

Resolution of the Executive Committee
Association on American Indian Affairs

Whereas under the Alaska Territorial Act of May 17, 1884,

the United States promised that Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts
"shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands
actually in their use and occupancy or now claimed by them," and

Whereas the 1884 Act further provided that the final disposition
of Native rights and claims should be the subject of
future legislation by Congress, and

Whereas seventy-seven years have passed and the land, hunting and
fishing rights of Alaskan Natives still remain undefined
and unextinguished, and

Whereas in the absence of Congressional action, the Natives
have land, hunting and fishing rights in Alaska that are
protected under law and thus cannot be disposed of by
administrative fiat, and

Whereas the Bureau of Land Management of the Interior Department
has licensed the Atomic Energy Commission to use land
subject to claim by the Eskimos of Point Hope, Noatak,
and Kivalina Villages for research leading to a nuclear
explosion known as Project Chariot,

Now therefore, the Executive Committee of the Association on
American Indian Affairs protests the Interior Department's
sanction of this invasion of Alaskan native rights and
urge the Department to revoke the license of the Atomic
Energy Commission to use for nuclear testing or research
leading to it the land subject to claim by the Eskimos of
the above-named villages.