Yukon and there were many erroneous statements in the advisory. These advisories are issued in written form and also placed on a recording that can be accessed by dialing a hotline number.

After prodding from the Yukon and Alaska tourism offices and the Alaska Congressional delegation this advisory was finally reworded earlier this month and the recording has been changed. The current recording is not quite as sensational as the original one. I still believe that the Legislature should go on record urging the State Department to contact states and other entities that might be affected by such advisories in the future.

Thank you for your prompt scheduling of HJR 81.

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX V. JUNEAU 99811

(907) 465-2943



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 17, 1992

TO: Representative Johnny Ellis, Chair
House Rules Committee

FROM: Representative Tom Moyer, Chair
House Special Committee on
International Trade and Tourism

RE: HJR 81 "Relating to travel advisories issued by the
Department of State"

I would like to respectfully request that you calendar HJR 81, which relates to travel advisories issued by the Department of State, for the floor at your earliest convenience. I've attached back-up information on this resolution, along with copies of numerous articles on the Alaska-Canada Highway.

Last month the State Department issued a travel advisory on the Yukon and the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway, which was very negative for both Alaska and the Yukon and there were many erroneous statements in the advisory. These advisories are issued in written form and also placed on a recording that can be accessed by dialing a 1-800-number.

For your information, this advisory was finally reworded earlier this month and the recording has been changed. The current recording is not quite as sensational as the original one. I still believe the Legislature should go on record urging the State Department to contact states and other entities that might be affected by such advisories in the future.

Thank you for your prompt calendaring of HJR 81.

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU 99811
(907) 465-2973



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 1992

TO: House Members, Special Committee on
International Trade and Tourism

FROM: Representative Tom Moyer, Chair

RE: HJR 81 "Relating to travel advisories issued by the
Department of State"

Attached is information on HJR 81, which relates to travel advisories issued by the Department of State. As most of you are aware, this resolution is a direct result of a recent State Department travel advisory, which painted the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway and the Yukon in a very negative light. By phoning a hotline number at the State Department, a person can access a tape-recorded notice about travel conditions and information on a variety of countries around the world. The particular recording on the Alcan and the Yukon sounded much harsher than the actual written transcript and much of the information was incorrect.

Last week this advisory was finally reworded and the recording was changed. The current recording is not quite as sensational as the original one. Credit needs to be given to Connell Murray, the Director of the Division of Tourism, for his persistent effort in lobbying for the change and to Josephine Stewart, Deputy Minister for Yukon Tourism, and to Senator Frank Murkowski.

While the travel advisory has indeed been changed, I think it is imperative that we request the State Department to check with states that might be impacted by travel advisories in the future. In particular, I believe they should contact the Tourism officials of any state that is affected by a travel advisory about foreign countries. It should be fairly easy for State Department staff to check with appropriate state agencies.

SPONSOR STATEMENT ON HJR 81

HJR 81 "Relating to travel advisories issued by the Department of State" was introduced by the House Special Committee on International Trade and Tourism (ITT). The resolution is a direct result of a recent State Department travel advisory, which painted the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway and the Yukon in a very negative light. By phoning a hotline number, a person could access travel information on a variety of countries around the world. The recording sounded much harsher than the actual written transcript and much of the information was incorrect.

The advisory stated that conditions along the Alcan were primitive at best and that there were long stretches of road between gas stations. The advisory also said that gas and food prices were three times higher than the lower 48. With the opening ceremonies earlier this month for the 50th anniversary of the Alcan, Rendezvous '92, it is even more important to establish positive advertising about the road.

Last week this advisory was finally reworded and the current recording is not quite as sensational as the original one. Credit needs to be given to Connell Murray, the Division of Tourism's Director, for his persistent effort in lobbying for the change and to Josephine Stewart, Deputy Minister for Yukon Tourism, and Senator Frank Murkowski.

Attached are copies of letters from Senator Murkowski, Deputy Minister Stewart and Director Murray as backup, along with articles that have appeared in Alaskan newspapers as a result of this travel advisory. I've also included a copy of a resolution that was passed by the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) on this topic.

While the travel advisory has indeed been changed, I think it is still imperative that we send a message to the State Department and our Congressional delegation that it is important to promote Alaska in a positive light. I hope that we can move this through both bodies in a timely fashion.

If you have questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact my office at 465-2973.

need to do one on HJR 82

contact people to speak / Dept.

CS on HB 490

speech statement (cell Doug)
in a.m.

ALASKA

Alaska Division of Tourism
P.O. Box E
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0800
Phone: (907) 465-2010

Department of Commerce &
Economic Development
State Office Building, Ninth Floor
333 Willoughby Avenue
Fax: (907) 586-8399

TELECOPIER TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DELIVER TO:

Axis

FROM:

Wray

Number of pages INCLUDING transmittal sheet:

2

DATE:

2/25/92

OPERATOR:

TIME:

9AM

IF TELECOPY DOES NOT TRANSMIT PROPERLY, PLEASE CALL (907) 465-2012.

Here's The resolution.
it. AFMC never

AUA passed
got to it.

- call if you have
questions -
Wray



PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS tourism has become the number one industry in the world, and in America, now provides over six million jobs and billions of dollars in revenues for communities throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS tourism provides opportunities to open the doors of the global community to create understanding between different cultures and environments; and

WHEREAS it is the official policy of the government of the United States to promote international tourism, as evidenced by the many programs carried out by the United States Travel and Tourism Administration in the Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS elements of the tourism industry both public and private, both at home and abroad, have heavily invested in international tourism development; and

WHEREAS the Bureau of Consular Affairs in the U.S. Department of State plays a key role in international tourism, and through its Citizens Travel Advisory Service, may exert a profound impact, either positive or negative, on such international tourism

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Secretary of State take the necessary steps to ensure that all public entities that might be affected by such travel advisories be identified, and that prior to release, these entities be given the chance to review the advisories for accuracy and to recommend changes where necessary.



Tourism

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Our File:

Your File:

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

To: FAX # 907-465-2318

REPRESENTATIVE Tom MAYERS

DATE FEB 10/92

TIME SENT _____

From: TOURISM YUKON, WHITEHORSE FAX # (403) 667-2634

ORIGINATOR JOSEPHINE STEWART, DEPUTY MINISTER

DEPARTMENT Tourism

TELEPHONE _____

MESSAGE

SEE ATTACHED - AS PER OUR TELEPHONE

CONVERSATION OF THIS A.M.

THIS IS PAGE 1 OF 19 PAGES. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU
DO NOT RECEIVE THE COMPLETE MESSAGE, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
NUMBER INDICATED ABOVE, OR FAX US AT (403) 667-2634.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

BY FAX

6 February, 1992

Mr. David T. Johnson,
Consul General of the United States,
1075 W. Georgia Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4E9

Dear David,

What are you guys up to?

Your invitation to the Commissioner's Ball is on hold until
we receive a rational explanation.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

J. K. McKinnon,
Commissioner of the Yukon

2 attachments

Just kidding!!

TO:

Mr. J. R. McKinnon

Office of the Commissioner (FAX: 403) 667-4153

211 Hawkins Street

Whitehorse, Yukon

FROM:

Consul General - David T. Johnson

SUBJECT:

REF: Your fax of 2/6/92

Pages to Follow: 0

COMMENTS:

Dear Ken:

No good deed ever goes unpunished! We were trying to give your travelers a heads-up on the preparations they needed to make in order fully to enjoy their celebration of Rendezvous '92. As is sometimes the case, the press found a way to put a negative spin on it. We are working with the folks in Alaska to give our statement a more positive tone. Like you, we want as many of our citizens as possible to enjoy your 50th anniversary party.

Regards,



FOR RELEASE

February 7, 1992 #018

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY CONSIDERED MYSTIFYING

WHITEHORSE - "There's no denying" says Tourism Minister Art Webster, "that compared to downtown Washington D.C., the Yukon is definitely 'frontier country.' But the services provided and the amenities offered by hospitable people throughout our beautiful territory exceed every expectation of the thousands of American highway travellers who safely visit the Yukon every year."

The minister was reacting to a U.S. State Department travel advisory released Wednesday.

It warned travellers that it may be hard to find a motel or gas stations along the Alaska Highway during this summer's 50th anniversary commemorations of the construction of the Alaska Highway.

"The statement is ridiculous," said Webster. "Certainly our bookings are up due to the Highway Anniversary, but recent indications are that plenty of accommodation is still available."

Webster went on to say although research indicates that the anniversary events this year may result in an increase of 18,000 to 20,000 visitors over last year, the expected increase equals tourist highs set in 1987.

"We certainly didn't have a problem accommodating tourist needs in '87," the minister said, "so I can't imagine why we would have one now. Our industry has developed significantly in the past four years and we are well-positioned to handle the numbers."

The advisory warned Americans that gas stations and medical facilities are limited.

.../2

"The Yukon portion of the Alaska Highway is about 600 miles, Webster continued. "There are gas stations approximately every 50 miles and medical facilities ranging from nursing stations to full-fledged hospitals in the communities along the route."

The Yukon Department of Tourism is currently working with representatives from Alaska, Tourism Canada and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon to correct the impressions left by the advisory.

"People who have been researching a trip to the Yukon are well informed about our geography and our amenities," the minister said. "However, we have to allay any false impressions to ensure future travellers aren't discouraged from travelling to the Yukon."

- 30 -

CONTACT:

John Spicer
Director, Tourism Development
(403) 667-5633

Dennis Senger
Public Affairs Bureau
(403) 667-5431

Government of the Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6

ALASKA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 1992

**For Information Contact:
Connel Murray, Director
Alaska Division of Tourism
(907) 465-2012**

NORTHERN TOURISM OFFICIALS CRITICIZE REPORTS OF STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL ADVISORY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA -- Tourism officials in both Alaska and Canada reacted strongly today to reports of a travel advisory issued by the United States State Department, which indicated travelers might have trouble finding accommodations along the Alaska Highway in the Yukon Territory.

"We've read the advisory and frankly we're mystified as to how reports could be so misleading," said Connel Murray, Alaska's Director of Tourism.

One report, widely circulated in Alaska, stated flatly that finding a motel or a gas station in the Yukon can be tough. Not necessarily true, said Murray.

- more -



"We've been monitoring the situation closely, and while we are expecting a banner year because of the 50th anniversary celebration of the construction of the Alaska highway, we have no indication that travelers will have problems finding accommodations and other services."

Murray's views were echoed by Klaus Roth, director of tourism marketing for Canada's Yukon Territory. Roth indicated the Yukon has been aggressive in increasing its ability to accommodate visitors. As an example, he cited the expansion of existing R.V. parks and campgrounds, and the addition of new ones to accommodate the expected increases in traffic. He also noted the Alaska Highway, which gained fame as the "Alcan" when it was constructed through virtual wilderness in 1942, is now paved through most of its nearly 1,500-mile length.

He also stressed that while the highway did, indeed, traverse the Yukon's "frontier country" -- as the travel advisory described it -- services for the motorist were more than adequate.

"After all, people have been driving this highway for half-a-century now and we've had to generate the facilities to take care of them including hotels and motels, rural lodges, gas stations and service facilities, and medical facilities," stressed Roth.

Murray said the State of Alaska had also been taking the necessary steps to accommodate expected increases in highway travel. Waysides and parks have been upgraded and an ongoing highway improvement program is underway as weather permits, he said.

- more -

Additionally, Murray countered points made in the advisory about the highway.

- There is no point on the highway where there is more than 97 miles between gas stations, and the average is closer to 55 miles.
- Almost every town along the highway has medical facilities. The greatest distance between medical facilities is 150 miles.
- Gas prices throughout Canada are higher than U.S. On the highway, prices average \$2.19 per U.S. gallon, certainly not triple most U.S. prices.

Murray also said telephone and mail inquiries were pointing to a longer-than-average season on the highway. Businesses that serve motorists have been alerted to be prepared for visitors arriving earlier than usual, and departing later.

ALASKA

Alaska Division of Tourism
P.O. Box E
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0800
Phone: (907) 465-2010

Department of Commerce &
Economic Development
State Office Building, Ninth Floor
333 Willoughby Avenue
Fax: (907) 586-8399

TELECOPIER TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DELIVER TO: Dave Johnson 604-685-5285

FROM: Conn Murray

U.S. Consul General's office

State of Alaska, Director
of Tourism

Number of pages INCLUDING transmittal sheet: 1

DATE: 2-6-92

OPERATOR: _____

TIME: _____

IF TELECOPY DOES NOT TRANSMIT PROPERLY, PLEASE CALL (907) 465-2012.

The Travel Advisory on the Yukon tended to blind-side not only our friends in Canada, but Alaska as well since the Highway is our only land-link to the "lower 48."

Please note that there is no point on the highway where there is more than 97 miles between gas stations -- and the average is closer to 55. There are places on the U.S. interstate system where they're further apart than that. As for medical facilities, almost every little town has them. In one spot there is about 150 miles between medical facilities -- I'll bet there are places in Nevada or Kansas that are similar. Peak season on the highway it's always advisable to have reservations, just as it is in Alaska, Hawaii or any other tourist destination. But the Government of the Yukon assures us that with new and expanded facilities they are expecting business as usual in '92, and so are we in Alaska. Gas prices throughout Canada are higher than the U.S. On the highway they average \$2.19 per U.S. gallon, certainly not triple most U.S. prices. As for food, lunch in Teslin runs from \$3.00 to \$7.00, with dinner \$5.00 to \$17.00, and other highway towns are comparable. Based on world prices, or even many other U.S. prices, travel on the Alcan highway might be considered a bargain. For this reason, I'm sending along our suggestions for changes in the Advisory to make it confirm a little more closely to the facts.

Thanks for your help. I'm hoping your recorded message can be changed, and perhaps a revision provided the press.

note: Our division is moving the following press release in Alaska.

ALASKA DIVISION OF TOURISM P.O. BOX E.

JUNEAU, AK 99811-0800 (907) 465-2012 FAX 586-8399



FAX
7. PER T

INFORMAL MESSAGE

403 667-2634

Date posted: 06-Feb-1992 16:15 DST
From: HA Van der Veer WSHDC - UNTO
VANDEHACZ
Dept: WSHDC UNTO
Tel No: (202) 682-7705

TO: J Normand Guerin UTO
TO: Paul Desbiens UTO
TO: Gilles JW Tasse UTO

(GUERIJNC AT A1 AT UOTTON)
(DESBIPC AT A1 AT UOTTON)
(TASSEJJC AT A1 AT UOTTON)

Subject: Travel Advisories YUKON

We have received the following from Yukon Tourism, which could be interpreted in several ways, including one that assumes subjective statements by the US Government about travel in Canada.

Rather than issuing a SPECIFIC advisory about the potential of MENINGITIS-related illness, the release editorializes whether the YUKON is definitely frontier, and that getting a motel room, medical care or car service in the Yukon may be tough. In fact, by inserting the health issue, the continuation of the text could imply that these conditions of lack of facilities prevail ANYWHERE in Canada outside Whitehorse.

Yukon Tourism has expressed concern about this kind of tactic, and addressed the fax to me since the dateline is Washington. Travel advisories are accessed through the public telephone system. Anyone interested in advisories, which usually range from health alerts to civil war and uprisings (Georgia, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Venezuela) can dial a phone number which gives that type of information.

Can you advise whether this merits any steps to be taken by the Department, Tourism Canada or this Mission to address the question of implicit discouragement of travel in Canada.

Here's the text as transmitted:

(WASHINGTON) THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD AMERICANS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FINDING A MOTEL ROOM IN THE YUKON CAN BE TOUGH, AND THERE AREN'T TOO MANY GAS STATIONS EITHER.

THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS EXPECTS MORE TOURISTS TO DRIVE THE ALASKA-CANADA HIGHWAY THIS YEAR DURING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY, AND IT ISSUED A TRAVEL ADVISORY TO LET VISITORS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE IN FOR.

AMONG OTHER SUGGESTIONS - THE ADVISORY SAID TRAVELERS TO EASTERN CANADA SHOULD CONSIDER VACCINATING CHILDREN BECAUSE OF A RISE IN MENINGITIS CASES AND RELATED DISEASES.

THE ADVISORY SAID TRAVELERS CAN EXPECT TO FIND FEW MOTEL ROOMS AWAY FROM CITIES - AND LIMITED CAR REPAIR AND MEDICAL FACILITIES OUTSIDE OF WHITEHORSE.

IN FACT THE DEPARTMENT NOTED: "THE YUKON IS DEFINITELY FRONTIER COUNTRY".

WASHINGTON NR 202 647-5225

1. The U.S. State Department is warning travellers about visiting the Yukon. The Department has issued an advisory that contains a number of negative comments about travelling in the Territory. (Elaine Schiman) The traveller advisory is described in an Associated Press wire story. The advisory is categorized as a notice which means it's telling people which areas might be inconvenient or difficult to travel in. The notice on the Yukon says finding a motel room or a gas station can be tough. It says camping and motel facilities can range from primitive to non-existent, away from population centres. The notice also says traffic outside of towns can be very sparse even during peak tourist season and it says the Alaska Highway runs through some spectacularly beautiful areas but much of it is essentially uninhabited. Finally, the advisory noted the Yukon is definitely frontier country. Shauna Hutton is the executive director of the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon. She was surprised to hear of the advisory but admits many people in the south believe the north is much rougher and tougher than it really is. Hutton says her association will try to educate people more on how good the highways up here really are.

(Hutton) "... I think the important thing that will come out of this is that we will have to put on a stronger thrust as far as educating people down south as to what we're all about up here." The Tourism Department of YTG only just heard of the travel advisory this morning. Spokesman Graham McDonald says the tourism people are looking into it to try to find out how it happened and how widely the news of it has been distributed. The Department had been informed of it by a tourism representative from Juneau who had heard it on the radio there and was quite concerned.

2. The Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce is hoping to hire someone to develop and implement a tourism plan for Whitehorse. That is one of two proposals put forward at a public meeting last night. The other is to hire someone to work at attracting conventions to the city. (Dave Cooper) About 30 people turned out at a public meeting last night to talk about ways to attract more tourists to Whitehorse. There are two main proposals. One is from the Tourism Industry Association. It wants to hire someone whose job would be to attract conventions to Whitehorse. It would cost from \$75,000 to \$150,000 to do that. The cost would be shared by the city, YTG, business:

MEMORANDUM
Thursday February 6, 1992

TO: Susie Kemp/State Division of Tourism
FROM: John Aravosis, Senator Stevens' Office (202) 224-1031
RE: State Department Notice on Travel to Western Canada

Attached is the State Department notice on travel to Western Canada.

State has a service where you can call up and hear tape recorded notices about travel conditions in different countries. I don't think that the notice sounds as bad on paper as it does when you hear it on the tape. The number for the tape is 202-647-5226. Ask for the tape on travel conditions in Canada.

I've spoken with State about the tape and they seem willing to make changes if you have any suggestions. You can either contact the US Consul General in Vancouver, Dave Johnson at 604-685-4311, or you can contact Tim Collins who is with the Canada Desk at the State Department. Both gentlemen were very willing to help.

One thing to bear in mind, much of the information in the notice seems realistic about actual conditions in Western Canada. And, the State Department is required by law to let American travellers know about conditions in foreign countries -- travelling in Western Canada is not like travelling in the Chicago suburbs. However, the tone, and some of the comments, might not be the most appropriate. Again, I suggest Susie and the Division of Tourism coordinate a response to State where you recommend changes in the text.

Let me know if you meet any obstacles.

02-05-82 05:42PM

FROM SENATOR STEVENS

TO 319675888389

P002/008

02/05/82

14:39

NEL 480

P002/008

U.S. STATE DEPT
TRAVEL ADVISORY

TRAVEL ADVISORY - CANADA - NOTICE

3. SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASED NUMBER OF CASES OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IN SEVERAL AREAS OF EASTERN CANADA. ALTHOUGH THE RISK FOR TRAVELERS IS VERY LOW, U.S. TRAVELERS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING THEIR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 2 AND 14 VACCINATED AGAINST THE DISEASE. IN ADDITION, IN WESTERN CANADA, THE YUKON TERRITORY IS COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF THE ALCAN HIGHWAY - ITS "RENDEZVOUS '82". U.S. TRAVELERS PLANNING TO ATTEND "RENDEZVOUS '82" SHOULD BE AWARE OF AND TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS RELATED TO TRAVEL IN THE FAR NORTH. END SUMMARY.

*--and the Quebec
and Ontario Health
Ministries--*

4. MENINGITIS: THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL HAVE ISSUED A HEALTH ALERT CONCERNING THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CASES OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IN SEVERAL AREAS OF EASTERN CANADA. THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE

THE OTTAWA-CARLTON AREA, THE LAURENTIDES REGION NORTH OF MONTREAL, THE LANAUDIERE REGION, THE OUTAOUAIS AREA IN WEST QUEBEC, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE, A PROGRAM OF VACCINATION IS BEING INSTITUTED FOR CHILDREN IN THOSE AREAS. THE RISK FOR SHORT-TERM TRAVELERS IS VERY LOW AND NO PARTICULAR PRECAUTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THOSE TRAVELING TO THE AFFECTED AREAS FOR MOST ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SKIING OR SHOPPING. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF CASES AMONG SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IS SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE NORMAL, VACCINATIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR CHILDREN 2 THROUGH 14 YEARS OF AGE TRAVELING TO THE AFFECTED AREAS IF THEY WILL BE IN VERY CLOSE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH LOCAL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, OR WILL BE STAYING MORE THAN THREE DAYS AND EXPECT TO HAVE SOCIAL CONTACT WITH LOCAL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN. IDEALLY, THE VACCINE SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE TRAVEL. VACCINATION IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE, AND ADULTS ARE CONSIDERED AT VERY LOW RISK. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL'S INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE AT (404) 222-4559.

3. RENDEZVOUS 78: 1978 MARKS THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF THE ALCAN HIGHWAY. THE YUKON TERRITORY IS COMMEMORATING THE EVENT WITH A SERIES OF HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS PART OF ITS "RENDEZVOUS 78" CELEBRATION. AS CANADIAN OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE A LARGE INFLUX OF U.S. VISITORS, IT IS

WORTHWHILE FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO KEEP IN MIND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHEN TRAVELING IN THE FAR NORTH.

4. THE FRONTIER: THE YUKON IS DEFINITELY FRONTIER TERRITORY. FACILITIES FOR CAR REPAIR OUTSIDE OF THE CAPITAL, WHITEHORSE, ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. ALMOST ALL CONSUMER GOODS MUST BE BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER PARTS OF CANADA OR ALASKA OVER LONG DISTANCES. IT IS 1200 MILES FROM EDMONTON TO WHITEHORSE AND 1500 MILES FROM VANCOUVER TO WHITEHORSE. THE COST OF FOOD, GAS, ETC. CAN BE TRIPLE WHAT IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S.

5. THE HIGHWAY: THE ALCAN HIGHWAY RUNS FROM EDMONTON, ALBERTA, THROUGH BRITISH COLUMBIA (DAWSON CREEK, FORT ST. JOHN, FORT NELSON) THROUGH THE YUKON (WATSON LAKE, WHITEHORSE) AND INTO ALASKA. FOR MOST OF ITS LENGTH IT IS A TWO OR FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY. MOST OF IT IS IN GOOD CONDITION AND PREVIOUSLY ROUGH SECTIONS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED FOR THE CELEBRATIONS. THE DISTANCES ARE VAST. THE HIGHWAY RUNS THROUGH SOME SPECTACULARLY BEAUTIFUL AREAS, BUT MUCH OF THE AREA IS ESSENTIALLY UNINHABITED. EVEN DURING PEAK TOURIST SEASON, TRAFFIC OUTSIDE OF TOWNS CAN BE VERY SPARSE.

6. LODGING: A FULL RANGE OF CAMPING AND HOTEL LODGING CAN BE FOUND IN THE YUKON. FURTHER AWAY FROM POPULATION CENTERS, THE FACILITIES CAN RANGE FROM PRIMITIVE TO

NON-EXISTENT. SEVERAL NEW HOTELS AND CAMPGROUNDS ARE OPENING THIS YEAR, BUT TRAVELERS ARE ADVISED TO HAVE CONFIRMED RESERVATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE WHITEHORSE AREA, DURING THE PEAK SUMMER MONTHS.

7. MEDICAL CARE: AS WITH CAR REPAIR, MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED OUTSIDE OF WHITEHORSE. CARE CAN BE EXPENSIVE AND MOST HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WILL INSIST ON PAYMENT BEFORE DISCHARGE. WHILE SOME (BUT NOT ALL) NOW ACCEPT VISA OR MASTERCARD, MOST WILL NOT WAIT FOR PAYMENT FROM INSURANCE COMPANIES. PROBLEMS WITH COLLECTING BILLS FROM AMERICANS HAVE MADE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS INCREASINGLY CAUTIOUS. TRAVELERS SHOULD CHECK TO MAKE SURE THEIR MEDICAL AND AUTO INSURANCE COVERS THEM WHILE IN CANADA. IN MANY INSTANCES A SUPPLEMENTAL POLICY IS REQUIRED.

8. FIREARMS: WHILE NOT LIMITED TO THE YUKON, ALL TRAVELERS TO CANADA SHOULD KEEP IN MIND CANADA'S EXTREMELY STRICT LAWS REGARDING FIREARMS. IN GENERAL, HANDGUNS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN CANADA. CANADIAN LAW REQUIRES THAT OFFICIALS MUST CONFISCATE GUNS FROM ANYONE CROSSING THE BORDER WHO DENIES HAVING A GUN IN HIS/HER POSSESSION. THE CONFISCATED GUNS ARE NEVER RETURNED. IT IS POSSIBLE TO TAKE HUNTING RIFLES INTO CANADA UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. ANYONE CONSIDERING IT SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST CANADIAN CONSULATE IN ADVANCE FOR

DETAILED INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION. IN ALL CASES, TRAVELERS SHOULD DECLARE ANY FIREARMS IN THEIR POSSESSION TO CANADIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES WHEN ENTERING CANADA. IF THE TRAVELER IS DENIED PERMISSION TO BRING THE FIREARM INTO CANADA, IN MANY CASES THERE ARE FACILITIES NEAR THE BORDER CROSSING WHERE FIREARMS COULD BE SURRENDERED AND STORED PENDING THE TRAVELER'S RETURN TO THE U.S.

9. INFORMATION: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION/ASSISTANCE U.S. CITIZENS TRAVELING TO RENDEZVOUS '92 MAY CONTACT THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL AT 1075 WEST GEORGIA ST., VANCOUVER, CANADA V6E 4E9 AT TEL: 604-685-4333. THOSE TRAVELING TO EASTERN CANADA MAY CONTACT THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY AT 100 WELLINGTON ST. OTTAWA, CANADA K1P 5T1 AT (613) 238-5235.

10. REVIEW DATE: AUGUST 3, 1992.

11. THIS ADVISORY ALERTS U.S. CITIZENS TO AN INCREASED NUMBER OF CASES OF MENINGITIS IN EASTERN CANADA AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY DUE TO THE ANTICIPATED LARGE INFLUX OF VISITORS FOR "RENDEZVOUS '92".

FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED REVISIONS OF SECTIONS 4, 5 and 6 OF THE ADVISORY.

4. THE FRONTIER: THE YUKON MAY BE CONSIDERED FRONTIER TERRITORY IN MANY AREAS. FACILITIES FOR CAR REPAIR, WHILE GENERALLY ADEQUATE, MAY SOMETIMES BE LIMITED OUTSIDE OF THE LARGER COMMUNITIES. BECAUSE OF DISTANCE FROM MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS, PRICES ARE HIGHER THAN IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. GASOLINE COSTS AVERAGE \$2.19 PER U.S. GALLON. LUNCH IN A TYPICAL SMALL COMMUNITY LIKE TESLIN RUNS FROM \$3.00 TO \$7.00, WHILE DINNER IS \$5.00 TO \$17.00.

5. THE HIGHWAY: THE ALASKA (FORMERLY THE ALCAN) HIGHWAY STARTS IN DAWSON CREEK, B.C. AND RUNS NORTH AND WEST THROUGH FT. ST. JOHN, FT. NELSON TO THE YUKON TERRITORY TOWNS OF WATSON LAKE, THE CAPITAL CITY OF WHITEHORSE AND ON INTO ALASKA, ENDING AT FAIRBANKS, NEARLY 1,500 MILES FROM ITS BEGINNING. FOR MOST OF ITS LENGTH IT IS A TWO OR FOUR LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY. MOST OF IT IS IN GOOD CONDITION, AND PREVIOUSLY ROUGH SECTIONS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED FOR THE CELEBRATIONS. DISTANCES ARE VAST. THE HIGHWAY RUNS THROUGH SOME SPECTACULARLY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, BUT MUCH OF IT IS SPARSELY INHABITED. GAS STATIONS AVERAGE AROUND 50 TO 60 MILES APART, WITH THE LONGEST STRETCH BEING ABOUT 97 MILES. ALMOST EVERY COMMUNITY PROVIDES MEDICAL SERVICES, WITH THE LONGEST STRETCH BETWEEN FACILITIES BEING ABOUT 150 MILES.

6. LODGING: A FULL RANGE OF CAMPING AND MOTEL LODGING CAN BE FOUND IN THE YUKON. FURTHER AWAY FROM POPULATION CENTERS, HOWEVER, FACILITIES CAN RANGE FROM RUSTIC TO PRIMITIVE. SEVERAL NEW MOTELS AND CAMPGROUNDS ARE OPENING THIS YEAR, BUT AS WITH ALL DESTINATION ROUTES TRAVELERS ARE ADVISED TO MAKE RESERVATIONS -- PARTICULARLY DURING THE PEAK MONTH OF JULY. IT MIGHT ALSO BE WISE TO PLAN TRAVEL EITHER A LITTLE EARLIER OR A LITTLE LATER THAN PEAK SEASON. BOTH LATE MAY AND EARLY SEPTEMBER CAN

BE BEAUTIFUL AND RELAXED TIMES TO VISIT ALASKA AND THE YUKON.



House Special Committee on International Trade and
Tourism
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Ak 99811

Dear People,

The 103 members of the Skagway Chamber of Commerce support House Joint Resolution No. 81. Many members of the community as well as paid members of the city staff have worked hard for an extended length of time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the building of the Alaskan Highway. Some people may not be aware that Skagway played an important role in the building of this road. Most of the soldiers who worked on it came in through our town, as did much of the equipment and supplies. It had a major impact on our town, as well as our town and the availability of it's port had a major impact on the ability to build the road and therefore open up access to the rest of the state.

We have worked hard to build up this story and have invited many of the former soldiers to visit during this celebration.

In addition, many of our people drive the Alaskan Highway. We were quite disturbed by the issuance of the travel advisory. Our experiences with the road did not fit with what was stated.

We support your efforts to head off any other ill-thought out advisories.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bolton
President

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Alaska Highway Celebrations

The Alaska Highway, which stretches through Canada to Alaska, turns 50 years old this year, and communities along the route are celebrating in British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska. The highway, also known as the Alcan Highway and originally the Alaska Canada Military Highway, was built in 1942 in response to the Japanese threat in the Pacific after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The road was laid out in eight months and 12 days by seven regiments of the United States Corps of Engineers. It runs 1,520 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. Twenty-five miles of it remain unpaved.

At least 200 events are planned for the Rendezvous '92 anniversary, which is being co-ordinated by a joint committee. Whitehorse in the Yukon will have 10 days of parades, concerts and dances from May 15 to 24 as well as a storytelling festival July 4 to 6 and an international air show on July 26. Elsewhere in the Yukon, Haines Junction offers a two-hour guided historic tour along a section of the original United States Army pioneer road on the highway from May 24 to Sept. 6. Storytelling by old-timers and American Indian elders at Marshall Creek will also be part of this event. Retired veterans from the Army Corps of Engineer Regiments will attend a homecoming re-

union at Watson Lake Sept. 11 to 13. Among other events are dog sled races, a six-hole golf tournament on the frozen Bering Sea, a fiddling festival and concerts and fairs.

Tourists are advised that although highway services are adequate, they are often some distances apart. Gas stations are on average 50 to 60 miles apart, the longest stretch being 97 miles. Travelers are encouraged to make reservations



The New York Times

for hotels and motels through travel agencies in the United States. Otherwise, visitors should have no problem finding R.V. parks and campgrounds.

The calendar of events can be obtained from Great Alaska Highways Society, Post Office Box 74250, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707; (907) 452-8000.

Advisory

Continued from page A1

Friday and referred inquiries to its main office in Washington, D.C.

State Department officials in Washington, D.C., were unavailable for comment. The federal agency's 24-hour hotline to its Citizens Emergency Center in Washington, D.C., offered the taped recording about the Alaska Highway, along with numerous other taped messages about travel worldwide. The hotline number is (202) 647-5225.

The federal government's notice details difficulties in finding lodging, car repair and emergency medical care in the Yukon, and warns motorists that prices can be triple those charged in the United States.

Murray said he was mystified at the advisory's "misinformation." Costs along the highway are not even double that of the United States, there are plenty of accommodations, no more than 97 miles between gas stations and no more than 150 miles between medical facilities, he said.

"After all, people have been driving this highway for half a century now," said Klaus Roth, director of tourism marketing for the Yukon, in a statement Friday. "And we've had to generate the facilities to take care of them, including hotels and motels, rural lodges, gas stations and service facilities and medical facilities."

Drivers familiar with the Alaska Highway seemed unfazed Friday by news of the advisory.

John Spalding, sales manager for Niles Travelers Inc., an Anchorage recreational vehicle dealer, said he could imagine lots of unsuspecting travelers at motels along the highway and unprepared drivers hitching back to town for a tank of gas.

But Spalding, who has driven the highway many times, said driving the route always has required planning, and motels are almost always full in summer.

"People could get caught running out of gas in between places if they're not paying attention, but there are signs that say no gas for 260 miles or something like that," said Pat Keller, an Anchorage truck driver for the moving company Bekins Northwest.

The American Automobile Association always advises its members to make lodging reservations ahead of time, bring two spare tires, and fill the gas tank when its below half full, said Dan Winker, manager of AAA Alaska. The association also rates summer as the third best time to drive the Alaska Highway, with fall and winter ranked higher, he said.

"I think everybody's panicking (in the Lower 48) because they think 50 million people are coming up," Winker said. "I haven't talked to anybody on this end who's panicking."

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U.S. warns travelers to avoid Iraq, Alaska Highway

By DOUG FORD
TIMES BUSINESS WRITER

No Hilton, no Holiday Inn, not even a Motel 6 with a light on awaits travelers along the 1,520-mile Alaska Highway. But does that mean unwary visitors will have to sleep in the rain?

Apparently the U.S. State Department thinks so.

To the chagrin of Alaska and Yukon Territory officials, the federal government has issued an emergency advisory warning people who may be considering visiting Canada and Alaska during the highway's 50th anniversary celebration that they could face an inhospitable wilderness.

Moreover, the taped travel advisory,

released earlier this week, comes on a telephone recording with alarming messages about an outbreak of meningococcal disease in eastern Canada, and hazards in war-torn Yugoslavia and Iraq.

Yes, travel to Alaska, or more precisely driving the highway named for the state that links the 49th state with its Lower 48 counterparts via Canada, has

managed to make the State Department's travelers' advisory on dangerous foreign places.

Rattling their own bureaucratic swords, Alaska and Canada's travel officials said Friday they object to the Alaska Highway being lumped with global hot spots by the U.S. government.

"What started as a localized situation,

has turned into an international flap," said Connel Murray, director of the Alaska Division of Tourism. The Alaska congressional delegation and Canadian Embassy have demanded the State Department revise the recording, he said. The State Department's district office in San Francisco declined to comment

See Advisory, back page



On the road: Mountains tower above the Alaska Highway near Kluane Lake in the Yukon.

Warning is eased Highway is 'basic,' not dangerous

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The State Department has revised a recent warning to travelers planning trips on the Alaska Highway through Canada's Yukon Territory.

The department issued a traveler's advisory Feb. 4 warning that there were few motel rooms, service stations and medical facilities along the Yukon stretch of the highway.

'The new advisory encourages travelers to use common sense, which makes sense in planning any long journey.'

— Sen. Frank Murkowski

The highway runs from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, through the Yukon to Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Yukon are celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and many tourists are expected to travel the highway this summer.

The revised advisory uses "far less sensational language," according to a news release issued recently by Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

Rather than saying lodging is "primitive to non-existent" along the Canadian stretch of the highway, the new advisory says lodging is "basic" outside of the four main towns. It also warns that the longest stretch between medical facilities is about 150 miles, rather than saying such facilities were "extremely limited outside Whitehorse."

"The new advisory encourages travelers to use common sense, which makes sense in planning any long journey," Murkowski said. "But at least it isn't the totally uninformed trips that was released earlier."

Murkowski said the new advisory was issued after complaints by Alaska's congressional delegation and other Alaskans.

Last year, 88,000 vacationers drove the two-lane road, which is sometimes called the last great driving adventure remaining in North America. This year, with both Alaska and Canadian commissions actively promoting the anniversary, the figure is expected to be 30,000 higher.

"The first two words are mystery and magic — that's what comes to me when I think of the road. And I was born here in Alaska," says Susan C. Kemp, executive director of the Great Alaska Highways Society.

But tourist officials do worry that the celebration, which kicked off 11 days ago in Dawson Creek, could pose problems for the unwary. Peak summer tourist travel on Alaska roads often means traffic jams, miles of no-vacancy signs, road slope piled with human waste and long waits for everything from dinner reservations in Anchorage to seats on the buses that take sightseers into Denali National Park.

THE ALASKA HIGHWAY

