

## VISITS TO SIBERIA BY AMERICAN ESKIMOS

*Soviet memorandum dated at Washington February 7, 1938; exchange of notes at Washington March 26 and April 18, 1938*

*Entered into force April 18, 1938*

*Terminated May 29, 1948<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

### *The Soviet Embassy to the Department of State*

#### MEMORANDUM

According to information at the disposal of this Embassy every year during the summer months various settlements of the Chukotsk National Region of the U.S.S.R. (Wellen, Dezhnev, Chaplino, Naukan and others) are visited by American Eskimos in groups of 25 to 35 men who come by motorboat from St. Lawrence Island and Little Diomed Island, territories of the United States, with the purpose of meeting their relatives, citizens of the U.S.S.R.

In addition to gifts for their relatives the visitors bring for sale seal and walrus skins, sable furs, raw hides and other products of their craft. They exchange these products in Soviet trading posts for different consumer goods (flour, sugar, tobacco, underclothing, etc.). For instance, American Eskimos who came from Little Diomed Island to Cape Dezhnev in the summer of 1937 sold their furs and raw skins for the sum of 2300 rubles and acquired consumer goods to approximately the same amount.

In view of the foregoing and taking into consideration the fact that until the present time the arrivals of American Eskimos on Soviet territory have not been legalized by due procedure, the Government of the U.S.S.R. intends to introduce the following simplified procedure for temporary stay on Soviet territory of American Eskimos residing on the above-mentioned islands of the Bering Straits, territory of the United States of America, provided that these Eskimos carry certificates issued by local United States authorities which certify their nationality, occupation and place of permanent residence:

1. The entrance of American Eskimos into the territory of the U.S.S.R. shall be permitted under condition of possession of group lists or individual certificates issued by local United States authorities. These certificates (or

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to notice of termination given by the U.S.S.R. May 29, 1948.