

Don't forget

ALEUTIAN
ISLAND
PEOPLES'
STRUGGLE
also for
R / R

1st to 4th yrs. ago - 126, 1st 14 incas.
 blaz. hant-his nystere
 race p.m. strategic military area
 ① Process
 1970 - annual pilgrimage
 ② ~~community~~ educational.
 thru ethnic studies

ALEUTS/WWII

10,000 years ago, migrants from Asia settled on the remote islands called Aleutian Islands. The migrants were Aleuts who called themselves Unangan - which means "we the people."

The Aleutian Islands are a chain of islands west of Alaska that string out for 900 miles. The islands are treeless, blanketed by soft tundra. The people survive through fishing.

In the 1700's, the Aleutian Islands and the 10,000 inhabitants were discovered by the Russians who took possession and colonized the people. The Aleut popu-

² Tation became decimated by massacres and disease. U.S. purchased Alaska & these islands in 1867. Only about 2000 Aleuts were left. The Russians had removed several hundred to uninhabited Pribiloff Is. to harvest fur seals. They were converted to orthodox religion and assimilated in the Western culture of Russia.

Then came W.W.II. and there was the anticipation for naval supremacy of the Aleutian Is. Both Japan and the U.S. wanted the Aleutian.

3/ June + July of 1942, some 1000 Aleuts were forced to leave their islands (Pribilof + Aleutian) in less than 24 hours notice and shipped to abandoned mining camps in S.E. Alaska.

They were exposed to bitter climate, inadequate shelter, almost no sanitation facilities, contaminated water, no privacy, no facilities for education or recreation; no electricity, no supplies, filth beyond description with overflow-
ing garbage + excreta everywhere (because of no toilet facilities). It was utterly devastating and dehumanizing. The death toll was 1 out of 10, dying of

of tuberculosis, pneumonia, food poisoning and general medical neglect.

Economic ^{losses} damages and personal damage was never compensated for or regained.

While they were gone their houses were pillaged & ransacked by the Amer. military. Their cherished family & religious mementoes were taken by Amer. as souvenirs. Homes were unusable or burned down; whole communities destroyed.

Many family members never saw each other again. The Aleuts, being citizens of the U.S. were subject to draft even from the mining camps. When Attu was stormed to be liberated from the Jap. they were led by Aleut scouts.

5/ There is no record of how many Aleut died.

No monetary amount could compensate for the psych. or phys. damage, econ. & mat. losses; or deterioration of health. But, compensation must be made.

The Aleuts demand:

1. A trust fund for their people.
2. Individual compensation.
3. Damaged village churches restored & rehabilitated.
4. Debris removed from inhabited areas.
5. Attu restored to Aleut as their native land.
6. And all monies to be administered by the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Assoc. - the tribal organization of the Aleut people.

6/ Their bill was separated from the Japanese American during the Sept 17 House vote because they are under the Dept of Interiors (like the Native Americans). The Japn. were under the War Relocation ~~Administration~~ ^{Authority}.

Keep your eye on the newspapers to see when their bill will be discussed in Congress. This terrible American tragedy, must ~~however~~ be redressed with ~~restoration~~ ^{reparation}.