

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
6<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 41<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**

**TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 9-41**

**TABLED ON JANUARY 15, 1970**

Tabled on Jan. 15, 1970

4<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL

" DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE DE L'ARCTIQUE ET AVENIR DES SOCIÉTÉS ESQUIMAUTES "

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

" ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE OF THE ESKIMO SOCIETIES "

LE HAVRE, 24, 25, 26 NOVEMBRE 1969

ROUEN, 27 NOVEMBRE 1969

THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU

Dr. S.A. AROUTIOUNOV (Soviet Union); Claus BORNEMANN (Denmark); W.L. HENSLEY, Alaska State Legislature (U.S.); Roger LE JEUNE (Canada, Prov. Quebec); Professor Jean MALAURIE (France); Angmalortok OLSEN (Denmark); Professor George W. ROGERS (U.S.); Dr. I.S. VASSILIEV (Soviet Union); A.B. YATES, Acting Director, Northern Economic Development Branch (Canada) Minister of Northern Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa.

The Executive Bureau of the 4th. International Congress, "Arctic Development and the Future of the Eskimo Societies" had a certain number of proposals forwarded in the course of its hearings, in view of bettering knowledge on Arctic problems, and creating closer co-operation.

It was stated that issues are common to the four countries entailed, but that solutions vary from one State to another, and from one sector to another.

As problems are similar, it is therefore possible to proceed to their common analysis, outside national concern.

It is therefore desirable that an instrument should be maintained on an international level, concerning such matters as exchanges, meetings and initiatives in these affairs.

The Congress Executive Bureau concludes that the acts of co-operation which have come about in the Congress undertakings on Arctic and Eskimo problems, should be continued, and that the present Executive Bureau should remain in function and become a Permanent International Secretariat for international research on past, present and future Eskimo problems.

Any suggestions for an eventual enlargement will be received at a later date. But the suggestion of bringing in the Inter-Northern Lapp Council as a Permanent Associate Committee has already been retained.

The Secretariat will now prepare suggestions for the immediate future, on the basis of proposals and criticisms put forward during the debates. These will be rapidly dispatched to Administrations, autochthon organizations concerned, and to Congress participants. All suggestions are welcome, and should be sent either to the Congress Secretariat, the FONDATION FRANCAISE D'ETUDES NORDIQUES or to members of the Executive Bureau, who will transmit them.

A second Congress will take place within two or three years, in order to examine the situation.



IIIrd. RECOMMENDATION :

*Considering the fact that traditional seal hunting necessary for the provision of meat and furs for immediate needs of the families' daily life, is of basic importance for the subsistence of important parts of the Eskimo population in the North.*

*The 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the "Economic Development of the Arctic and the Future of the Eskimo Societies" urges all governments concerned to take all possible fast and individual as well as concerted steps in order to limit and if possible to bring to an end industrialised mass killing of seals in national and international waters and thus to provide effective protection of the seal stock, appropriate to preserve national hunting conditions for the resident people of the North, and to re-establish unjustly lost consumers' confidence, in and support of the seal fur trade.*

*Signed : Hans C. CHRISTIANSEN ( Copenhagen )*

IVth. RECOMMENDATION :

*The 4th. International Congress on Northern Problems declares that the Eskimos, who were the first inhabitants of territories in Siberia, Alaska, North-West Canada, New Quebec and Greenland, and who settled there several thousands of years before the arrival of Western populations, have a fundamental right to be taught in their mother tongues, if they so desire.*

*Signed : Michel BROCHU ( Montreal )*

Vth. RECOMMENDATION :

*Minutes of meeting hearings ( not too detailed ) should be sent to autochtons in their own language.*

*Signed : André-Pierre STEINMANN ( Povungnirtuq,  
New Quebec )*

VIth. RECOMMENDATION :

*A possibility for the International Committee to raise fellowship grants for autochtons, in justified circumstances.*

*Signed : André-Pierre STEINMANN ( Povungnirtuq,  
New Quebec )*

VIIth. RECOMMENDATION :

*Suggest the Permanent Nordic Secretariat investigate - by engaging services of an economist - the feasibility of international co-operation in establishing - through regional airlines - a scheduled route ( perhaps once a month) linking Copenhagen, Søndrestrømfjord, Frobisher Bay, one Canadian Central Arctic location, (Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet or Baker Lake), Yellowknife, Whitehorse and Fairbanks.*

*This may be economically feasible in terms of touristio development in both directions along the route, and North-South from any one of these centres mentioned. Such a communication route would also have a very valuable function in linking easily the circum-polar people for reasons of cultural exchange, economic integration, educational exchange, political exchange and international accord.*

*And economic study is a useful first step.*

*Signed : Robert G. WILLIAMSON (Rankin Inlet,  
N.W.T., Canada)*

VIIIth. RECOMMENDATION :

*It is to be hoped that governments in arctic countries with autochton populations will seek to establish, in cases where such measures have still not come about, multi-annual contract prices in favor of these populations, in sectors related to renewable natural products - such as furs, fisheries and stock-breeding. Such measures insure producers of receiving fair prices. Seasonal variations in animal life and fluctuations in market-economy justify such minimum prices which, in fact, have already been fixed in several nordic countries with liberal economies for agricultural and fisheries products.*

*Such measures would make local production activities viable instead of making these societies become increasingly and regrettably dependent upon certain relief measures.*

*Signed : Jean MALAURIE ( Paris)*

IXth. RECOMMENDATION :

*The Soviet Delegation strongly recommends the Permanent Secretariat to examine the project of organizing a permanent international expedition, in the briefest possible delay, on the study of the Eskimos, in which France, the USSR, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Greenland will participate. In other words, these are the countries represented in the Permanent Committee set up by the 4th. International Congress, on the study of productive forces in the Arctic, and on Eskimo problems.*

*This expedition should be complex, and therefore include scientists representing different scientific branches : geographers, palaeogeographers, archaeologists, geologists, palaeogeologists, climatologists, etc... In such a way, the past, present and future of this population may be examined.*

*A detailed study should be carried out the organization of this expedition, its programme, its joint publications, its calendar, and its means of financial resources.*

*Greenland should be the territory selected for this operation, because Greenland is the country in which the largest Eskimo group is living.*

*Signed : V.I. VASSILIEV ( Moscow)*

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