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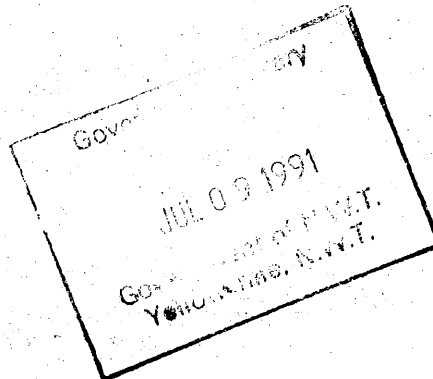
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June 27, 1991

Mr. D. Erasmus,
National Chief,
Dene Nation,
P. O. Box 2338,
Yellowknife, N. W. T.,
X1A 2P7.

Dear Bill,


I was very surprised to receive yesterday a copy of your widely circulated memo to the Chiefs of Denendeh dealing with the boundary to separate the Dene/Metis and Nunavut land claim settlement areas. Your memo misrepresents TFN's position on the boundary issue, so I am responding to correct any false impressions that may result. I am sure that you appreciate the need for accuracy and clarity on this issue, particularly as the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is soon to debate amendments to the territorial plebiscite act, to allow for a plebiscite on the boundary to divide the Northwest Territories. Please feel free to circulate this letter to your chiefs.

TFN and the federal government are negotiating a boundary to separate the Nunavut Settlement Area from your own. We expect these negotiations to be concluded shortly. Following this, land ownership negotiations will move ahead for the Kitikmeot region. After government and TFN have finalized the land claim boundary we would be prepared to sit down with you, and the Chiefs of Denendeh, to discuss cooperative arrangements to manage land and natural resources in the zone, on either side of the boundary, used by both Dene/Metis and Inuit, and the interesting idea of a treaty of peace and friendship between our respective peoples. Of course, we remain firmly committed to the principle that Inuit and Dene/Metis should be able to continue to hunt, fish and trap in those areas used and occupied within living memory, no matter the location of the boundary.

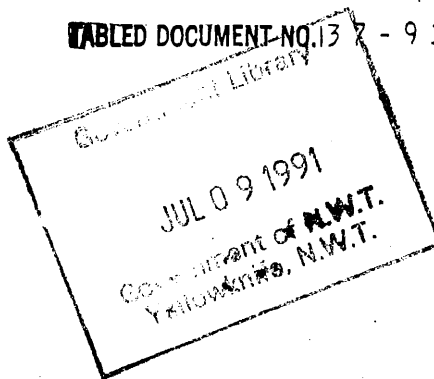
Your memo states that: "TFN is prepared to discuss the boundary again with the Dene and are willing to consider land selections by the Dene across any set boundary line". This is just not true. I am at a loss to explain how you received this impression from our recent telephone conversation that you initiated. Furthermore, your memo states that: "TFN is also prepared to entertain different options for looking at the boundary south of the Thelon Game Sanctuary". Once more I can only say that this is not the case. The land claim boundary south of the sanctuary is not and has not been in dispute between us for some time.

Certainly your letter is correct in stating that TFN wishes to see the Thelon Game Sanctuary protected. I think this is a goal that we share and is something that we should talk about in the future. I would be happy to outline to you how we intend to use the Nunavut Final Agreement to better protect and manage the Thelon Game Sanctuary. I expect to be in Yellowknife next week or the week after, dealing with political development matters. I think that it would be appropriate if we met then, if only for me to reiterate to you the contents of this letter. My best regards.

Yours truly


Paul Quesse
(President)

cc. T. Siddon.



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PRESS RELEASE

(Ottawa - July 5, 1991) TFN AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREE ON A BOUNDARY TO SEPARATE THE INUIT AND DENE/METIS LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT AREAS

Paul Quassa, President of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the Inuit organization negotiating the comprehensive land claim on behalf of Inuit of the Northwest Territories announced today that TFN and Mr. Siddon, the Minister of Indian and Northern Development have agreed upon a boundary to separate the Inuit and Dene/Metis land claim settlement areas.

Mr. Quassa noted: "After much debate, involving representatives from TFN and the communities directly affected, we have been able to strike a deal with the federal government on the land claim boundary and additional land to be owned by Inuit in the Contwoyto Lake region, south of the boundary."

This is an important agreement said Mr. Quassa. "It allows land ownership negotiations in the Kitikmeot region to go ahead as planned, beginning on July 22, 1991. In addition, it enables the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to amend the plebiscite ordinance to authorize a territorial-wide plebiscite adopting the land claims boundary to divide the Northwest Territories to create Nunavut."

"This agreement keeps us on schedule to finalize the Nunavut Final Agreement and to create Nunavut," said Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Bob Kadlun, Vice President of TFN, stressed: "This agreement enables Inuit to gain fee simple title to 230 square miles of land adjacent Fry Inlet on Contwoyto Lake, in addition to the land quantum of 25,495 square miles for the Kitikmeot West region, specified in the Nunavut Agreement-in-Principle. We are endorsing

the land claim boundary recommended to Mr. Siddon because we are now to own land in and around Contwoyto Lake that we have said should belong to Inuit."

The boundary agreement also enables Inuit to negotiate to own land in the Healey Lake region, south and west of Contwoyto Lake, in addition to the land quantum for the Kitikmeot West region. "This area too is important to Inuit," said Mr. Kadlun. "We have used this area in the past, and it is rich in wildlife."

Mr. Louie Pilakapsi, TFN's second Vice-President noted that the boundary agreement also deals with the future status and management of the Thelon Game Sanctuary. Mr. Pilakapsi noted: "The Minister of Indian and Northern Development has assured us in writing that the Nunavut Final Agreement will provide for a coordinated management plan for the whole sanctuary within five years, and that no boundary changes will be made to the sanctuary within this period. Following this, any boundary adjustments are to be subject to the resource planning and management institutions and processes set-up through our Final Agreement. This is important," noted Mr. Pilakapsi. "Inuit in the Keewatin want the Thelon Game Sanctuary to remain in place, and we are using the Nunavut Final Agreement to ensure this."

For further details contact:

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