



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

8 APR 2003

SAF/LL  
1160 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1160

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman

Pursuant to the request in Senate Report 107-213, Department of Defense Appropriation Bill, 2003, page 60, relating to Nikolski Radio Relay Site, the Air Force is providing this report to the Congressional Defense Committees on the status of the discussions and memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the land transfer.

The Department of the Air Force is pursuing an MOU with the Department of Interior, the Chaluka Corporation of the Native Village of Nikolski, Alaska, The Aleut Corporation, the Nikolski Indian Reorganization Act Tribal Government, the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Orthodox Church in America, Inc., and the Denali Commission, to delineate a process allowing disposal by the Air Force of excess properties in the vicinity of the Village of Nikolski. This disposal would occur with the assistance of the Department of the Interior (DoI) and would allow an exchange of lands or land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Department of the Interior has drafted the MOU and the Air Force has provided comments to the Department of Interior for continued discussions and finalization. Additionally, the Air Force has drafted and is staffing within the Air Force and DoI, legislation to allow the disposal of the Nikolski properties in accordance with the MOU. Once staffed within the Government, we will seek the comments of the Chaluka Corporation representatives with whom we have been working this matter.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee and to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Very Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.B.J.", is written over the typed name.

LEROY BARNIDGE, JR.  
Major General, USAF  
Director, Legislative Liaison