

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

CSHJR 69(FT)

103



Encouraging the United States government to include Aleut people and their blood relatives under future Native visa free travel agreements with the U.S.S.R.

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

WHEREAS, in September 1989, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a Native Visa Free Agreement that establishes visitation rights and visa free travel between Native inhabitants who live on both sides of the Soviet-American border; and

WHEREAS because the agreement employs a geographical definition to determine who is eligible to travel and limits Alaska travelers to relatives or Natives who share linguistic or cultural ties with the Natives in the Soviet geographical area, only Inuit Natives are eligible to use the new travel rights; and

WHEREAS the Aleut people have historic and ethnic ties to the Russian people since the Aleutian Chain was once occupied by the Russians and formed part of Russia's trading link with other parts of Alaska; and

WHEREAS Russian surnames and the practice of the Russian Orthodox religion are present day evidence of Aleut cultural and ethnic ties with the Russian people; and

WHEREAS the Aleut people would like to be included in any future version of the Native Visa Free Agreement so that they can explore and reestablish their common heritage with the citizens of the U.S.S.R.;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States government to include Aleut people and their blood relatives among the Alaska Natives allowed to travel between the U.S.S.R. and Alaska under future versions of the Native Visa Free Agreement.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President of the U.S.S.R.; the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; 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; and to the Bering Straights Regional Commission.