

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 43RD SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 2-43

TABLED ON JULY 23, 1970

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(Third Session, 1970)

Tabled on July 23, 1970

TELEGRAM FROM PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR TO PRIME MINISTER
CONCERNING OIL EXPLORATION ON BANKS ISLAND

July, 1970.

TELEGRAM FROM PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR TO PRIME MINISTER
CONCERNING OIL EXPLORATION ON BANKS ISLAND

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PRESS COLLECT
CNT EDMONTON ALTA 22 1022A MST
COMMISSIONER STUART HODGSON GOVT OF NWT
YELLOWKNIFE NWT

AS PER YOUR REQUEST THE RESOLUTION FROM COPPERMINE CONFERENCE
REGARDING BANKS ISLAND FOLLOWS A COMPLETE SET OF CONFERENCE
RESOLUTIONS BEING MAILED TO YOU TELEGRAM FROM COPPERMINE
CONFERENCE 16, K1970

TO: PRIME MINISTER PIERRE E TRUDEAU, OTTAWA
COPY TO HON. JEAN CHRETIEN, MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, OTTAWA

FROM: COPPERMINE CONFERENCE

THE ESKIMO PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR BANKS ISLAND UNANIMOUSLY
AND STRONGLY OBJECT TO ANY OIL OR GAS EXPLORATION ON BANKS
ISLAND. YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED LEASES FOR SUCH EXPLORATION
WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE ESKIMO
PEOPLE. THESE ACTIONS ARE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
CONTINUING COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE ESKIMO
PEOPLE AND ARE CONTRARY TO THE STANDARDS OF COMMON HUMAN
DECENCY.

THE ESKIMO PEOPLE OF BANKS ISLAND ARE SELF SUFFICIENT
TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS ANNUALLY ACHIEVING THE WORLD'S RICHEST
WHITE FOX HARVEST AND HAVE SO USED THESE LANDS SINCE TIME
IMMEMORIAL.

BANKS ISLAND HAS A VERY DELICATE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE
WHICH WILL BE DESTROYED IF EXPLORATION IS ALLOWED AND THE
LAND SURFACE DISTURBED. AS YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL READILY
UNDERSTAND IF IT WILL ONLY CHOOSE TO CONSULT WITH THE ESKIMO
PEOPLE AND HAVE BIOLOGISTS CONDUCT THE NECESSARY RESEARCH. IN
CONTRAST TO THE ECTIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE ESKIMO PEOPLE

HAVE ALWAYS PRACTISED SELF IMPOSED RIGOROUS CONSERVATION MEASURES TO MAINTAIN THE ECOLOGY OF BANKS ISLAND. THE ESKIMO PEOPLE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED SUCH EXPLORATION WHEN YOU CONTINUALLY PROFESS TO HAVE CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH.

THE PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU DIRECT THAT NO FURTHER EXPLORATION TAKE PLACE UNTIL CONSULTATION CAN BE MADE WITH THE ESKIMO PEOPLE IN THESE MATTERS. YOUR GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO DO SO CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS CONSCIOUS CONSENT TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR.

SO THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS SITUATION, THE PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR HEREBY GIVE CLEAR WARNING THAT THEY ARE QUITE PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT.

ALL OF THE ESKIMO PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AS EVIDENCED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES' SIGNATURES HERETO COMPLETELY SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF SACHS HARBOUR IN THIS URGENT PLEA TO YOU.

WE ALSO REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT ALWAYS HAVE PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE ESKIMO PEOPLE IN RESPECT TO ANY SERVICE, EXPLORATION, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

WE ALSO ASK THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZE OUR RIGHTS AS ABORIGINALS IN THE LANDS OF THE NORTH AND GIVE US FAIR COMPENSATION WHERE THERE IS EXPROPRIATION OF OUR RIGHTS IN THE LANDS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH SHOULD RECEIVE DIRECTLY A FAIR SHARE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE NORTH SIMILAR TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT BEING CONTEMPLATED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA.

SIGNED: PETER ESAU SACHS HARBOUR, NWT
PETER SIDNEY SACHS HARBOUR, NWT

AND THE SUPPORTING
SIGNATURES OF 22 COMMUNITIES

VISTOR ALLEN INUVIK, NWT
AGNES SEMMLER INUVIK, NWT
CHARLIE GRUBEN TUKTOYAKTUK, NWT
ED NAZON ARCTIC RED RIVER, NWT
JOHNNIE CHARLIE FORT MCPHERSON, NWT
GARRET RUBEN PAULATUK, NWT
PETER ERNERK FORT CHURCHILL, MAN
ED BERTHE FORT CHURCHILL, MAN
DAVID AMARJUAK WHALE COVE, NWT
WALLACE GOOSE HOLMAN ISLAND, NWT
PETER KOMINGOAK COPPERMINE, NWT
CASMIR KRITERDLUK CHESTERFIELD INLET, NWT
CYRIL NANAAUT CHESTERFIELD INLET, NWT
LUCIEN TAPARTI RANKIN INLET, NWT
PETER KAPKAR REPULSE BAY, NWT
JOHN KAUNAK REPULSE BAY, NWT
CALEB APAK IGLOOLIK, NWT
MARKOSIE GRISE FIORD, NWT
MARY COUSINS FROBISHER BAY, NWT
SIMEONIE KINAINAK PANGNIRTUNG, NWT
DAVID TUKUTUK GREAT WHALE RIVER, QUE
PETER NOWRA POVUNGNITUK, QUE
JACOB OWEETALTUK PORT HARRISON, QUE
NOAH QUMAK SUGLUK, QUE
PADLI ILUSUTUK SUGLUK, QUE

N R DUNNE WESTERN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR INDIAN ESKIMO
ASSOCIATION

523PM

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ADMIMGOVNWT YK