

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 1-87(2)
TABLED ON

NOV 17 1987

MR. SPEAKER. I RISE TO TABLE A PAPER ENTITLED "WILL THE INUIT AND
INUVIALUIT BE PERMITTED TO JOIN IN CANADA'S DEFENSE?"



Will the Inuit and Inuvialuit be Permitted to Join in Canada's
Defense?

The economic and political rivalry between Eastern and Western Canada appears to be spilling over into Northern Canada.

This time it has to do with the award of the operation and maintenance contract for the North Warning System. At first glance, one would assume that this should be a Northern project. It is, in the sense that the operation will be located along Canada's Arctic Coast. But there is now considerable doubt whether northern interests will get the job of running the system.

It now appears that the Government plans to award the contract to an Alberta company instead. And the reason seems to be to confer a "regional benefit" to Western Canada - to correct the perception that too many regional benefits have gone to Eastern Canada (the most notable example being the CF-18 contract).

If the radar stations were located on the mountain tops of Alberta's Rockies you would expect an Alberta Company to get the job. In northern Canada one would expect a northern owned company to succeed. Especially Northern Transportation Company Limited, a northern company 100% owned by the 23,000 Inuit and Inuvialuit of the NWT - a company that has been successfully in business in the north for 53 years.

NTCL has an equal one third shareholding with two competent partners in Canlog Technical Services, a new company formed to pursue the North Warning contract. This represents a substantially greater level

of northern ownership than is enjoyed by any other bidder.

NTCL has operated a transportation system along Canada's Arctic Coast successfully every year for decades. By the very nature of its business, it is expert at northern logistics. This is what the North Warning System contract is about. The contractor must make certain that there is no breakdown in the support systems for NWS radar installations and, of course, for the radar itself. NTCL has operated similar support systems for decades in the North. **No one can do it better.**

Over recent months a perception has developed that the Canadian military will never condone a native owned company running a sensitive military mission such as North Warning. The opposition NTCL has encountered in its bid for this contract is difficult to accept, especially in the context of the modern attitude of support and encouragement provided, in most instances, to native owned companies.

The opposition NTCL has encountered is sad and shocking particularly when one considers that Canada's Arctic sovereignty has been exercised by the northern native people for many years. The Inuit and Inuvialuit who collectively now own NTCL and aspire to this NWS contract are the same people who have volunteered to become para-military Rangers. They are the same people some of whose number have been resettled to the Arctic islands for sovereignty reasons. Clearly they now should be able to participate in this modern day watch.

NTCL is a mature and competent company. However, being native owned and not part of the clique of defense contractors in Canada, it knew it must develop qualifications for this contract which were outstanding - the best. After a great deal of study NTCL took the initiative and invited two major companies to join it in the formation of this new defense contracting company - CANLOG TECHNICAL SERVICES. NTCL's partners are SNC, a company with 450 million dollars per year of project management experience, defense contracting experience and a vast store of engineering expertise; and Felec Services Incorporated, a division of ITT of Canada. FSI has run the DEW line for 27 of the last 30 years. FSI has recently been awarded 3/4 of a billion dollars of similar contracts. Thus CANLOG has the **proven** technical experience to operate the line. CANLOG, **far and away**, is the best qualified bidder to carry out this important defense mission. CANLOG's price is realistic and competitive.

Northerners **know** that no company can be better qualified than one that is substantially northern owned to carry out the mission of looking after the employment, training and business interests of northerners.

Can it be that native ownership is a liability in this contract? It now appears that Western benefits will outweigh northern benefits in this most northern of undertakings.

Northerners are completely unified at the injustice of their being ignored in the Meech Lake accord. There is a strong desire among Northerners to become equal partners in the Canadian fabric.

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Mr. McKnight recently claimed that the NWT could not attain provincial status until it obtained a better economic base. Northern economic and political development surely will not be advanced by awarding NWS to an already huge and wealthy Alberta company.

Alternatively, Canada should award this contract to CANLOG and thence to its Inuvialuit and Inuit shareholders. This would be a milestone in Canadian business affairs. NTCL could become a model for other large scale native entrepreneurial initiatives. And Canada's northern security would continue to be upheld by the native northern people.