

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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## ALASKAN ESKIMOS VISITING SIBERIA TO STUDY REINDEER-CARIBOU HUSBANDRY

Four Alaskan Eskimos and two University of Alaska researchers will spend a month in Siberia this summer studying reindeer-caribou management, Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus announced today.

The team leaves for the U.S.S.R. in mid-August.

The six from the United States will join Soviet scientists and native Soviet herdsman in Norilsk and Yakutsk for a detailed look at some of the problems and practices associated with management of the animals which are so important to the far northern reaches of both countries.

This visit will be the first working scientific cooperation between the natives of the Soviet Union and Alaska.

Secretary Andrus said the trip was worked out jointly by his Department, the State of Alaska and Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska.

The Eskimos are members of the Nana Regional Corporation, an Alaskan native organization headquartered in Kotzebue. The two University representatives are specialists in reindeer and caribou research.

The visit to the Soviet Union will take place under the 1972 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Environmental Agreement. The trip was first suggested to Soviet reindeer specialists by spokesmen for the Nana organization when the Soviets were in Alaska in 1975 on a study trip.

The caribou is a vital subsistence staple for Alaskan natives. Caribou and reindeer managers in the Soviet Union use modern methods, and the American team may discover techniques which could be applied to wild herds in Alaska.

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