

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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April 21, 1976

Dear Don:

Thank you for your April 14 letter to the President regarding the proposal of Mr. George Byers for holding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Please be assured I shall call your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I am certain he will appreciate having your comments on this suggestion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CL:JEB:VG:rs

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for appropriate handling.



May 4, 1974

Dear Shirley:

Thank you for your April 27 letter to the President regarding the proposal of Mr. George Byers for holding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Please be assured I shall call your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I am certain he will appreciate having your comments on this suggestion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Shirley H. Pettis
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for ~~appropriate handling~~ *direct reply*

CL:JEB:VO:emu



May 6, 1976

Dear Mr. Byer:

Thank you for writing to me in regard to the proposal you have made for holding an Artic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

As you know, Congressman Don Young presented this idea, on your behalf, and it is now before the appropriate members of the staff for review. It is customary, when governments of other countries are involved, for such actions to be initiated through the Department of State. However, please be assured that after a review of your recommendation is completed, you will hear further.

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

Mr. George H. Byer
Box 445
Lemet, California 92343

bcc: w/inc to General Scowcroft for DIRECT REPLY to Cong. Young. Please note referral of the letter from the Congressman April 21 was for appropriate handling. In view of further letter, including one from Congresswoman Pettis, it appears a substantive reply is required.

CL:JEB:VO:kir



MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—



OF (Organization)

Mrs. Miller
AM until 12:30 (#) 213 535-4179

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO. (714) 926-3104
CODE/EXT.

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Artic Countries

Exchange Conference

*Correspondence of Dan Young
May 6 - April 21.*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

5/12 -

called Leo Jankla's office
x 3116 (Barbara)

lth. 5/11 -

Davis to Mr Conabee

WEL WEL ADN CVTT

WISHES TO REJOIN

CVTT VGVIN

IS WILING TO SEE AD

WISE CVTT

PHONE NO

ADN WERE CVTTED BY

ADN WERE LISTED BY

OF CVTT

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

THRU: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CLJ*

SUBJECT: Proposed Artic Countries Mutual
Interest Exchange Conference

Rep. Don Young (R. - Alaska) and Rep. Shirley Pettis (R. - Calif.) have written to the President endorsing the proposed Conference as suggested by Mr. George H. Byer of Hemet, California, and former mayor of Anchorage, Alaska.

This office is now receiving telephone calls on the status of a Presidential endorsement of this Conference. I recommend that a response either endorsing or declining to endorse the Conference be directed to Mr. Byer as soon as possible.

cc: Tom Loeffler
Pat Rowland



MEMORANDUM NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL NSC# 1720
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(Correspondence Referral)

Date: May 11, 1976

TO: STEVE MC CONAHEY

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *JW*

REFERENCE:

To: The President Date: March 1, 1976

From: Mr. George H. Byer

Subject:

Mr. Byer wrote asking for the President's support for an information and exchange program involving the nations of the Arctic region. Mr. Byer -- now living in California -- is a former mayor of Anchorage, Alaska.

Comment:

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter, together with Mr. Byer's White House correspondence folder, is attached at Tab B.

Attachments

** Please send a cy of the outgoing correspondence to Charles Leppert, Jr., Deputy Assistant to the Pres for Congressional Affairs.



PROPOSED REPLY

Dear Mr. Byer:

The President has asked me to thank you for your recent letter concerning your proposals for an information and cultural exchange program involving the nations of the Arctic region.

Efforts such as yours to promote greater international cooperation and understanding are to be commended. One possibility that you might wish to consider would be that of exploring whether or not there would be, in the countries involved, interested towns or cities which might wish to develop cultural and information contacts and exchanges at the town-to-town or city-to-city level.

Thank you for bringing your proposals to the President's attention, and please accept our best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

Steve McConahey

Mr. George H. Byer
Box - 445
Hemet, California 92343



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

Washington, D. C., February 18, 1976

George H. Byer
P. O. Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

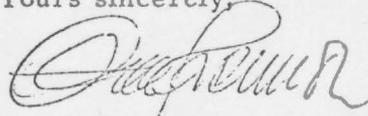
Dear Mr. Byer:

I am awfully sorry that we - by mistake - have not answered your letter to the Ambassador dated November 28th.

./.
The Swedish participation in the U.S. Bicentennial celebrations includes various activities as you can see on the list of Swedish plans for the American Bicentennial year which is enclosed. The activities are to a large extent concentrated on Swedish-American relations. None of them, however, deals with issues which are of mutual interest to arctic countries.

As we think that your idea of a meeting in Alaska is very interesting, we are looking forward to an invitation from the State of Alaska, and we would do our best to promote Swedish participation.

Yours sincerely,



Ove Svensson
Cultural Attaché





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 17, 1976

Mr. George H. Byer
Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

Dear Mr. Byer:

Under Secretary Robinson has asked me to thank you for your letter in which you have described your plans for an Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Program. I regret that we have been delayed in responding to you.

Your interest in furthering cultural exchange among the peoples of the Northern Hemisphere is indeed a constructive and worthwhile idea especially in this important year of our Nation's Bicentennial. As a center for your proposed program, Anchorage is obviously a city for which you feel much pride and in which you envision much promise for the future.

Mr. Robinson joins me in hoping that the promising beginnings which you have described will lead to a successful program that the people of Alaska and of neighboring countries can enjoy and from which they can benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Reinhardt".

John E. Reinhardt
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs



Introduced: 2/5/76
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FISCHER

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to an Arctic Country Mutual
6 Interest Exchange Conference.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the arctic region of the world has become the focus of attention
9 for the Northern Hemisphere and its search for renewable and nonrenewable
10 resources to supply raw materials to the industrialized nations; and

11 WHEREAS the eight nations surrounding the Arctic Circle (Canada, Iceland,
12 Norway, Sweden, Finland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United
13 States, and Denmark) have each developed their own solutions to the social,
14 economic and environmental problems of the Arctic; and

15 WHEREAS an exchange of information, opinions and solutions to the issues
16 and dilemmas facing the arctic nations would be beneficial to all partici-
17 pating nations; and

18 WHEREAS there does not exist at this time a formal mechanism by which
19 the arctic nations may meet to exchange ideas on the common issues facing
20 them; and

21 WHEREAS it would be an appropriate undertaking for the State of Alaska
22 in this year, our nation's bicentennial, to initiate an international exchange
23 of ideas of mutual interest among arctic nations;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
25 delegation in Congress to make the appropriate representations to the Presi-
26 dent and the Secretary of State to effectuate initiation of an Arctic Country
27 Mutual Interest Exchange Conference to be held in Anchorage in 1976; and be
28 it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that this conference initiate an exchange of information



1 on social, economic and environmental issues to include but not limited to
2 discussions of health, transportation, telecommunications, economic develop-
3 ment, energy resources development, arctic engineering, environmental conser-
4 vation, agriculture, land use and cultural exchange and establish a formal
5 program by which this exchange may continue in the future.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford,
7 President of the United States; the Honorable Henry Kissinger, Secretary of
8 State; to the Ambassadors to the United States from Canada, Denmark, Finland,
9 Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and to
10 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and
11 the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
12 tion in Congress.

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2584
1720
April 21, 1976

Dear Don:

Thank you for your April 14 letter to the President regarding the proposal of Mr. George Ayers for holding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Please be assured I shall call your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I am certain he will appreciate having your comments on this suggestion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CL:JEB:VO:rs

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for appropriate handling.



DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1210 LONGWORTH BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202/225-5765

DISTRICT OFFICES
115 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE 907/279-1587
202 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
TELEPHONE 907/456-6949

April 14, 1976

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. George Byers, former Mayor of Anchorage, has an idea that is worthy of consideration. Mr. Byers calls his idea the Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Other Arctic countries such as Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland etc. would be invited to Anchorage, Alaska, to discuss and exchange knowledge on issues of mutual interest. The Alaska State legislature passed House Joint Resolution No. 51 recently, in support of Mr. Byers idea. As you know from your visit to Alaska last winter, living in a far Northern country creates many problems that people living in the Continental United States are completely unaware of. Since the construction of the Alaska pipeline began, many Americans have taken a great interest in our state and I think that whatever comes of this conference would be of interest to everyone.

Your consideration and blessing to this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

Kind personal regards,

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

DY:vg



The White House
Washington

DATE: 4/7/26

TO: Carole Farrar -

The attached
is an add-on to
NSC #1720 which I
understand is with
Dennis Clift. We'd like
the reply to & note of his
info as well. Jim Holmes JHH



#1720

Claims this is his third attempt to get answer from
White House re proposal for Arctic Countries Mutual
Interest Exchange Conference



Failure to Receive Reply

March 23, 1976

To Whom It May Concern....

Vision, no matter how worthy the project, is not always an easy endeavor to get across especially where foreign participants are involved.

For that reason it needs the added gesture relative to its worth and value.

This is my third attempt and I am amazed at the lack of response. A political year of course, but someone among the WHITE HOUSE staff must have the authority to respond to the merits of a most worthwhile undertaking in this bicentennial year for an ARCTIC COUNTRIES MUTUAL INTEREST EXCHANGE CONFERENCE.

Sincerely,

George H. Byer
George H. Byer

Former mayor of Anchorage



Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR CHANCY CROFT
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE 907-465-3755

March 16, 1976

425 G ST.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

Mr. George Byers
Post Office Box 445
Hemet
California 92343

Dear George:

As you might have guessed, Helen Fischer took the ball and ran with it. She introduced House Joint Resolution No. 51 and it breezed through the House. When it came over to the Senate I didn't even bother to send it to any of the standing committees but referred it directly to Rules. We placed it on the Calendar immediately and it passed the Senate unanimously.

Enclosed is a copy of the final resolution. I think you had a great idea, I'm glad you wrote me about it and I'm glad I was able to help.

Very truly yours
Chancy Croft
Chancy Croft

CC/bf



Encl. As noted.

WHY DID THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALASKA STATE SENATE CALL IT A GREAT IDEA? Because the time is right. An idea whose time has arrived should be pursued with every endeavor for it is history in the making. International history, for Alaska and the unique city of Anchorage at the crossroads of the air world, awaits this visionary reality.

Perspective leadership does not wait for futuristic tomorrow. It assumes the role today at a place and time that are conducive to such happenings.

The ARCTIC COUNTRIES MUTUAL INTEREST EXCHANGE CONFERENCE, in the birthday year of America is a tribute to the 49th state whose international importance is destined for greatness. For the new consensus, in the role of interdependence among the ARCTIC COUNTRIES, will awaken the dreams and hopes of non existence.

George H. Byer

Alaska State Legislature

2023 WILDWOOD LANE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801



CHAIRMAN:
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEMBER:
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Representative Helen M. Fischer

March 2, 1976

John E. Reinhardt
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Reinhardt:

I'm writing in reference to the Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Program. Mr. George Byer sent me a copy of your letter to him dated February 17, 1976. I felt that I should write and inform you of the progress being made on this proposal in the Alaska State Legislature.

The Resolution (House Joint Resolution 51) was introduced on February 9, 1976. It has passed the House of Representatives with a unanimous Do Pass and is now in the Senate.

We feel that this program is an excellent way to extend a hand of friendship to the other arctic countries, especially since it is our Bicentennial year. Alaska, having the same social and economic problems as these countries, affords a unique opportunity to originate this mutual exchange conference.

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Program, I would be very happy to hear from you. Any cooperation you can give us on this project will be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Helen M. Fischer

Helen M. Fischer

HMF/kb

Enclosure

*The Resolution passed
The Senate today.*





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 17, 1976

Mr. George H. Byer
Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

Dear Mr. Byer:

Under Secretary Robinson has asked me to thank you for your letter in which you have described your plans for an Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Program. I regret that we have been delayed in responding to you.

Your interest in furthering cultural exchange among the peoples of the Northern Hemisphere is indeed a constructive and worthwhile idea especially in this important year of our Nation's Bicentennial. As a center for your proposed program, Anchorage is obviously a city for which you feel much pride and in which you envision much promise for the future.

Mr. Robinson joins me in hoping that the promising beginnings which you have described will lead to a successful program that the people of Alaska and of neighboring countries can enjoy and from which they can benefit.

Sincerely,

John E. Reinhardt

John E. Reinhardt
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

Note the interest!



Introduced: 2/5/76
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FISCHER

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to an Arctic Country Mutual
6 Interest Exchange Conference.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the arctic region of the world has become the focus of attention
9 for the Northern Hemisphere and its search for renewable and nonrenewable
10 resources to supply raw materials to the industrialized nations; and

11 WHEREAS the eight nations surrounding the Arctic Circle (Canada, Iceland,
12 Norway, Sweden, Finland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United
13 States, and Denmark) have each developed their own solutions to the social,
14 economic and environmental problems of the Arctic; and

15 WHEREAS an exchange of information, opinions and solutions to the issues
16 and dilemmas facing the arctic nations would be beneficial to all partici-
17 pating nations; and

18 WHEREAS there does not exist at this time a formal mechanism by which
19 the arctic nations may meet to exchange ideas on the common issues facing
20 them; and

21 WHEREAS it would be an appropriate undertaking for the State of Alaska
22 In this year, our nation's bicentennial, to initiate a mutual exchange
23 of ideas of mutual interest among arctic nations;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Delegation to the Alaska
25 delegation in Congress to make the appropriate representations to the Presi-
26 dent and the Secretary of State to effectuate initiation of an Arctic Country
27 Mutual Interest Exchange Conference to be held in Washington, D.C.; and be

28 it
29 FURTHER RESOLVED that this conference initiate an exchange of information



1 on social, economic and environmental issues to include but not limited to
2 discussions of health, transportation, telecommunications, economic develop-
3 ment, energy resources development, arctic engineering, environmental conser-
4 vation, agriculture, land use and cultural exchange and establish a formal
5 program by which this exchange may continue in the future.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford,
7 President of the United States; the Honorable Henry Kissinger, Secretary of
8 State; to the Ambassadors to the United States from Canada, Denmark, Finland,
9 Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and to
10 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and
11 the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
12 tion in Congress.

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May 4, 1976

Dear Shirley:

Thank you for your April 27 letter to the President regarding the proposal of Mr. George Byers for holding an Artic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Please be assured I shall call your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I am certain he will appreciate having your comments on this suggestion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Shirley M. Pettis
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

✓ bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for ~~direct reply~~ 11126
CL:JEB:VO:emu



4
SHIRLEY N. PETTIS
57TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1021 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5861

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 27, 1976

5
DISTRICT OFFICES:
942 EAST HIGHLAND AVENUE
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92401
(714) 862-6030
BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA 92311
(714) 256-4913
73-510 ALESSANDRO DRIVE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260
(714) 346-0633

me
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This is in reference to Congressman Don Young's letter to you of April 14, in which he brings to your attention an idea proposed by my constituent, Mr. George H. Byer, a former Mayor of Anchorage.

His proposal, entitled the Artic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference, appears to have wide-spread support in Alaska and is one which I feel has a great deal of merit. Although it does not affect my district in California, I would like to add my endorsement at this time.

Any support and consideration you might be able to give his plan will be greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Shirley Pettis

Shirley N. Pettis
Member of Congress

SNP:jl
cc: Mr. George H. Byer



May 6, 1976

Dear Mr. Myer:

Thank you for writing to me in regard to the proposal you have made for holding an Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

As you know, Congressman Don Young presented this idea, on your behalf, and it is now before the appropriate members of the staff for review. It is customary, when governments of other countries are involved, for such actions to be initiated through the Department of State. However, please be assured that after a review of your recommendation is completed, you will hear further.

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

Mr. George H. Myer
Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

✓ bcc: w/inc to General Scowcroft for DIRECT REPLY to Cong. Young.
Please note referral of the letter from the Congressman April 21 was for appropriate handling. In view of further letter, including one from Congresswoman Pettis, it appears a substantive reply is required.

CL:JEB:VO:kir



MAY 3 1975

April 30th

Good Morning Mr. Leppert...

I have the correspondence between you and the very capable Congressman Don Young of Alaska in which you, at the earliest, would bring the matter of the ARCTIC COUNTRIES MUTUAL INTEREST EXCHANGE CONFERENCE to The Presidents' attention.

We thank you and knowing the very favorable interest that it has received, it will be greatly enhanced by his blessings.

Perhaps, it would help you on some of the essentials to have the enclosures. To briefly summarise: Both houses of the Alaska State Legislature have unanimously passed resolution 5I as has the full assembly for the city of Anchorage. Various countries have shown interest and like Sweden are waiting the invitation. So now the last good push toward its reality in this bicentennial year of September would be President Fords' endorsement and a request, by him, to the State Department for their full support and cooperation with all concerned.

Appreciatively,

George H. Byer
George H. Byer

Box - 445

Hemet, Ca. 92343

714-926-3104



DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 14, 1976

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1210 LONGWORTH BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202/225-5765

DISTRICT OFFICES

115 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE 907/279-1587

202 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
TELEPHONE 907/456-6349

Mr. George Byers
Post Office Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter and phone call regarding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference. It is a commendable idea and one worthy of pursuing.

Like you I am certain the Arctic countries could benefit from a mutual exchange of ideas and knowledge. I have talked with Congresswoman Pettis' office and she is more than willing to assist in bringing this about. The attached letter was sent to the President for his action. As soon as I hear word from him, I will be in contact with you again. In December, the President visited Alaska (I traveled with him) and he appeared interested in learning more about our state. Hopefully this will further incite his interest.

As I said, as soon as I hear something, I will let you know.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

DY:vg



DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 14, 1976

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1210 LONGWORTH BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202/225-5765

DISTRICT OFFICES
115 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
TELEPHONE 907/279-1587
202 U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
TELEPHONE 907/456-6949

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. George Byers, former Mayor of Anchorage, has an idea that is worthy of consideration. Mr. Byers calls his idea the Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Other Arctic countries such as Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland etc. would be invited to Anchorage, Alaska, to discuss and exchange knowledge on issues of mutual interest. The Alaska State legislature passed House Joint Resolution No. 51 recently, in support of Mr. Byers idea. As you know from your visit to Alaska last winter, living in a far Northern country creates many problems that people living in the Continental United States are completely unaware of. Since the construction of the Alaska pipeline began, many Americans have taken a great interest in our state and I think that whatever comes of this conference would be of interest to everyone.

Your consideration and blessing to this worthy endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

Kind personal regards,

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

DY:vg





Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR CHANCY CROFT
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

POUCH V
ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99511
PHONE 907 465-3755

March 16, 1976

425 G ST.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

Mr. George Byers
Post Office Box 445
Hemet
California 92343

Dear George:

As you might have guessed, Helen Fischer took the ball and ran with it. She introduced House Joint Resolution No. 51 and it breezed through the House. When it came over to the Senate I didn't even bother to send it to any of the standing committees but referred it directly to Rules. We placed it on the Calendar immediately and it passed the Senate unanimously.

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Very truly yours

Chancy Croft
Chancy Croft

CC/bf



.....
enc. As noted.
.....

.....
DID THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALASKA STATE SENATE CALL IT A GREAT IDEA? Because the time has arrived. An idea whose time has arrived should be pursued with every endeavor for its realization in the making. International history, for Alaska and the unique city of Anchorage at the crossroads of the air world, awaits this visionary reality.

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George H. Byer
George H. Byer

Municipality
of
Anchorage



POUCH 6-650
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502
(907) 274-2525

GEORGE M. SULLIVAN,
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 15, 1976

COPY

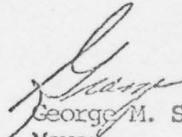
Governor Jay S. Hammond
Office of the Governor
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

J.S.H.
Dear Governor Hammond:

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution AR No. 34-76 which was passed by the Anchorage Assembly on April 6, 1976, in support of House Joint Resolution No. 51.

Anchorage is very interested in an exchange of information, opinions and solutions to issues and dilemmas facing the Arctic nations and we would enthusiastically assist you and your Administration to work for the successful culmination of the proposed First Conference during our Bicentennial year as verified by the enclosed Resolution.

Sincerely,


George M. Sullivan
Mayor

Enclosure



April 5, 1976

Robert J. McCloskey, Assistant Secretary
Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

COPY

Dear Mr. McCloskey...

In response to your March 15th letter to Alaska's Senator Stevens, it appears that you have failed to evaluate the real purpose and perspective projection of the ARCTIC COUNTRIES MUTUAL INTEREST EXCHANGE CONFERENCE due, in part, perhaps to the lack of explanation.

To reiterate Mr. Charles Robinson, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs who, at the global economic talks that convened in Paris December 16th past, based his reasoning on this valuation.... "The United States views this preparatory conference as an essential step in search for a new global consensus based on cooperation. We accept the reality of economic interdependence and recognize that what diminishes the economic success of the developing nations diminishes our own"...

Our endeavors are, however, merely projecting the basic philosophy of the United States in recognizing that the economic success of the arctic countries has a pronounced bearing on our very own success. Interdependence among the arctic nations is the valued projection on which this proposed gathering is based.

The visionary resolution as adopted by the Alaska State Legislature in its broad agenda matters may appear to be over ambitious with workshops, colloquies and programs. The intention was not designed for the initial purpose but of resulting future possibilities. Rather a preparatory, an introduction if you will of the arctic nation perspectives that could offer the greatest unity of purpose based on economic realities of cooperation. And since the arctic constitutes - a major source of raw materials - the subject of economic industrial development is of prime importance.

In my October 17, 1975 letter to Mr. Robinson on learning that the Commission on Raw Materials and Industrial Development planned to meet elsewhere other than in Paris, I proposed an Alaska meeting because of the merits of the arctic resources. This is consistent with my 25 years of Alaska international vision.... A summit conference proposal as chairman of the international affairs for the city; as mayor, a congressional bill by the former Senator Gruening to establish a international reception and industrial information center at the airport; as borough assemblyman an adopted state legislature resolution to establish an arctic economic commission in the United Nations.

To accomplish this awakening reality, in the birthday year of America, the State Department has, by experience from the global economic conference in Paris, the knowledge, functional facts and learned results to share some of these essentials and to reshape some of these major importances applicable to the arctic conference. The findings of the Commission on Raw Materials and Industrial Development is of worthy economic value in furthering the perspective of the arctic.

Alaska holds a prestigious place in the hearts and minds of its arctic neighbors as related by but one enthusiastic Sweden.... "As we think your idea of a meeting in Alaska is very interesting, we are looking forward to an invitation from the State of Alaska"...

Therefore, let us look to the United States as the leader and through the State Department invite and program the conference based on values gained and shared moving toward a cooperative economic step of interdependence among the arctic nations. For it is better to have dreams like Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln and Martin Luther King.... Dreams of a better tomorrow. Perhaps, the best we as Americans can do in our Bicentennial is to dream of what we want to be able to celebrate five or ten years from now and indicate ourselves to fulfilling the necessary steps. By taking the initiative in Alaska, we are extending the horizon both at home and abroad.

CC. President Ford; Secretary Kissinger; Senator Stevens;
Senator Gravel; Representative Young; Governor Hammond; Mayor Sullivan

Respectfully,

George H. Ryan
FRANK R. FORD LIBRARY

Requested by: Chairman of the Assembly
at the request of the Mayor
Prepared by: Department of Law
For Reading: April 6, 1976

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR. NO. 34-76

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution NO. 51 proposes an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, during 1976; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is critically interested in an exchange of information, opinions and solutions to issues and dilemmas facing the Arctic nations (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference is an attempt to establish a formal mechanism by which the Arctic nations may meet periodically to exchange ideas on common issues and problems;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Assembly of Anchorage resolves:

Section 1. That the Anchorage Assembly supports the proposed Conference and requests the Alaska Congressional delegation to make the appropriate representations to the President and Secretary of State to effect initiation of an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.



Section 2. That the Municipality of Anchorage would enthusiastically assist the Governor of Alaska and his administration to work for the successful culmination of the proposed first Conference during our Bicentennial Year.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 1976.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



April 21, 1976

Dear Don:

Thank you for your April 14 letter to the President regarding the proposal of Mr. George Syers for holding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Please be assured I shall call your letter to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I am certain he will appreciate having your comments on this suggestion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CL:JES:VO:rs

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for appropriate handling.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Janet:
File the
attached.
Clos.



Mr. HERRT

MAY 14 1976

We URGENTLY NEED
THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT
ON THIS WORTHWHILE
ENDEAVOR.

ALL OF THE ALASKAN
DELEGATION, CONGRESS-
WOMAN PETTIS, GOV. HAMMOND,
MAYOR SULLIVAN, ALASKANS
AND AMERICANS EVERY
WHERE APPROVE ITS WORTH
AND VALUE.

James M. Egan



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

MAY 14 1976

April 30, 1976

Mr. George Byer
P. O. Box 445
Hemet, California 92343

Dear George:

I have received your recent letter regarding the proposed Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the telegram I have recently sent to President Ford urging action by the State Department in initiating this proposal. I know of your past interest and efforts in other such proposals bringing together Arctic representatives, and I applaud your efforts in this regard.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hammond".

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

Enclosure





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BOX 400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

May 6, 1976

GEORGE M. SULLIVAN
MAYOR

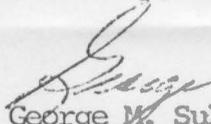
Mr. William J. Gordon
Special Assistant
Office of the Governor
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is information regarding the Resolution passed by the Anchorage Assembly on April 6, 1976, in support of an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference proposed to be held in Anchorage during 1976.

I hope the Governor will wire the President to urge his support to the State Department on this also.

Sincerely,


George M. Sullivan
Mayor

GMS:lo
Enclosures



TELEGRAM

April 29, 1976

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Ford:

The Municipality of Anchorage and the Alaska State Legislature have both passed resolutions in support of an Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference to be held in Anchorage. I agree that this gathering could be beneficial to all parties involved and urge you to encourage the State Department to initiate action on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

cc: The Honorable George Sullivan
Mayor
Municipality of Anchorage

The Honorable Mike Bradner
Alaska State Legislature

The Honorable Chancy Croft
Alaska State Legislature

Mr. George Byer
Hemet, California





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

April 26, 1976

Mr. George Byer
Post Office Box 445
Hemet
California 92343

Dear Mr. Byer:

I have been asked to reply to your letter of April 5 to Assistant Secretary Robert J. McCloskey regarding an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference in 1976 proposed in Joint Resolution 51 recently passed by the Alaska State Legislature.

The Assistant Secretary's letter of March 15 to Senator Stevens, a copy of which you have, conveys the considered opinion of the Department on the feasibility of a conference such as that described in the Resolution. Your letter of April 5 suggests a much more modest international gathering of a planning nature. A preparatory meeting that would deal with the realities of such a demanding and complicated undertaking as that outlined in the Resolution would seem to be an essential early step.

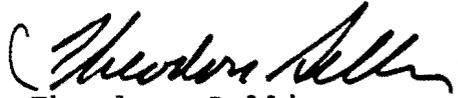
The State of Alaska is, of course, at liberty to sponsor an international conference on the subjects it proposes, on a scale it desires, and at a time of its choosing. For our part, it would be virtually impossible to do more than offer advice and encouragement. Given the nature of the federal budget cycle, and the obligations already incurred, possible funding by the Department of State for an Arctic Country Mutual Interest Exchange Conference

A



could not have been anticipated for this or the next fiscal year. However, the Department would be prepared to transmit through its facilities abroad any invitations by the State of Alaska to intended participants in such a conference as Alaska decides to hold.

Sincerely,



Theodore Sellin
Polar Affairs Officer



Theodore Roosevelt Community Adult School
456 South Mathews Street
Los Angeles, California 90033

The Honorable President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir :

In our International Studies we recently learned of the Arctic Countries Mutual Interest Exchange Conference planned for Anchorage, Alaska, in this Bicentennial year, during the month of September. A conference based on their mutual interests, relative to their interdependence and cooperation, is a worthwhile and commendable idea.

The News Media in California makes much of the Ford--Reagan differences in foreign policies. Therefore, in the esteemed position you hold in our republic, a noteworthy gesture that would gather favorable foreign reception, would be this proposed conference of Arctic nations.

May we encourage this project on its merits and further request that the State Department help insure the reality of one of the bicentennial's most visionary undertakings.

Respectfully yours,

Dorothy S. Sanal

Dorothy S. Sanal, Teacher--Counselor



cc: Secretary Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.
20520

Governor Jay Hammond, State Capital, Juneau, Alaska, 99811