

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

OPENING DAY, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1998

The first day of the 8th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) started with the posting of the flags of Greenland, Canada, United States of America and the Russian Federation. Then following an opening prayer by Minister Emma Balster of Nuuk, the conference lamp situated near the podium was lit by Kassaaluk Qaavigaq and her daughter Naduk.

Prior to three opening welcome addresses by ICC President Aqqaluk Lyngø, the Mayor of Nuuk, Mrs. Agnethe Davidsen and Greenland's Premier Jonathan Motzfeldt, the Greenland National Choir, six rows deep, beautifully sang the Greenland National Anthem.

Aqqaluk Lyngø, who chaired the opening day proceedings, welcomed all officials, delegates, observers and guests to Nuuk. He gave a special welcome to the Prime Minister of Denmark, the Premier of Greenland, the Mayor of Nuuk and the several indigenous leaders and government leaders from the circumpolar Arctic. Lyngø also spoke about how all Inuit were brought together, his first memory being a visit in his grandparents house of a delegation of Inuit from northern Quebec. He mentioned Eben Hopson Sr.'s vision in the 1970s about breaking down boundaries through helping to found an organization such as ICC. Lyngø also congratulated Inuit from Chukotka for their effective participation in ICC and reminded everyone that because so many international agreements and activities were undertaken far away from the circumpolar North, ICC must continue to defend the rights and further the interests of Inuit internationally.

On behalf of the Nuuk Municipality's 13,000 citizens, Mayor Agnethe Davidsen wished the delegates and observers all the strength and joys that can be gained from such an Assembly. She briefly described Nuuk's history and strengths and then stated how important ICC was to Nuuk. Mrs. Davidsen noted that Nuuk was first established as a former colony in 1728 and has grown to be the main decision-making and commercial centre of Greenland and despite having only 13,000 inhabitants, it contained almost all the necessary facilities a city needs. Mrs. Davidsen also reminded the audience that in 1980 ICC was formally constituted in Nuuk after having been established in Utq̃l̃agvik, Barrow, Alaska in 1977.

Premier Jonathan Motzfeldt opened with words of welcome on behalf of the Government and people of Greenland and by stressing that the circumpolar Arctic and indeed the whole world were going through rapid changes. Mr. Motzfeldt said that Greenlanders were using this period of transition and change to further their quest for self-determination once again and were especially interested in playing an even greater

role in foreign affairs and matters of security. Although he praised the creation of the Arctic Council and especially the model of cooperation between ICC and the Greenland and Danish Governments, the Premier said he believed that the Council needed to work on a broader vision than it currently had. To a round of applause, Mr. Motzfeldt stated that animal rights organizations must clearly understand that they cannot expect to be treated and welcomed as partners unless they, like any person, respect the Inuit ways of life. The Premier also used his opening address to press for greater work among Inuit to improve communications in the Arctic including a common writing system, an enhanced Inuit news service and an Arctic press agency. In closing, Premier Motzfeldt encouraged everyone to be open-minded and pursue their dreams and visions without being impractical and utopian.

Introduction of Delegates and Elders

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge invited the heads of delegations to introduce each country's delegates and participants in the Inuit elders' assembly. First he asked Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland to introduce the Greenlandic delegation. Then Ronald Brower introduced Alaska's delegates and elders, followed by Tatiana Achirgina of Russia. Finally Okalik Eegeesiak of Canada introduced her delegation and elders' conference participants.

Approval of Agenda

A motion put forward by Ben Nageak of Alaska and seconded by Hans-Pavia Rosing of Greenland to approve the agenda was unanimously accepted.

Approval of Proceedings of 7th General Assembly

Ronald Brower of Alaska made a motion to accept the proceedings of the 7th ICC General Assembly which was held in Nome, Alaska in July 1995. The motion was seconded by Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland. A vote was taken and the proceedings were approved.

Report from Credentials Committee

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge noted that it has been practice for the executive council to take on the role of credentials committee and they had already approved the delegates' list and need not further spend time on this matter.

Appointment of Resolutions Committee

Each of the heads of delegations announced their appointment to the resolutions committee. For Canada, Okalik Eegeesiak stated Alan Braidek would be its member. For Alaska, Ronald Brower stated Helen Bolen would be its member. Tatiana Achirgina put forward the name of Liudmila Ainana as Russia's member and Carl Christian Olsen

stated Greenland's nomination to the Resolutions Committee would be Inooraq Olsen alternating with Steen Jeppson and Finn Lynge.

Performance by Kassaaluk Qaavigaq

Kassaaluk Qaavigaq, a singer and drummer from Greenland, performed two songs, both of which had themes related to her grandparents. As she sang and drummed, she beckoned the audience and delegates to join her in song.

Prime Minister of Denmark – Special Address

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge introduced the Honourable Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark to address the delegates and guests. Mr. Lynge noted that this was the first time ever that ICC has welcomed a head of state to its Assembly.

Shortly after coming to the podium, the Prime Minister looked at the Premier of Greenland and said it was again great to be on the biggest island in the world. In his remarks, Mr. Rasmussen covered many issues, including how globalization is changing the world and the Arctic, how Greenland and Denmark's open dialogue has given others one model of how political cooperation can work, how United Nations work by ICC and others is very important and how the Arctic Council must involve the Arctic's indigenous communities for it to make a difference. In addition, Mr. Rasmussen also praised the Arctic Council's Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat and hoped additional funding could be found for its expansion. The Prime Minister stated that indigenous peoples and state government relations, especially in the context of international agreements, can be complex and as an example, mentioned Denmark's ratification of the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. This ratification was undertaken with the consent and encouragement of the Greenland Government and although the Convention emphasizes a comprehensive set of rights within the framework of states, in the end, he stated, no changes to the laws and regulations governing the Danish-Greenland relationship were needed.

Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen ended his special address by highlighting the enormous and important role ICC has played in global work right from its inception. He stated that ICC led the world to see the special conditions Inuit in the Arctic live under, including their dependency on natural resources, land and sea mammals. The Danish Prime Minister concluded by wishing everyone a "giving and productive General Assembly".

After the speech, ICC President Aqqaluk Lynge presented Mr. Rasmussen with a gift – a skin boat – in former times operated by women rowing and men steering. In presenting the gift, Mr. Lynge said to the Prime Minister that it would be a gift to look at remembering the good old times. Mr. Rasmussen responded by saying the gift was especially fitting as his wife had accompanied him to Greenland and was sitting in the audience.

Speeches by Special Guests and Government Representatives

Chairperson Aqqaq invited a representative from the Canadian government, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrews, Secretary of State for Children and Youth to address the audience. Before starting her speech, Ms. Blondin-Andrews turned to Mr. Rasmussen and said, “Mr. Prime Minister, you are a hard act to follow.” In her speech, Ms. Blondin-Andrews stated that she was aware that in the lead-up to the establishment of the Arctic Council, the indigenous peoples’ organizations had not received everything they had wanted. She assured them, however, that Canada would continue to fight strongly for their inclusion at every step of the Arctic Council process as it moves into the substantive phase of work. Ms. Blondin-Andrews also spent quite some time focussing on Inuit children and youth issues and singled out George Berthe and Raurri Ellsworth of the Canadian delegation as hard-working and determined youth whom she knew personally. Among other things, the Secretary of State for Children and Youth said that she had only the day before been in Tuktoyaktuk attending a ceremony commemorating 1998 as the year of the ocean. It is upon the ocean and coastal land that Inuit depend, she said. She concluded her remarks by stating the Arctic land was beautiful, and only equaled by its people. She stated that Canada would continue to be there for Inuit and do whatever it could to promote their interests.

Speaking next, and on behalf of the United States of America was David Mulenex, of the USA embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark. He opened his remarks by providing an anecdote of the first time he was in the Arctic when he noted all the maps had a polar projection. He asked his Norwegian hosts if there was a map shortage in the area because he saw no Mercator projections. He was told that “Mr. Mercator is not well-liked here because he did not view the world from a proper perspective”. Apart from many other things, Mr. Mulenex stated that the USA was looking forward to hosting the Arctic Council for the next two years, that he was especially impressed with the large turn-out of Alaskans at the General Assembly (and that he hoped to make contact with them and work with them during the week) and thanked the Greenland Government for their kind support in allowing US scientists to do research in its country. In addition, the USA representative made reference to the United States’ Secretary of State’s (Madeleine Albright) speech given 10 days earlier to many indigenous Americans from across the USA and said that her remarks would set the stage for American policy and, as well, could help provide a context for the General Assembly deliberations in Nuuk. Mr. Mulenex said that the USA was, among other things, very interested in the nuclear pollution issue so prevalent in the Murmansk harbour in Russia. Finally, he stated that the USA saw international cooperation and a regional approach to the Arctic agenda imperative to solve its problems. He said it was time to abandon rivalries and work collectively on Arctic issues.

The President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) which represents 29 indigenous ethnic minorities had traveled from his home in the Nenets region in Arctic Russia to address the ICC General Assembly. Among his numerous comments, Sergei Haruchi focussed many of his remarks around the theme of “keeping the land the way we received it from our ancestors” and on the importance of

“maintaining our heritage and our language”. He gave a passionate plea that the Arctic’s indigenous peoples’ goal should be to keep our skies always blue, to have fish in the rivers and wildlife on hunting routes. “In our eyes”, he said, “there will always be the forces of fire, water and sky.” He called upon all indigenous peoples of the Arctic to unite because, in his words, “our pain, our tears and our tragedies have been the same”.

Rounding out the opening session was Mr. Olav Mathis Eira, President of the Saami Council. He opened his presentation by saying he felt a close kinship with Inuit for many reasons, one of which was that Saami also lived in a region that crosses 4 circumpolar countries. Mr. Eira talked about the past close relations ICC and the Saami Council shared and the work they would need to continue to do together, especially within the new Arctic Council. He stated that the Saami had also supported ICC in its quest internationally to protect the Inuit way of life in areas such as the hunting of marine mammals. He then said, in turn, he would like to solicit the support of ICC in a related issue that is affecting the Saami way of life – that of reindeer-herding. Mr. Eira spoke of the many problems Saami reindeer-herders were facing, especially that of being unable to hunt most predators of reindeers in the lands of the Saami. He asked for Inuit solidarity in sending a formal message to the world and to their governments. Mr. Eira ended by bringing the very best of greetings from the Saami Council and wished Inuit well in their deliberations at the General Assembly.

Closing of Session

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge asked the Greenland National Choir to help close the opening day of the 8th ICC General Assembly with a song written by Urdlorianguak Kristiansen about Inuit who were no longer alive. Mr. Lynge stated that Mr. Kristiansen was a former ICC Greenland delegate (as the representative of the Greenland Municipalities Association) who died recently. The song, he said, was to remember those who have passed on. Mr. Lynge said the song would become the ICC International Anthem.

After some announcements, Aqqaluk Lynge adjourned the Assembly until the following day.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1998

Former ICC President and current executive council member, Caleb Pungowiyi chaired the start of the second day of the General Assembly. Greenland noted that the Mayor of Nuuk, Agnethe Davidsen, would replace Hans-Pavia Rosing as an alternate during Mr. Rosing’s absence.

Mr. Pungowiyi opened the session by informing the delegates and observers that word had just been received that a federal judge in Washington, D.C. had dismissed a suit filed by the Alaska Legislature which would have eliminated Native subsistence rights

guaranteed under an Alaskan law known as ANILCA. This announcement was greeted with strong applause from the Alaska delegates and others.

President's Report

Mr. Pungowiyi then introduced the President of ICC, Aqqaluk Lyngé, and asked him to deliver the president's report. Mr. Lyngé stated that he would only briefly report on what ICC had done over the past three years and would relate these past activities in terms of how the Executive Council and he felt ICC should evolve into the future. He urged all delegates to consult the written President's Report that reported more specifically on ICC activities from 1995 onward. Mr. Lyngé noted that the issue of human rights had been central to many of ICC's activities, not only at the United Nations, where ICC more formally undertakes "human rights" work. Reminding the delegates of this year's Assembly theme, he said that "promoting our rights requires the presence of our Inuit spirit".

Before looking into the future, the ICC President briefly reviewed some of the project-specific work ICC had accomplished over the past three years, such as the seabird study on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, as well as the more institutional endeavours such as helping to establish the Arctic Council and the on-going work in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. In addition, he reported on various capacity-building projects that ICC was undertaking in Russia to help indigenous peoples there. He also briefly touched upon several other initiatives that were reported on in the written President's Report.

As for the future, Mr. Lyngé asked the delegates to use the week's agenda wisely and to guide ICC into the next millennium with confidence. He said more needed to be done in Russia. He said more needed to be done with the Inuit youth and elders and he had some specific project ideas for both. He was committed to establishing an international youth coordinator in the President's office and put forward two project ideas which would involve Inuit elders' knowledge and traditional hunters. To be successful in the future, Mr. Lyngé said ICC would have to continue to build on solid partnerships with those that had colonized the Inuit homelands and added that it had been Inuit's willingness to work alongside their former enemies, often in a conciliatory manner, that had led Inuit to be successful in various arenas. He cautioned, however, that not all cooperation with government was successful and that ICC should work apart from government where necessary. As an example, he cited the various judicial systems found in Inuit homelands that were foreign to Inuit ways of life. New judicial models should be advanced, he said.

Mr. Lyngé was also looking forward to ICC's involvement in the new sustainable development initiative in the Arctic Council and noted that ICC had already forwarded 5 project ideas for the Council's review. Another new initiative in which ICC should play a strong role was in the area of education and communication. He stated that these two areas of work were new mandates under the Arctic Council and also stated that ICC should support the proposed University of the Arctic project. Related to education, he said, was the issue of language and called for ICC to form a communication and language

commission to look at ways in which the Inuit language could be better promoted and preserved in the face of increasing globalization of culture and economy.

Aqqaluk Lynge concluded his report by stressing to the delegates that ICC was their responsibility and that the week's deliberations were crucial for the organization's next four years. Mr. Lynge said that ICC is sacred as well as Inuit's soul of togetherness. He reminded delegates and observers that "we are here to make important decisions for the future, but we are also here to celebrate this soul and spirit." Finally, he said "ICC will follow the path chosen by you here today. It is your organization, your tool and your responsibility".

Upon completing his report, all delegates and guests stood to applaud Mr. Lynge.

Chairperson Caleb Pungowiyi thanked Mr. Lynge and then asked for a motion to accept the President's Report. It was so moved by Ben Nageak of Alaska and seconded by Charlie Johnson also of Alaska. The Report was adopted unanimously.

Country Reports

a) Alaska

ICC-Alaska's head of delegation, Ronald Brower, asked the daughter of former ICC President, Eileen MacLean, to present the Alaska country report. In introducing Tara MacLean Sweeney, he also paid tribute to her mother stating that she gave much to Alaska and that her life had been much too short.

Ms. Sweeney apologized that she would have to start off her report by sounding quite negative, but she said it was important for delegates and others to know that Alaska Natives find themselves increasingly under a state of political turmoil in large part due to the current anti-rural Alaska Legislature. As a recent and poignant example, she described how Native education gains made in the 1970s were now under attack by the Alaska Legislature. These recent attacks would mean less schooling to be available in native and rural communities at the profit of urban schools. Ms. Sweeney nevertheless urged parents to demand and expect their children to obtain higher education in order for Natives to expand into new markets and to keep outside people taking job opportunities because of unqualified people in Native communities.

Ms. Sweeney talked about many other issues facing Alaskan Inuit such as challenges to their subsistence hunting and fishing rights and other political struggles. In these and other matters, Alaskan Inuit have been successful, she said, in forging strength through unity and collaboration with other Native groups in Alaska, including the Alaska Federation of Natives. She added that although they have had to fight the federal government on many issues, it was the federal court and government (not Alaska) that has been more favourable to the rural subsistence way of life. She reported that many subsistence-related regimes, such as the

Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the Alaska Nanuq Commission, were established in large part with the assistance of ICC-Alaska. ICC-Alaska was also instrumental in enabling improvements to the USA Marine Mammal Protection Act for the benefit of Alaska Natives. Tara MacLean Sweeney ended her report by analyzing the economic disadvantages to the State of Alaska as a whole if they continue their anti-rural and anti-Native bias. Because Alaska Natives only took 1% of all fish caught and 4% of all wildlife for subsistence use, just the replacement cost alone of traditional foods would be significant to the rural economy, she said. She did offer hope, however, by saying that Natives can make a difference in voting out political officials with an anti-Native bias.

Ben Nageak of Alaska moved to accept the ICC-Alaska report. Paul Kaludjak of Canada seconded the motion. The Alaska country report was approved by the General Assembly.

b) Canada

Okalik Eegeesiak, the President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the national organization representing Inuit in Canada, presented the Canada country report. She opened her remarks by describing how far Inuit had come in the last since 1983, the first time she, as a young Inuk, attended an ICC General Assembly. Ms. Eegeesiak then explained to the delegations how the Canadian government did not respect Inuit as a distinct people, demonstrated by government programs that often lumped together all aboriginal peoples living in Canada as one people. She stated that although all aboriginal peoples in Canada fought for similar goals and formed alliances when necessary, she noted that an “alliance such as this, however, is not a marriage” and that Inuit goals and needs are very different from those of First Nations and Metis peoples.

With respect to specifics, Ms. Eegeesiak called for an Inuit-specific federal housing policy due to a housing shortage in the Arctic. She said Inuit lived in over-crowded and poorly-designed units. She then went on to inform the Assembly participants about the Royal Commission that the Canadian government had appointed to investigate the state of aboriginal life in Canada. The federal government, she said, recently published its own response to the Commission’s report, entitled *Gathering Strength*. She also described the contents of *Gathering Strength* by saying it had two main elements, one a statement of reconciliation which recognized injustices of the past and the other, a statement of renewal which set out objectives for defining future relations between Canada and its Aboriginal peoples. The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada then developed its own framework response to *Gathering Strength* which included, among others, principles such as the government should develop Inuit-specific programs, a comprehensive review of all federal programs affecting Inuit should be undertaken and adequate resources should be forthcoming to carry out this work.

Okalik Eegeesiak also mentioned Canadian Inuit concern over the federal government's recent attempt, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to overhaul all of Canada's social policy. This process, she said, has started without inviting aboriginal peoples to the decision-making table. Ms. Eegeesiak noted that she hoped that she would be able to stand before the next ICC Assembly and report that all Canadian Inuit in Labrador, Nunavut, Nanavik and the Inuvialuit Region are prospering, but most of all, she said she hoped to report that Inuit will have won unequivocal recognition from the federal government and for the principle that programs for Inuit must be designed, delivered and managed by Inuit. She ended her Canada country report by noting her admiration for the partnership between Denmark and Greenland and for showing the world that Inuit self-government can and will work. Finally, she referred to the previous night's gala event in which she was awed by Canadian Inuit leader, John Amagoalik's vision and in which she was spilling with pride watching the cultural performances of Canadian Inuit youth.

Ben Nageak moved to accept the Canada report. The motion was seconded by Edna Elias of Canada. The report was approved.

c) **Russia**

The Vice-President of ICC for Russia, Tatiana Achirgina, opened her remarks by indicating how amazing it was that through many complicated financial and organizational problems, her Yupik delegation from Russia had arrived in Nuuk for the General Assembly. She thanked everyone who played a role both logistically and financially in "organizing the journey from Chukotka to the Nuuk fiords to meet relatives and friends". Achirgina reminded the delegates how small and fragile Russian Inuit (or Yupik) were. She said because they were only 1500, Yupik were more susceptible to assimilation and loss of "ethnic self-consciousness". Achirgina then went on to describe the extremely difficult circumstances under which Yupik and other indigenous peoples of Chukotka found themselves in. She reported that 1998 had been yet another crisis year for the Government of the Russian Federation and that another brand new cabinet had been appointed in 1997 to try to deal with the on-going emergencies. Although there were some positive developments in the economy of Chukotka, such as new gold-mining initiatives and a new fishing industry, for the most part, Chukotka's financial woes and corresponding social problems were reaching sad and chaotic proportions. It was hoped, she said, that the gold mining and fishing industry could be developed to the point where regional tax revenues could be generated, which in turn may help to develop urgently-needed social programs to help the poor, the homeless, the sick and unemployed. She also mentioned other positive developments spear-headed by the Russian Federation Council and the State Committee on the North (GOSKOMSEVER) which had recently developed strategic measures to help Chukotka out of its social and economic crisis. Achirgina added, however, that many skeptics were pointing out that many such recent "plans" had failed and why should this new one be any better?

Tatiana Achirgina described many details, some gleaned from her own data-gathering trip to several small ethnic Yupik villages. She said thousands of Chukotkans were unemployed, prices continued to skyrocket for those products that were still in stores. She said that due to non-payment of salaries for most industries and services, products were becoming even scarcer. In turn, those rare individuals who were receiving salaries had little to purchase. Furthermore, reindeer herds were dwindling, industries were closing and markets were non-existent. Recently, Achirgina reported, a popular Russian newspaper published a “joke” about how Russian Inuit had not been paid any salary since 1994. In her own trip to Yupik settlements, she noted that between 10 and 20 percent of the population had died between 1992 and 1997. The high level of mortality, she said, was due to accidents, murders and suicide rates being abnormally high, as well as increasing rates of natural deaths.

Achirgina stated that only a radical change in circumstances could help Russian Inuit. She did, however, thank many other Inuit individuals and organizations for their humanitarian and other assistance provided over the past few years. In particular, she thanked Greenlandic women, the North Slope Borough, Kawerak Inc., Maniilaq Association, those who were involved in the both the Canada-Russia project and the Danish-Greenlandic Initiative, the Yupik Council of Elders, RAIPON, the Department on Indigenous Affairs, the State Committee on the North and the Chukotka Regional Administration.

For long-term solutions to Chukotka’s indigenous peoples’ problems, Achirgina said that legal support and changes of existing laws pertaining to indigenous peoples would have to be enacted in Russia, especially in the area of community self-management. She said there has been little government support for these changes, but she and others will continue to fight for them.

ICC’s Vice President for Russia ended her report by asking people to consult the President’s Report and other General Assembly documents for a complete written description of all the positive accomplishments that ICC-Russia achieved. She thanked ICC for the stressful, yet interesting time which she had since 1995 as the Vice President from and for Russia. She said it was a gift of destiny and thanked her own people for trust and understanding.

The Russian country report was moved to be approved by Henry Ivanoff of Alaska with the caveat that a full English written translation would be made available, as the simultaneous interpretation had been inadequate due to technical reasons. Larry Audlaluk of Canada seconded the motion. The delegates approved the report unanimously.

d) Greenland

Greenland head of delegation Carl Christian Olsen presented the Greenland country report. He opened his report by remarking how many previous speeches had

mentioned that Greenland was going through a period of change and transition. He stated that the recent transfer to Greenland of the Danish Directorate for Non-Renewable Resources was a concrete example of this transition as well as an indication that the Greenland Government was more than up to the task of managing Greenland's affairs.

Mr. Olsen also mentioned several other areas in which the Greenland Government was very active at present. Initiatives in areas such as culture, education, church and economic development were other examples he mentioned indicating how the Greenland government was becoming more autonomous. He specifically spoke of the new cultural centre, decentralization of some education, tourism development and infrastructure construction. A new airport would be completed this autumn. Greenland, he said, had also increased its support of foreign trade initiatives. On the scientific front, Carl Christian Olsen stated that the new research centre (Pinngortitaleriffik) and the Greenland University were conducting several research programmes, especially in the fields of renewable resources and environment. Politically, the Municipal Systems Reform Commission had recently completed its work resulting in much more local decision-making at the village level.

Other pressing issues in Greenland that still require work and analysis included, Mr. Olsen said, reforming the judicial system, reforming the social system, restructuring the housing authority administration and planning new preventive and other health initiatives. Finally, Greenland he said, required new legislation on environmental issues both for internal Greenlandic reasons and in order to comply with new international standards.

Mr. Olsen concluded his report by remarking that on the international front, Greenland has in the past few years become much more active in international affairs on its own behalf. Mr. Olsen stated that Greenland now has an international relations office as well as two overseas representation offices, one with the European Union in Brussels and the other in Canada.

The Greenland Country report was approved by the delegates after a motion put forward by Tara MacLean Sweeney of Alaska, seconded by Zebedee Nungak of Canada.

Amendments to Charter and By-Laws

ICC Council Member and Chairperson of the ICC By-Laws Committee, Alfred Jakobsen, presented a report of the executive council's work on this mandate. Mr. Jakobsen reminded delegates of Resolution 95-01 in which the last General Assembly instructed the Executive Council to prepare an amended charter and by-laws for review and adoption at this year's Assembly. Mr. Jakobsen also reminded the delegates of the objectives of the work undertaken before presenting the important changes made. He stressed that the amendments fell into five categories including: 1) the clarification of membership (as well as adding the Russian Inuit as full members); 2) the elimination of

the Secretariat, which since the founding of ICC had never been instituted; 3) clarifying the role of the executive council; 4) how financial statements are to be presented and 5) changes to the nomination of ICC's President. Mr. Jakobsen stated that all Executive Council members had worked hard in drawing up the amended charter and by-laws and were unanimously in agreement with the proposed changes.

Alfred Jakobsen stated that it was the Executive Council's recommendation that they be approved as presented. He asked everyone to consult the amendments diligently over the week, to review them in each respective caucus and be ready to act on their adoption on the last day of the General Assembly.

Financial Report – *Closed Session*

Mr. Lasse Nørgaard, an auditor with Coopers & Lybrand presented the financial statements of each of the 4 offices of ICC to the delegates. The session was closed to all except the delegations from each of the 4 countries. Mr. Nørgaard also combined each country's audited financial reports for a global presentation. Each country's audited report was formally adopted by the General Assembly.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1998

The morning's session was opened with a prayer.

Joe Kunuk chaired the session and reviewed for the delegates the week-long approach to be taken during the panel sessions. He stated that there would be special guest speakers to generate debate and panelists to put forward ideas to help frame the discussion afterwards. It would be from these debates by delegates that recommendations would be put forward as well as resolutions drafted by the Resolutions Committee. He reiterated that resolutions coming from each caucus would also be accepted by the Resolutions Committee and possibly redrafted for presentation to the plenary on Friday.

Panel on Education and Indigenous Training

Chair: Joe Kunuk

Guest Speaker: Outi Snellman, Secretary General of the Circumpolar Universities' Association

Panelists:

1. Dr. Edna MacLean, President, Ilisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska
2. Valentina Golubeva, ICC Executive Council Member, Chukotka
3. Carl Christian Olsen, Director of the Greenland Language Office

- Rapporteurs:**
1. James Nageak, Coordinator of Bilingual and Multicultural Instruction, NSBSD, Barrow, Alaska
 2. Tove Søvndahl Petersen, Executive Secretary, Arctic Council, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, Copenhagen

The Chair Joe Kunuk opened the session by urging delegates to clearly discuss the issues with our youth in mind. The youth must have the opportunity to obtain their diplomas and their degrees from the higher educational systems and must also be trained in opportunities for business professions.

The special guest speaker Ms. Outi Snellman introduced the concept of a University of the Arctic which was presented to the Arctic Council. The ongoing process in developing a proposal will be presented at the next Arctic Council meeting. ICC is involved in the working group of the University of the Arctic.

Dr. Edna MacLean spoke of the experiences and achievements within training and education in Alaska and of the various Arctic international initiatives within the field of education, research and higher learning. She spoke on the need of indigenous involvement in the formulation of a proposal on the University of the Arctic. She reiterated the need for lifelong training and for curricula adapted to the life and the spirit of the Inuit. Regarding the University of the Arctic, she felt that the process was going too fast as the Arctic Communities are very involved in the building of local and basic infrastructure.

Valentina Golubeva gave a thorough account on the well-developed, accessible and liberal educational infrastructure of Chukotka. In recent years, efforts had been made to promote indigenous education and language instruction, so that education in indigenous language and cultures could be delivered to the young. Furthermore, work was being done in developing textbooks for schoolchildren in their native language. However, these developments were suffering from the general deterioration of economy and infrastructure. The material and moral support of fellow Inuit from Alaska, Canada and Greenland is crucial in keeping up the spirit among Yupik in Chukotka.

Carl Christian Olsen (Pujo) spoke on the interrelationship of language and the spirit of the Inuit. It is difficult to comprehend the Inuit spirit and its nature without knowing the language. He spoke on the need to promote our language – to defend it, even if outsiders deem it useless. He spoke for presenting the Arctic to the outside world using our own language in collaboration with the Arctic Council and the University of the Arctic. The presentation was concluded with a recommendation to establish a Commission on Language and Communications.

The Honourable Konrad Steenholdt spoke on the cooperation between the Arctic Ministers of Education. This cooperation has its strength in the work and commitment carried out in between ministerial sessions. As a follow-up from the last ministerial meeting, an Arctic College Consortium would be established this year in Kautokeino, Norway. In regards to the University of the Arctic, he would very much like to see the

involvement of Iisimatusarfik – the Greenland University has had many valuable experiences that would be beneficial to the establishment of the University of the Arctic. He welcomes the participation of Inuit in future meetings of Arctic Ministers of Education.

Summary of the Discussion

On the University of the Arctic proposal, there was an agreement that ICC must continue to be involved in the process. Furthermore, Arctic Ministers of Education must be involved along with small colleges in the creation of an “Arctic University”. There was a difference of opinion at the current speed in creating the University of the Arctic. However, everyone felt that there was a need for ongoing communication regarding the University of the Arctic.

There was an agreement that establishing schools at community level was important instead of sending students away to another community.

There was a support of the establishment of a Language and Communication Commission, which will be discussed at the caucus level.

Finally, there was a general agreement that there is a need to ensure that the development of education systems be culturally relevant and that there be a circumpolar accreditation process.

The following recommendations were made by the panel session:

1. That ICC establishes a Commission of Language and Communication – whereof its most important task would be to establish a common Inuit orthography.
2. That Inuit be involved in the establishment of the University of the Arctic through their various representative structures and that the process of establishing a University of the Arctic should involve the small northern and Inuit colleges in a greater degree.
3. That we, as Inuit, should ensure the development of educational systems adapted to our needs and our lives, including education in our traditions and traditional knowledge.
4. That work should be done to promote circumpolar accreditation on educational certificates and degrees.

During the mid-point of the panel discussion, Chairperson Joe Kunuk called for a break. Before breaking, however, he quoted two excerpts from reports given the day before. The first, from the Alaska regional report:

As we enter a new millenium, it is imperative for our very existence to have our children educated.

And then referring to the President's Report, Joe quoted Aqqaluk Lyngé as follows:

In my opinion, we must deliver the best education possible by taking the best parts of our own traditional systems with what the outside world would have to offer.

Afternoon Session

Panel on Renewable Resource Issues and Trade Barriers

Chair: Alfred Jakobsen, Executive Council Member, Greenland

Guest Speaker: Finn Lyngé, Consultant on Indigenous Peoples Issues, Government of Greenland

Panelists:

1. Honorable Pâviâraq Heilmann, Minister of Fisheries, Hunting, Industry and Agriculture, Government of Greenland
2. Juan Ovejero, European Representative in African Resource Trust, Brussels
3. Honorable Charlie Watt, Senator, Canada

Rapporteurs:

1. Marc Stevenson, Consultant, Canada
2. Henry Huntington, Consultant, Alaska

The guest speaker and panelists' presentations and the ensuing discussion touched on many issues related to renewable resources, hunting and fishing, economic development, trade, and the Inuit way of life. The recommendations from the panel encompass only some of the ideas brought forward, but they emphasize significant areas in which the ICC should be active during the next three years.

Recommendations

1. ICC should pursue and promote the development of appropriate methodologies to measure the economic, social, cultural, and other values of the subsistence economy to Inuit, and the impacts of loss of or disruptions to the subsistence way of life.
2. ICC should educate non-Inuit about Inuit cultural values and worldviews, and seek to incorporate them in all interactions and decision-making structures with our nation states and representative governments.

3. ICC should become more involved in the World Trade Organization (WTO), working with other organizations throughout the world to promote the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure that unilateral and/or extraterritorial trade restrictions continue to be rejected by the WTO.
4. ICC should work to protect Inuit hunting and self-management rights in Alaska and Russia while also working to remove barriers to Canadian and Greenlandic trade in marine mammal products.
5. ICC should promote the development of culturally and locally appropriate technology that supports sustainable economic development in small Inuit communities.
6. ICC should explore ways and means to develop an Inuit Constitution that would protect Inuit rights and provide a foundation for the Inuit way of life throughout the Inuit world.
7. ICC should determine the economic, political, and other implications of greater Inuit cooperation and unity in circumpolar trade and commerce.
8. A draft proposal to set up a task force to deal with trade barriers / MMPA to be included.
9. Statements on MMPA by Charles Johnson and Charlie Watt.
10. A resolution should be put forward regarding small whales in support of the position held by Greenland and Denmark that IWC not any have a say over management of small cetaceans, but to encourage scientific research and discussions at the IWC level.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1998

Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Canada chaired the morning session and opened the plenary by introducing a dance group from Canada, *Aqsarniit*. The group members are Sylvia Ipirautuq Cloutier, Eva Sowdluapik, Karen Kettler, Phanuellie Palluq and Raurri Qajaaq Ellsworth.

Ms. Watt-Cloutier then gave details on how the film, *Capturing Spirit - The Inuit Journey*, which was shown the previous day and produced and written by her (along with others) could be purchased. She informed delegates and guests that Makivik Corporation owned the film rights and would be making it available to the general public.

Ms. Watt-Cloutier then asked that the plenary recognize a special guest in the audience, Mick Dodson, Director of the Indigenous Law Centre of New South Wales, Australia. After that, she asked Caleb Pungowiyi, former ICC President, to open the session with a prayer. In his prayer, Mr. Pungowiyi asked for guidance and intelligence when formulating recommendations and resolutions that would ultimately deal with pressing issues for people back home.

Panel on Social Issues

Chair: Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Vice-President, Canada

Guest Speaker: Ono Fleischer, Great Dog Sledge Journey II, III

Panelists:

1. Per Walsoe, Judge, Supreme Court of Denmark and Chairman of Greenland Judicial Committee
2. Honorable Mikael Petersen, Minister of Social Affairs, Labour and Public Works, Government of Greenland
3. Liudmila Ainana, Chairperson of Yupik Society in Chukotka, Providenya

Rapporteurs:

1. Leena Evic-Twerdin, NTI, Canada
2. Linda Joule, Assistant to the Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska

The above guest speaker and panelists' presentations and the following comments included many social issues around "Strengthening the Inuit Spirit". Inuit spirit being discussed as: the inner feelings of holistic well-being of the circumpolar Inuit people and their way of life. The following recommendations stated are from the guest speaker, the panel members and delegates. These recommendations reflect general areas in which ICC should become actively involved.

Recommendations

1. ICC should work to strengthen the Inuit languages in the home countries. It is their strength, their power, and must not disappear. ICC should work harder to ensure that the local people in the Inuit countries are served in their language, and promote that Inuit language is spoken in the home, in all the public systems, and in the workplaces.
2. The Inuit families are the foundational strength of our communities. ICC should seek ways to assist families in learning traditional knowledge and skills so that the lifestyle is documented and taught to future generations. This also includes learning different ways to resolve negative social issues and become good role models to their children.
3. ICC should promote more consistent communication network between the Inuit countries, for the purpose of sharing educational ideas and building relationships to work closer together by utilizing modern technology.
4. ICC should explore ways to support the efforts of Inuit communities in retaining traditional skills and in the promotion of traditional values, laws and customs.

5. ICC should advocate for a judicial system that is reflective of the Inuit language and values.
6. ICC should pursue and promote exchange programs between the circumpolar countries to build resources of educational programs and traditional methods.
7. ICC should promote for establishment of outreach healing programs or centres which include counseling families rather than only individuals.
8. ICC should distribute the video “Capturing Spirit – The Inuit Journey” to the four countries so the communities have access to it.
9. ICC should encourage open discussions on alcohol and sexual abuse issues in the communities and seek solutions.
10. ICC should promote adequate support systems of services for young people in the circumpolar communities to help them in dealing with their problems and in their search for guidance.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier closed the meeting with brief remarks, noting that the session certainly proved that issues of social concerns and strengthening the Inuit spirit were very passionate ones and important in all of the Inuit homelands. She added that “our Inuit spirit has been hurt in so many ways, as we have heard”, but that here was optimism for the future as well.

Afternoon Session

Caleb Pungowiyi chaired the afternoon session and opened his comments by publicly thanking his wife, Gladys, for the tremendous support she had given him over the past 5 years when he was president and council member, especially during the many periods he had to be away from home. He noted that this General Assembly was the first time she had ever accompanied him. Then Mr. Pungowiyi introduced Kasper Skifte and Fali Kleist who provided entertainment for the Assembly participants. They sang a song to honour “a dear friend and singer, Sakka Kvania, who died in an accident 3 months ago.” They said he should have been here today singing for everyone. Instead the entertainers sang a song Sakka had written, entitled, *Ullaarannguaq*. Delegates and observers stood for the song.

Panel on Public Health and Transboundary Contaminants

Chair: Caleb Pungowiyi, Executive Council Member, Alaska

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lubov Otrokova, Consultant for the Regional Social Security Fund of Chukotka

- Panelists:**
1. Honorable Karen Kraft Sloan, M.P., Government of Canada
 2. Michael Pederson, Commissioner, Alaska Native Science Commission, Barrow, Alaska
 3. Honorable Marianne Jensen, Minister of Environment, Nature, Health and Research, Government of Greenland

- Rapporteurs:**
1. Chester Reimer, Consultant, Canada
 2. Terry Fenge, Director of Research, ICC Canada

Presentations

Introductory comments by Caleb Pungowiyi stressed discussion of transboundary contaminants at the last ICC assembly. It has been known for many years that many contaminants used in tropical and temperate countries end-up in the Arctic “sink”. A number of international agreements attempt to deal with this problem, and working groups under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and Arctic Council have generated considerable data. It is highly important that we communicate effectively with Inuit and give them the facts about the issue, but we must not raise health fears unnecessarily.

Dr. Lubov Otrokova from Chukotka recounted in detail the litany of public health problems facing residents of Chukotka, including Inuit. While not dealing with the contamination of “country food” by contaminants, the deteriorating health of residents of this area is directly related to the economic, social and environmental collapse that followed dissolution of the Soviet Union. In particular, little preventive health care is now delivered in the region and many facilities are closed. Birth rates have declined markedly, as have marriages. Social pathologies have increased. Mental health is deteriorating, venereal diseases are rampant. Virtually nothing is being done to deal with chronic complaints. Chukotka needs assistance and advocacy.

Karen Kraft Sloan noted that ICC is successfully informing politicians of the importance of transboundary contaminants issues. Dealing with this issue is a key to the shift to sustainability. Indeed, POPs are likely endocrine disruptors, making this a very important long-term issue, and one of importance to children and youth. The principles of ICC’s Arctic Policy note that a clean environment is emerging as a human right.

Canada is funding considerable research into POPs through the recently renewed Northern Contaminants Programme (NCP) administered by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). The LRTAP process has brought together many countries—33 signed the POPs protocol to this convention. We must now move to global agreements. It is important that aboriginal peoples use every forum available to reduce emissions of POPs.

Drawing heavily upon data published by AMAP, Michael Pederson of Alaska outlined in detail the sources of contamination outside the Arctic that result in environmental and public health problems within the Arctic. Radionuclides and POPs were noted to be of

primary concern. Linking scientific and traditional knowledge was thought to be important in developing plans and programmes to deal with this issue. A number of examples of traditional knowledge contributing to an understanding of environmental change were described. Clearly the Arctic environment is changing quite fast, the key question is why?

The final speaker, Marianne Jensen, stressed the need to promote sustainable development of natural resources, and to ensure the continued involvement of indigenous peoples in the Arctic Council. Traditional, “country food” is of great value in Greenland, but we know that many such foods are contaminated by PCBs and POPs. A Nutritional Council for Greenland has been appointed to evaluate the health implications of various diets taking into account contaminants. This council will advise on the need for additional research. Greenland has initiated an Inuit and Saami living conditions survey. Finally, Mrs. Jensen stressed the need to create global awareness of the transboundary contaminants issue.

Discussion Among Delegates

Discussion among delegates was vigorous and wide-ranging. A number of delegates asked staff to draft comprehensive and strong resolutions for consideration on Friday. Canada suggested the NCP model be used in other Arctic nations, and that ICC lobby to this effect. Greenland asked what ICC should do with other nations to come up with solutions to this problem. Greenland also noted the range of bodies working on this issue and urged ICC to make connections to the Arctic Council, Arctic Parliamentarians, North Atlantic Assembly (NATO) and other bodies. Canada noted the success of Makivik’s research department and suggested that Inuit organizations should develop the skills and acquire the technology to monitor the environment. Alaska applauded ICC’s work to date on this file, but stressed the need for improved communications among and between Inuit organizations. Greenland suggested that nations emitting POPs should be “punished”, and opposed suggestions to dispose of military related nuclear wastes in Greenland. Importantly Greenland suggested that ICC work with other organizations to deal with this issue, and asked for a clear and strong resolution.

Greenland stressed the moral dimension to this issue. Canada raised explicitly the need for ICC to work with other organizations with “global reach” if we are to be effective in international debate. Greenpeace and the Circumpolar Conservation Union were mentioned by name. Russia called upon ICC to initiate a study into contamination of animals and people. Canada (NTI) stressed it would help Chukotka, noting that contaminants are, in effect, a “real attack” on Inuit and the Inuit way of life. Canada also called for a strong resolution. Alaska called upon ICC to “make a stand” on this issue and to lobby effectively internationally. Greenland applauded the presentation by Alaska and called upon the ICC assembly to take a strong stand on the issue.

Suggestions for a resolution included:

1. Applauding the federal government for renewing the Northern Contaminants Programme.
2. Supporting AMAP, the Arctic Council, and other international bodies dealing with this issue.
3. Calling for a strong international treaty on POPs.
4. Working toward international arrangements with non-governmental organizations.
5. Promoting further research on POPs and communicating more effectively among and between Inuit organizations on POPs.

First Call for Nominations for President

Chair Caleb Pungowiyi asked the delegates if there were any nominations for the ICC presidency. Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland nominated Aqqaluk Lyngé of Greenland. This nomination was seconded by Ben Nageak of Alaska.

Before adjourning for the day, Mr. Pungowiyi announced that today was Alaskan delegate, Tara MacLean Sweeney's birthday. Everyone sang happy birthday and then the Greenlanders followed with a Greenlandic version for Tara.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1998

Youth Session

a) Introduction by Chair

In his introduction, Chairperson Joe Kunuk stated that Inuit have always been raised to listen to their elders for guidance and support. In the same vein, Mr. Kunuk stated that Inuit must also listen to its youth. He mentioned that he saw many strong and vocal ex-youth leaders among the delegations, in particular he mentioned Okalik Eegeesiak and Aqqaluk Lyngé. Mr. Kunuk said he has seen many pictures of Aqqaluk's earlier years as a vocal young leader. He said many of the delegates were youth leaders and now have white hair.

He then praised several current youth leaders he knows, among them Raurri Ellsworth, George Berthe and Sandra Inutiq.

b) Opening Remarks by Raurri Ellsworth, Interim ICYC President

Raurri Ellsworth opened his remarks by stating that he and other youth had noticed the stacks and stacks of paper that had been distributed and many of the youth

presenters today would only speak from notes. He reminded the General Assembly to think of all the trees used to make the paper here and noted that most of the Arctic had no trees.

Raurri thanked the delegates for allowing three hours of time on the agenda for youth issues. Among many issues facing Inuit youth, and one that was probably the result of many other problems, was suicide. He mentioned that this was probably the most important.

Raurri said Inuit youth do not feel understood and were not included in the work ICC does. It is not a real partnership. He said youth would like to play a greater role.

Raurri apologized, on behalf of ICYC, to the delegates of the General Assembly for not having done its work so far and for making many of the delegates feel ICYC was not yet ready to take off its bicycle training wheels. He said that they were ready to be let go and have the training wheels taken off now.

The ICC General Assembly was warned that at the next one, Inuit youth would be giving the delegates a report card showing how much ICC took into account youth needs.

He asked the General Assembly to lighten up and to smile, noting that maybe his opening remarks were getting too "heavy".

c) ICYC Activities Report, Jørgen Wæver Johansen

Former ICYC President, Jørgen Wæver Johansen, introduced his talk by congratulating ICC for setting a record by allowing a full three hours for youth issues on the agenda.

He told delegates that ICYC activities involved three areas: one was to get the message out, the second was to focus on people-oriented projects and the third was to deal with basic organizational matters.

He mentioned several specific initiatives, including the 4th World Indigenous Youth Conference held in the summer of 1996 in the Saami area of the Arctic. He mentioned that he hoped Inuit youth would one day host this conference but reminded the delegates that a major project such as that would require financial support from Inuit decision-makers. He mentioned Inuit youth participation in the recent Sustainable Development Conference held in Whitehorse, Canada in 1998. He said youth participation was a success and noted sustainable development decisions made there would be dealt with in the future by today's youth. Jørgen also mentioned that, in cooperation with *Silamiut*, Greenland's national theatre school, ICYC hosted the first ever *Indigenous Youth Summer Theatre School* in 1996. He

noted that although it was a success, funding was not made available for it to continue. He mentioned that Inuit youth also attended some other conferences.

Jørgen reported to delegates that the ICYC started off well since its founding in 1994 and, at first, the ICYC executive council had frequent contact with each other. Due to lack of financial resources, time commitments from council members and communications difficulties, scheduled meetings were often cancelled. Furthermore, family situations for many members, including himself cut deeply into efforts made to deal with basic organizational matters. He said it was due to family matters that he decided it was best for ICYC to have him step down as president.

As for the future, Jørgen was very optimistic. He stated that the *ex officio* seat that ICYC had on the ICC executive council was very valuable to both youth and to the council. He noted that the very best thing would be to combine this seat with a full-time international youth coordinator. He ended by saying that just as ICC was our common organization, so was ICYC our shared responsibility.

d) Alaskan Regional Youth Report, Jaylene Wheeler

In introducing Jaylene Wheeler, Raurri noted that when he first met her, she seemed a bit grumpy but after having gotten to know her, he realized that she was a very hard worker and did an excellent job behind the scenes.

Jaylene introduced the 8-member youth delegation from Alaska who were sitting as observers. She noted that the cultural and artistic performers who had accompanied the delegation were just as important as the political discussions. She thanked Aqqaluk Lynge and Ronald Brower for their support to her personally. She put out a strong statement to the Assembly delegates: "Take a good look. We are your future. Nurture us and take us under your guidance."

Jaylene noted that Alaskan Inuit youth did not yet have the same organizational capacity as youth in Canada and in Greenland. She said that ICYC was still in developing its organizational efforts, but she reported good progress and full support. She stressed that the organizing process had more recently worked well as a grass-roots movement and she hoped it would remain that way. She was hoping interested individuals at the village and community level continued to become interested in the international work of ICYC and link it back to the community level.

Jaylene mentioned that ICC in Alaska had over the past year been very helpful in including Alaska youth in its planning, visioning and meetings leading up to the Nuuk General Assembly. She noted that youth now have a voting seat on the recently reorganized ICC Alaska board. In addition to doing international work, Jaylene said that there has been an Alaskan-focussed network of Inuit youth called the *Alaskan Inuit Youth Network*. This *Network* also plans to make other links to other indigenous youth, not only Inuit, in Alaska.

Finally, Jaylene mentioned that youth have an important role to play in the future and therefore those youth who decide to stay in a subsistence life style are just as important as those youth who decide to leave home and receive a formal advanced education. She said both are needed to maintain Inuit culture and life into the future.

e) Canadian Youth Report, Sandra Inutiq

Raurri introduced Sandra Inutiq as the Acting President of Canada's *National Inuit Youth Council*, as well as the mother of his "little buddy".

Before reporting to delegates on a chronology of events, Sandra informs them of the NIYC structure and how the youth of six Canadian regions along with 3 executive members make up the NIYC. She introduced the other youth delegates present at the General Assembly and thanks the youth performers who have contributed so much.

Sandra thanked Okalik Eegeesiak, president of the *Inuit Tapirisat of Canada*, for her enthusiastic support of NIYC.

Sandra outlined several of the regional initiatives, noting that some areas are able to do more due to financial and human resources being made available. She noted that a very successful regional initiative, a newsletter from the Qikiqtaaluk region called *Muk-Talk*, would most probably become an important national information resource for all Canadian Inuit.

Sandra completed her report by strongly reminding the Inuit delegates that 62 percent of the population of Canada's Inuit were under the age of 24. She evoked laughter from the General Assembly by stating that based on the population distribution of Inuit youth, it was evident that Inuit leaders such as Jose Kusugak, John Amagoalik and Zebedee Nungak had made a concerted effort to "make more Inuit" as they were tired of having Inuit being a minority.

Sandra said she was having a lot of fun, was thrilled to have made new friends from Greenland, Chukotka and Alaska and even from her own country, Canada. She said their smiles will be remembered for a very long time.

f) Greenland Children and Youth Council, Tommy Marø

In opening his report, Tommy Marø said he was impressed with "Qajaaq" (Raurri) because he was wearing a tie, something he did not do when they first met in 1994 when ICYC was founded in Kuujuuaq. "Qajaaq has become a man", Tommy added.

The Greenland Children and Youth Council or *Sorlak*, was established in 1984, has an assembly every three years and has a board of 7 members. Tommy wanted to emphasize that many problems have been solved, it wasn't all bad. Yet, in

Greenland, there were many issues, and hence many initiatives that *Sorlak* was working on.

Activities covered by *Sorlak* over the past years included a survey of Greenlandic youth and children and listened to their concerns. This was published in a book and is available. Other activities included doing work on single parent families and offering support to both single mothers and fathers. Various seminars had been held in this regard and he stated that a child needed have the involvement of both its parents in its life for a healthy future. Further, *Sorlak* has developed a telephone hot line which serves both as a suicide prevention counseling service, as a crisis service and as a place for Inuit youth and children to share their joys and successes as well.

For the future, Tommy said that we should remember that the child is not the problem in a home with domestic problems. It is the parents who must deal with the domestic issues. As such, he said that society put a great deal of emphasis on substance abuse and had facilities to help cure these ills, yet he thought a "family healing centre" should be established to help heal the wounds of destructive domestic situations.

In closing, Tommy suggested that parents should say to their children more often, "life is great" and not only focus on the problems of life. Together with our children and youth, we should have fun as can be seen at the cultural events such as the Kashtin and SUME concerts held this week.

g) Russian Inuit Youth Issues, Viktor Mumikhtykak

Viktor Mumikhtykak spoke on the issues facing Chukotkan youth, not as a representative of a youth organization as such, as he said the Chukotkan youth had not been able to organize such an association as yet.

Many of the problems he spoke of were similar to those that all Chukotkans face, that of high unemployment, lack of financial resources and lack of education opportunities. He said youth were especially vulnerable to the ongoing crisis in Russia. He said that as a young Yupik, he was very happy that the village of Sireniki had been able to hunt its first bowhead whale in decades. But he was concerned because Sireniki, his hometown, did not have the necessary equipment to continue this hunt in an appropriate manner.

On a positive and optimistic note, Viktor spoke of how cultural activities among youth and traditional games were making a comeback. He gave the example of a youngster who was invited to go to Canada for international Arctic games and since he came back he has decided to attend university with the aim of re-introducing traditional games and other related activities back into Chukotkan Yupik culture.

He said Russian Yupik youth were very vulnerable to alcoholism due to lack of employment and urged ICC to continue to spread the message that we are one

people and help the youth of Chukotka to make more meaningful contact with youth in Alaska, Canada and Greenland. He ended his report by saying we are one people and must help each other.

h) Inuit Youth Visions for the Future

The second part of the special session on Inuit youth contained presentations from four people on possible visions for the future of Inuit. These presentations were made by Jesper Labansen from Greenland, who spoke on *Communications and Networking*, Raurri Ellsworth, Interim ICYC President, who spoke on *ICC and ICYC Projects focusing on people and involvement*, Karen Cooke, who spoke on *Education and Exchange of Knowledge*, and Axel Jeremiassen, who reported on *Inuit Self-government Arrangements and the Next Step*.

Jesper Labansen gave a thorough report on how information technology could assist in networking among youth and others in the Arctic. He stated he did not know all that information technology could do, because we had just seen the tip of iceberg. Yet it had great possibilities that he discussed. He also suggested that the governments in which Inuit live should follow the example of the Nordic Council (which is the organization representing common views of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands). He said the Nordic Council had a fund for information technology, it had a great student exchange program, among many other initiatives that the other Arctic nations could collaboratively follow. Finally he said that although information technology could offer much, it was important to find ways in bringing Inuit youth and others together in real life. In this respect, he suggested that ICC make arrangements with travel companies, especially airlines, for a cheap youth pass that could be used to travel east-west in the Arctic to encourage Inuit youth to get to know each other.

Speaking in Yupik, **Karen Cooke** spoke about education and exchange of information. She started her talk by mentioning how important language was in youth issues today. She stated that most parents still have a choice in what language to teach their children, but increasingly Alaskan Inuit children are losing their mother tongues and noted that the State of Alaska was trying to make English the official language of the State. She mentioned several ways in which children could be encouraged to maintain their language, not the least was not to laugh at them when they make a mistake trying to speak. She mentioned that many youth are leaving for formal education and that this was good as today we needed our leaders to have this in order to face the outside world and to defend those who choose to remain in a subsistence lifestyle. She gave the example of Willie Hensley and her mother. Her mother had told her that when Mr. Hensley was a political activist in the 1960s, she knew that he would help her protect her way of life, would allow her to continue her traditional lifestyle. She also stated that Inuit youth, Yupik, Iñupiaq and so on should not only look at themselves. ICYC should consider broadening their organization to include all people. All people with a Yupik heart should be allowed to contribute. Among other things, she finished by emphasizing the need to

resist allowing the nuclear family to become the norm. She said it takes a whole village to raise a child.

Axel Jerimiassen, of the Greenland ICC Youth, gave a brief overview of how laws, self-government and new legislative assemblies will affect Inuit and youth in particular. He referred to the materials in all regional ICC offices, the founding policies of ICC which state how Inuit must be involved in changing governance and decision-making in Inuit homelands. Axel stated that when Eben Hopson and others took the initiative to create dialogue and sharing experience among Inuit, they did not think only of political decision-making; they also focussed on protecting Inuit way of life at the community level, of protecting nature, animals and our lifestyle. He also mentioned the importance of using the United Nation in furthering youth rights and that this should be done with other indigenous peoples. Among several other important points, he said that capitalism, industrialism, and fascism created the problems of housing shortages, unemployment, healthcare problems, psychological problems, substance abuse and crime. He did finish his talk, however, on the creative potential in all Inuit to solve these problems.

Raurri Ellsworth stated that he was supposed to speak about politics but everyone had already covered what he was going to say. He did say, however, that he agreed with one speaker who said that often we perceive our problems as so severe that we simply accept it as part of who we are and don't talk about our problems anymore. He used much of the rest of his talk in outlining how project and programme development should be undertaken so that youth issues are well planned, managed and implemented. He stated that the four principles were 1) focus; 2) feasibility; 3) program definition and action plan development and 4) gathering tools and resources to do the job. He reminded the delegates once again that Inuit youth were ready to have their training wheels taken off. He compared his son learning how to walk to the ICC letting the ICYC make mistakes and moving on. He said as his son becomes more dependent, he will still be part of family as will Inuit youth still be part of the larger ICC.

After the youth presentations, Aqqaluk Lynge said the session was very inspiring and promised that ICC would support Inuit youth, "you can be assured of that". Aqqaluk also stated that ICC has *principles and elements* regarding youth and that ICC should stick to them. Aqqaluk then presented each of the youth participants with gifts. Sandra Inutiq in accepting her gift reminded the delegates that they should not be hard on those youth who no longer speak Inuit languages. She said she would always cherish this General Assembly. Axel Jerimiassen, in accepting his gift said that he had gone to the ICC office in Greenland and asked for papers, asked for information and told them of his ideas. He encouraged all ICC offices to open their doors to youth and encouraged Inuit youth in Chukotka, Canada and Alaska to go to their ICC office and demand information. It is this way that knowledge. As Aqqaluk gave a gift to Raurri, arm in arm on the podium, he said that in order to work with him, Raurri would have to learn how to dress better.

Joe Kunuk, the chair of the meeting said, although time was running short, he would allow one intervention from the other delegates. Jose Kusugak said he was very moved by what Tommy Marø had to say and would fully try to get the Canadian caucus to support an idea of having a summit on the problems that he mentioned, especially on issues of single parenthood and abandoned children. Jose said he would like to see a resolution for ICC to assist in hosting such a summit and that NTI would support such a summit.

Joe Kunuk ended the special session on youth.

Afternoon Session

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge allowed Anders Andreassen of Greenland to address the plenary on a point of order. Referring to the morning special session on youth, he stated his regrets that the General Assembly had not been able to respond to the youth session. "I am sure that they would like our feedback", he said. He noted that the youth had asked for the help of the General Assembly, from ICC, and there was no response due to lack of time. He said that the ICC and the General Assembly should encourage its youth. Mr. Lynge responded by saying that he agreed with Mr. Andreassen, but the morning session was given over to the youth to run as they saw fit. The executive council did not want to interfere in any part of the scheduling and it was unfortunate that no time was left for feedback from the floor.

Panel on Sustainable Development and the Arctic Council

Chair: Aqqaluk Lynge, President

Guest Speaker: Her Excellency Mary Simon, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Canada

Panelists:

1. Kuupik Kleist, Deputy Minister, Government of Greenland
2. Sergei Haruchi, President, RAIPON, Moscow, Russia
3. Rauna Kuokkanen, Vice-President, Saami Council, Norway

Rapporteurs:

1. Terry Fenge, Research Director, ICC Canada
2. Jakob Møller Lyberth, Head of Section, Office of Foreign Affairs, Government of Greenland

Presentations

Aqqaluk Lynge noted the history of the Arctic Council established through a political declaration signed by all eight Arctic nations in September 1996. Three indigenous peoples organizations—ICC, Saami Council and RAIPON—received “permanent participant” status to the council. Unfortunately progress on the council toward a substantive agenda has been very slow.

Mary Simon noted that ICC has been a very effective voice in the council, particularly in promoting sustainable development. It is important that sustainable development and environmental protection go “hand in hand”. The Arctic must be treated as a distinct region. Governments must be challenged to accept this principle, and the Arctic Council is the means to issue this challenge. The concepts of social security and environmental security are sides of the same coin. Urges permanent participants to press governments to adopt an expansive sustainable development programme. Let’s emphasize human health issues particularly in Chukotka. The question of abandoning country food is very difficult and important. We must be careful not to raise false concerns on this issue.

Canada is looking to ICC for support on the children and youth theme which will be tabled next month at a meeting of senior arctic officials. The situation of young people is an “indicator” of how well we are doing. Please make your views known on the University of the Arctic proposal.

Canada is developing an approach to northern policy stressing seven themes that borrow heavily from ICC’s policy and principles. Mr. Axworthy is committed to this exercise. Canada is committed to ending trade barriers raised through the MMPA, and we wish to discuss this in the Arctic Council. ICC should continue to play a “watchdog” role in the council.

Kuupik Kleist noted that many members of the Arctic Council are rich and powerful and that they are well placed to help the Federation of Russia, particularly the public health problems in Chukotka. Denmark and Greenland support the council. States should recognize and accept their responsibility to clean up the mess left by militarization of the Arctic. The council must quickly establish the sustainable development programme. An Arctic press agency should be put in place—invite ICC to collaborate on this proposal.

The United States refuses to allow discussion of the MMPA and trade barriers in the council but “Coca Cola knows no boundaries” for it is now available in Greenland. Denmark/Greenland supports funding for the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. Good to see the three permanent participants working together well in the council.

Sergei Haruchi noted that appalling social conditions in the north of the Federation of Russia is the central problem facing indigenous peoples. Occupation and use of the lands of the North by indigenous peoples is being ignored, not studied. Indeed, religious/spiritual attachment to the land is ignored by governments. We need a comprehensive study of indigenous use of land to set aside special protected areas. We need to define which areas. Used part of the Yamal area as an example to show the need to protect burial grounds, ceremonial sites etc. and other lands in which only indigenous uses would be permitted. These lands transmit oral and moral heritage. Of course, these protected lands would help wildlife habitat. Basic laws are needed in Russia to allow for these protected lands which would support ancient cultures. We are now restoring churches and mosques and other buildings, we need to do the same with indigenous peoples and their land.

Rauna Kuokkanen noted the very good relations between Inuit, Saami and Russian indigenous peoples. Saami want to look at coastal fisheries through the Saami Council, particularly the principle of co-operative management and use of traditional ecological knowledge. This project would be good as a comparative project involving other indigenous peoples.

1998 is the year of the Oceans and as such the Saami project deserves support. Saami support the children and youth theme for the Arctic Council and suggest that micro credit arrangements for women be part of this theme. Indeed, the legitimacy of the council will be enhanced when the sustainable development programme is adopted. Saami are fighting for rights to land and resources. Note the 1996 arrangements in Finland. The fact that the council is not permitted to discuss military issues is an ongoing problem. We must make the council relevant. Indigenous peoples must work together so that the council is more than a rustling of papers in capitals.

Discussion Among Delegates

Greenland noted that the University of the Arctic must involve people at the grassroots level, and should serve the culture of people living in the Arctic. Indigenous peoples should play a major role in this initiative. The Circumpolar Universities Association noted that a report, providing for a central role for indigenous peoples, will be presented to senior officials next month.

Greenland reiterated the need for collaboration between Inuit and other circumpolar organizations and was encouraged by the university idea. Ideas that are now being adopted by states were first suggested some years ago by ICC, and are bearing fruit through the council. It is inappropriate to ban discussion of renewable resource harvesting and trade barriers in the council.

Canada noted that regional governments knew little about the fall out from the Chernobyl disaster in the mid 1980s. This continues to raise concerns about the safety of eating country food. We might declare ourselves a circumpolar continent.

Greenland stressed the need to ensure the University of the Arctic incorporates knowledge of life on the land in its courses.

Alaska noted that the State Department of the USA has a poor understanding of what's going on in the Arctic and that considerable upgrading is needed. Important that environmental issues not be left behind in the council, particularly concerning dumping of nuclear material and decommissioning of nuclear submarines and icebreakers.

Greenland noted the need to find successful ways of helping Chukotka.

Canada thanked Mary Simon for her efforts in getting the Arctic Council up and running. But is the USA really committed to the council? Will the USA do much when it assumes the chair of the council in September? Mary Simon responded that all must work together to get the council working. It is important that Alaska play a positive and important role.

Russia suggested that the Arctic Council be seen as the Arctic United Nations. It seems that the council has been “hurrying slowly”. The need for action is urgent. Indigenous peoples and their ways of life are disappearing in northern Russia. It is no longer “profitable” to be indigenous!

Greenland repeated the need to discuss the marine mammal issues and Canada expressed concern once more on contamination of country food. “Will there come a time when it is no longer safe to eat country food?” “Where is the threshold?” We need highly competent people representing us in the international negotiations to get rid of these contaminants.

Alaska repeated the need to get working seriously if the USA assumes the council chair. Currently the USA is more concerned about Antarctica than the north. The US government listens to environmental groups more than indigenous peoples.

Greenland repeated the need to use various circumpolar institutions including the North Atlantic Alliance and stressed the need to clean-up military bases. Also appealed for Alaskan leadership in the council.

Alaska noted it had heard the debate and promised to work hard in the future to eliminate POPs. Alaska has a strong congressional delegation.

Russia noted that industrialists are pushing indigenous peoples off the land. The Arctic leaders summit is in Russia on 11-14 of November.

Delegates called for a resolution on the Arctic Council that would:

- ensure the Inuit agenda is addressed by the council;
- provides for support for the other indigenous peoples;
- stresses the need for the USA to take Arctic issues seriously;
- provides for financial support for *Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat* and the *permanent participants*.

After the panel discussion concluded, Mr. Lynge as chair reported to the delegates that the Third Arctic Indigenous Leaders’ Summit would be held in “Mr. Haruchi’s country, Russia” in Salekhard 11-14 November, 1998 and that most of the delegates would be invited.

Mr. Lynge ended the session by presenting gifts to the panel presenters and reminding everyone of the many cultural and music events to be held in the evening.

Second Call for Nominations for President

Caleb Pungowiyi then took the floor as chair and asked the delegates if there were any additional nominations for the ICC presidency. There were none.

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1998

The morning session was opened by a musical quartet, introduced by Alfred Jakobsen. Their names were Aviâja Lange, Kristina Eisner, Albert Markussen and Hans Noahsen. The quartet was conducted by Carl Berthel Lynge.

Chair Ronald Brower stated that because the Iñupiaq interpreters were assisting at the elders' conference, he would address the plenary in English. Before starting the panel session, Mr. Brower asked former ICC President and current member of parliament in Denmark, Hans-Pavia Rosing to say a few words as he had to leave the Greenland delegation and meeting. Mr. Rosing apologized for having to leave early but was about to embark on a Danish parliamentary committee mission to China and Tibet to investigate issues of human rights and trade opportunities, among other things. He wished Aqqaluk Lynge the best of luck in the ICC presidential elections and said he looked forward to hearing about the deliberations. He then introduced the mayor of Nuuk, Agnethe Davidsen as his alternate delegate for the duration of the General Assembly.

Panel on Partnership on Global Economic Development and Trade

Chair: Ronald Brower Sr., Vice-President, ICC Alaska

Guest Speaker: David Magana, Chairman, Xunantunich Group and Belize Indigenous Training Institute

Panelists:

1. Fred Hunt, CEO, Nunasi Corporation, Nunavut, Canada
2. Jimmy Stotts, Vice-President, Marketing, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska
3. Honorable Peter Grønkvold Samuelsen, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Trade and Communications, Government of Greenland

Rapporteurs:

1. Kevin Knight, Consultant, Canada
2. Don Allard, Makivik President's Office, Canada

Summary

Ronald Brower – Chair – raised the importance of ICC's international development work. These activities should continue as they are intended to lead the globalization of Inuit goods and services. Inuit of the four countries in the economic and trade field, must collaborate more. He suggested, as raised by Charlie Watt earlier, that Inuit of the four countries form an economic union.

David Magana, special guest speaker, raised the importance of indigenous peoples of Belize of the Belize Indigenous Training Institute. This is a joint venture between ICC and indigenous peoples of Belize. Its purpose is with capacity-building and training to build a firm foundation upon which economic joint ventures between Inuit and Belize on indigenous peoples can be based. He expressed the need for Inuit skill and expertise in implementation of co-management processes, in traditional knowledge and other areas – as well as willingness for larger tourism/resource based joint ventures

Panelists

- a) **Fred Hunt**, CEO, Nunasi Corporation, Nunavut, Canada:
- outline of Nunasi Corporation business activities;
 - spoke of joint ventures that Nunasi has with Inuit settlement areas, Inuvialuit, Labrador Inuit and Makivik Corporation;
 - also joint ventures with other Canadian business entities;
 - Nunasi is open for business and looks forward to forging many new business ventures in Canada, Alaska and if possible Greenland

Proposal

- That the Inuit Business Development Council be revived as expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) signed in May 1993.
 - That the Canadian delegation in coordination with PanArctic Inuit Logistics (P.A.I.L.), Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) and ICC (Canada), initiate, within the next year, a Canadian Inuit Trade Show and Economic Conference.
 - That within two years, ICC seek a consensus to hold an international circumpolar trade show and economic conference.
- b) **Jimmy Stotts**, Vice-President, Marketing, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska:
- need to get ready was stressed; 20 years after ICC was founded, there are few examples of international cooperative agreements;
 - business leadership has been unwilling to invest the necessary time, effort and money to forge global partnership;
 - need to know more about national economic systems;
 - need to develop trust and familiarize the relationship between business managers and then Board of Directors;
 - need for realistic business goals;
 - need for more business leaders with backgrounds as lawyers, accountants, business administration, etc.
 - need to make opportunities for individuals and allow for personal growth in commerce;
 - need for Inuit involvement in all main developments;

- opportunities in the Arctic can be found in:
 - a) major resource developments alone or in joint ventures with others;
 - b) actively pursue infrastructure contracts;
 - c) need for more cooperation in area of transportation;
 - need to reacquaint ourselves with Arctic Policy Principles.
- c) **Hon. Peter Grønvold Samuelsen**, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Trade and Communications, Government of Greenland
- the strength of the ICC is in its ability to lobby on behalf of Inuit; in Greenland's Home Rule Government's opinion, there are a number of ICC possibilities;
 - a) ICC should involve itself in activities of lobbying the World Trade Organization (WTO) because WTO movement toward trade liberalization will eliminate legislative trade protection which Inuit have thus far enjoyed.
 - b) The ICC should help create special arrangements for Indigenous Peoples in the trade of their goods;
 - c) ICC should involve itself in the activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) which for the first time has opened discussions about design protection of indigenous peoples' products on a global level;
 - d) ICC should complete its development of the Inuit Business Directory and place it on the Internet to help Inuit business in the international trade of their goods and services;
 - e) Greenland has initiated an inquiry about the possibilities of establishing a free trade agreement between Greenland and Canada. It is time also to consider such free trade between Greenland and the whole of the NAFTA area.

Recommendations

1. Within two (2) years of the 8th ICC General Assembly that ICC in collaboration with Inuit business hold an international trade show and economic conference;
2. That Inuit businesses use existing national and international trade shows to expand their business horizons and opportunities, especially those trade shows held in Arctic locations such as Nuuk, Iqaluit and Yellowknife;
3. That the ICC insofar as its economic development and trade activities are concerned act as facilitator, lobbyist, evaluator of international trade agreements while Inuit business themselves develop and conduct the business itself;
4. That the ICC involve itself in the activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as lobbyist of Inuit concerns and positions, especially as relates to copyright and intellectual property;
5. That the ICC pursue activities to reduce trade barriers which affect negatively the trade of Inuit goods and services;
6. That ICC continue its international development activities;

7. That Inuit examine and discuss the possibilities of creating a circumpolar economic union;
8. That the ICC continue to lobby national and international government agencies to address economic problems imposed on Inuit in the Convention in International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and those affected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA);
9. That future economic development conferences address problems created by competition between Inuit businesses;
10. That the proper administrating authorities and schools be encouraged to develop and implement money and fiscal management for Inuit families and individuals;
11. That the ICC Executive and President ensure the proper follow-up of all ICC General Assembly resolutions;
12. That Inuit explore the problems associated with banking services in the circumpolar regions;
13. That all business development be governed by concern for sustainable development and sound business ethics;
14. That Inuit businesses and organizations develop web sites and these be compiled for distribution by ICC Council Members.

Afternoon Session

Chairperson Aqqaluk Lynge opened the afternoon session by welcoming a six-member choir from Ilulissat, Greenland. The choir performed two songs.

Panel Session on United Nations and Human Rights

Chair: Aqqaluk Lynge, President

Panelists:

1. Henriette Rasmussen, Chief Technical Advisor, Project for the Rights of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, International Labour Office, Geneva
2. Karakys Arakchaa, Executive Secretary of the Russian Committee on the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples
3. Michael Dodson, Director, Indigenous Law Centre, University of New South Wales

Rapporteurs:

1. Hjalmar Dahl, Executive Assistant to the President
2. Violet Ford, Environmental Coordinator, ICC Canada

Discussion

The important points raised from the panelists, included the following:

1. The importance of the International Labour Organization 169 to indigenous peoples. The fundamental principles of this convention include consultation and participation with indigenous peoples on social and economic issues. This convention lays out the minimum standards that government should follow.
2. The drafting of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is at the UN level. There is belief by some indigenous peoples that governments will undermine the principles and efforts of indigenous peoples. There should be no derogation from the existing text.
3. It is an important to maintain dialogue on the Draft Declaration, and to maintain solidarity.
4. In the future, it is expected that there will be pressure from governments to attack the text.

Discussion from the delegates included the following:

1. There should be more information on human rights and the UN.
2. In Alaska, bad experience with the U.S. government. Inuit in Alaska do not have external self-determination. Victimized by the state of Alaska. A review of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act is required to determine if it should be reviewed.
3. Labrador Inuit have their human rights violated by relocation and have resulted in cultural loss including language and family breakup. Many faced starvation. These violations need to be addressed.

Inuit require a continued presence at the UN.

Aqqaluk Lyngé thanked the panelists and presents them with gifts, thanking them for having come from so far to share their ideas and knowledge with the Assembly participants. He then closed the session and handed over the chair to Caleb Pungowiyi.

Third Call for Nomination for President

Before asking if there were any further nominations, Mr. Pungowiyi read from a list of requisite qualifications for president. Among several attributes, Mr. Pungowiyi stated that being able to chew muktuk from each of the four countries was essential. Also, given that Mr. Pungowiyi was a former ICC President, he said the next president was required to be taller than him. He then called for further nominations and there were none.

Joe Kunuk asked for the floor, thanked Greenland for having given everyone such a warm reception and provided many of the delegates with gifts from Nunavut.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1998

The final day of the General Assembly was opened by Chairperson Caleb Pungowiyi who introduced the Northern Light Dancers from Alaska. The 20 or so dancers performed in a circle drumming powerfully. After they finished, the General Assembly gave them a loud and long applause. Mr. Pungowiyi said that was “Good Morning!”.

Mr. Pungowiyi then announced a slight change in the agenda schedule, stating the meeting would adjourn at 11 a.m. and recommence at 1 p.m.

Vote on Amended Charter and By-Laws

Chair of the ICC By-Laws Committee, Alfred Jakobsen briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the charter and by-laws and explained the rationale for each proposed change. Mr. Pungowiyi then asked each head of delegation for their comments, asking them to report on each caucus meeting on this issue. Each head of delegation noted that the amendments as proposed were acceptable, except Okalik Egeesiak of Canada proposed one minor amendment to Article 2, Section F of the Charter in which she wanted the words, “and migratory species” added. Charlie Johnson of Alaska seconded the motion. Mr. Pungowiyi asked for a vote and the proposed change was adopted.

Ben Nageak of Alaska then moved to adopt the charter and by-laws as proposed. Paul Kaludjak of Canada seconded the motion. Mr. Pungowiyi noted that for the vote on the complete set of proposed amendments, he would ask for a unanimous vote. As such, he asked for a show of hands. The new charter and by-laws were passed unanimously.

Report from the Inuit Elders’ International Conference

Mr. Pungowiyi introduced the newly-elected president of the Inuit Elders’ International Conference (IEIC), Mr. Enos Lyberth and noted that he was a newlywed. Mr. Lyberth then approached the podium and introduced the new IEIC Council as follows:

Vice-President from Chukotka, Svetlana Tagjek

Vice-President from Canada, Mary Adams

Vice President from Alaska, Levi Cleveland

Vice-President from Greenland, Kaaleeraq Rosing

Mr. Lyberth then briefly reported to the plenary on the elders’ week-long parallel conference. He mentioned that the conference had been very good and the format included presentations as well as exchange of information. Many decisions were made,

he said, including issues such as the promotion of traditional counseling by elders in order to bring back Inuit values, morals and customs into provision of social services to elders. As well, resolutions on suicide prevention, prevention of child and sexual abuse, establishment of judicial systems at the local level to meet local needs, education on cancer, AIDS and tuberculosis, lifting of custom duties, the need to publish tribal doctor practices and the need to develop elders' associations were also passed. He said because there were often a scarcity of elders at ICC meetings, a resolution to increase the number of elders' delegates to 8 per country was also passed.

A motion to accept the elders' report was put forward by Ben Nageak of Alaska and seconded by Duane Smith of Canada. The report was accepted by the plenary.

ICC General Assembly Financial Committee

Caleb Pungowiyi recognized in the audience the chair of the Standing Committee on Finances in the Greenland Legislature, Mr. Laannguaq Lynge. He also introduced members of the Greenland External and Security Committee represented by the following: Peter Ostermann, Kristine Raahange, Ruth Heilman and Joseph Motzfeldt. Mr. Pungowiyi thanked the Greenland Legislature for having provided financial support of the ICC and the General Assembly.

Adoption of Panel Reports

Each of the panel chairs presented the reports emanating from the respective panels. Before presenting the report on Education and Training, Joe Kunuk thanked his wife, Dorthe Kunuk and family for the support given to him throughout his tenure as ICC council member.

The panel report was moved to be adopted by Marie Greene of Alaska and seconded by Paul Kaludjak of Canada. The report was adopted by the plenary.

Alfred Jakobsen presented the report on Renewable Resources and Trade Barriers. A motion by Carl Christian Olsen to adopt the report, seconded by Pita Aatami, was put forward and approved by the delegates.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier reported on the panel on Social Issues. Larry Audlaluk of Canada moved to accept the report with Marie Greene of Alaska seconding it. The panel report on social issues was adopted.

Caleb Pungowiyi presented the report on Public Health and Transboundary Contaminants. Zebedee Nungak of Canada moved to accept. Tara MacLean Sweeney seconded the motion. During the discussion, George Berthe asked that the words "heavy metals" as a concern be added to the report. The report as amended was adopted.

Aqqaluk Lyngé presented the report on Sustainable Development and Arctic Council. The motion to adopt the panel report was made by Paul Kaludjak and seconded by Alfred Jakobsen. The report was adopted.

Aqqaluk Lyngé, also chair of the panel on United Nations and Human Rights presented the report to the Assembly delegates. A motion to adopt the report was put forward by Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland and seconded by Gary Baikie of Canada.

Ronald Brower reads the panel report on Economic Development and Trade. Frank Long, Sr. of Alaska moved to adopt the report. This motion was seconded by Michael Pederson of Alaska. The panel report was adopted.

Interim ICC Youth Council President, Raurri Ellsworth took the podium and noted that their report had already been adopted. Nevertheless, he asked to share some of his ideas with the Assembly delegates. He stated that Inuit youth were on an upward movement and the ICC Youth Council would start work immediately on youth social issues and other areas. He said it was time to forget some of the past disagreements and start to build a happy family. Mr. Ellsworth asked of the General Assembly delegates several things including to be open to youth. He asked that each national Inuit group put a voting seat for youth on their boards. At the international office, he asked that the youth coordinator position be filled as soon as possible. He said that the national youth organizations would be approaching all of the delegates over the next 4 years and he hoped leaders would come to the youth and make known what they expect of them.

Mr. Ellsworth concluded his report by stating the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council was going to develop a report card on the ICC and present it at the next General Assembly. He added that hopefully in four years, “we will be able to give you an A plus plus plus plus”.

Adoption of Resolutions and Declaration

Caleb Pungowiyi chaired the session regarding the debate and adoption of ICC resolutions and one declaration. Other chairs also assisted Mr. Pungowiyi throughout the afternoon. The resolutions and declaration as passed are appended in Annex I.

After a long afternoon, Mr. Pungowiyi thanked everyone for the enormous effort put into the debate and adoption of resolutions that will guide the organization for the next four years.

Election of President

Caleb Pungowiyi, as chair, noted that only one candidate had been put forward as president. As such, he asked everyone in the Assembly to provide him with a show of unity and to adopt the resolution proclaiming Aqqaluk Lyngé of Greenland as the ICC President for the next four years. Mr. Lyngé came to the podium and then walked out to the delegates, personally shaking each of their hands. As he did this, spontaneously the

Northern Lights Dancers from Alaska and the McKenzie Delta Drummers and Dancers from Canada, among others, drummed and danced. Mr. Lynge also joined in the dancing. When Mr. Lynge completed his round of shaking hands and dancing, he came back to the podium. His wife, Erna and family joined him with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Pungowiyi thanked the drummers for their celebration dance and then called the meeting back to order.

Aqqaluk Lynge then briefly took the microphone to thank his wife and family for joining him at the front to congratulate him. He said he was very moved by this.

New ICC Executive Council

Each country then introduced their new council members. They were introduced to the plenary as follows:

Carl Christian Olsen introduced Alfred Jakobsen and Uusaqqak Qujaukitsoq as council members for Greenland. Sheila Watt-Cloutier introduced herself as vice-president and Duane Smith as a new council member from Canada. Ronald Brower introduced Dennis Tiepelman and Michael Pederson as council members from Alaska and finally, Tatiana Achirgina introduced Lubov Otrokova and Tatyana Kharchenko as council members from Russia. All new council members came to the front to take their place near the podium.

President's Acceptance Speech

ICC President, Aqqaluk Lynge, thanked everyone for their support, especially the former executive council for the time he acted as ICC president. He said that as he looked out at the Assembly delegates, 18 from each country, he still saw the different faces he saw a week ago. But now he also saw one face and heard one united voice, that of the Inuit spirit. Among many other things, Mr. Lynge promised to run an open office, to improve communications, to work with youth and elders and work hard to fulfill the numerous and important mandates conferred on him and the new council over the next four years.

Closing Ceremonies and Gift Presentations

Several delegates and guests came to the front to express their gratitude to the Greenlandic hosts and to pass on their congratulations to Aqqaluk Lynge and to the newly-elected Council.

Numerous beautiful gifts were exchanged among delegates and guests from the four countries and beyond.

The ICC President then thanked Katuaq and everyone else for their hard work over the period of the General Assembly. He officially closed the meeting. Then the 4-member group, composed of Ove H. Petersen, Malik H. Olsen, Julia Berthelsen and Malene

Kreutzmann Jørgensen sang “We are the World”, everyone stood, held hands and sang along in a large circle in the great hall of Katuaq.



Aqqaluk Lynge, President

On behalf of the ICC Executive Council

Proceedings Adopted by the Executive Council
20 September 1998

General Assembly Secretaries: Chester Reimer & Mads Fægteborg

Proceedings prepared by Chester Reimer in collaboration with the ICC Executive Council