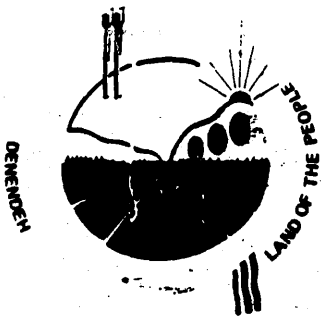


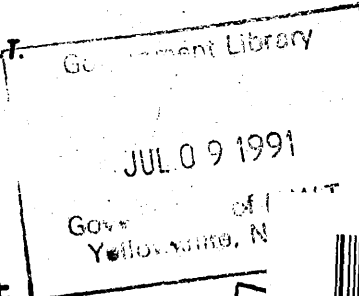
# DENE NATION

DENENDEH NATIONAL OFFICE



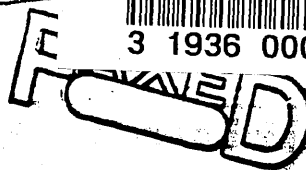
P.O. Box 2338  
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June 28, 1991

Paul Quassa  
President  
Tungavik Federation of Nunavut  
Suite 800  
130 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6E2



Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter dated June 27, 1991 regarding your response to my earlier memo on the boundary between our two claims areas.

I too am very surprised about your letter as I believe that I have represented our discussions accurately. We obviously have a difference of opinion that should be dealt with in a call I will make shortly to your office and at a meeting that you have proposed in the next couple of weeks.

There are several points I would like to make in response to your letter. The federal government has no role in negotiating a boundary between our respective jurisdictions other than to facilitate our nations getting together to work this out amongst ourselves. The federal government has no authority in this matter.

As you are very much aware, the Dene Nation will vigorously object to any boundary arrangement to which we have not consented. The Dene Nation is prepared to discuss land ownership arrangements that relate to the boundary but this must be dealt with in the larger context of the boundary itself. I believe that we had agreed that you were prepared to consider Dene land selections across any set boundary. I am concerned that this does not appear to be the case now.

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The boundary put forward by Mr. Parker has been contested by the Dene Nation partly because of the dispute around the area south of the Thelon Game Sanctuary. This was recognized by TFN at least as early as 1986 when the Dene had difficulties with accepting the initialled May 9, 1986 proposal. In 1989 I met with your predecessor Donat Milortuk and Terry Fenge of your staff during the Legislative Assembly in Norman Wells and later in Yellowknife at the Mackenzie Lounge where the problems with a boundary line south of the Thelon were discussed.

Mr. Parker's mandate did not allow him to consider the representations of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Chipewyan in making his proposal. As you discussed with me on our recent phone call, you have recognized the artificial nature of boundaries as an obstacle in building Nunavut, the same thing applies to building Denendeh.

I was pleased to hear that you are willing to discuss a Treaty that will once and for all rid any animosity between our peoples. It is unfortunate that you appear to believe that TFN can settle a boundary without the consent of the Dene and then negotiate management of overlapping interests.

I look forward to discussing this with you further over the phone and meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,



Bill Erasmus  
National Chief

cc. Chiefs of Denendeh:  
AFN  
Ethel Blondin  
Mary Simon  
Rosemary Kuptana  
Jack Anawack  
MLA's  
John Amaguoluk

BE/ko  
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