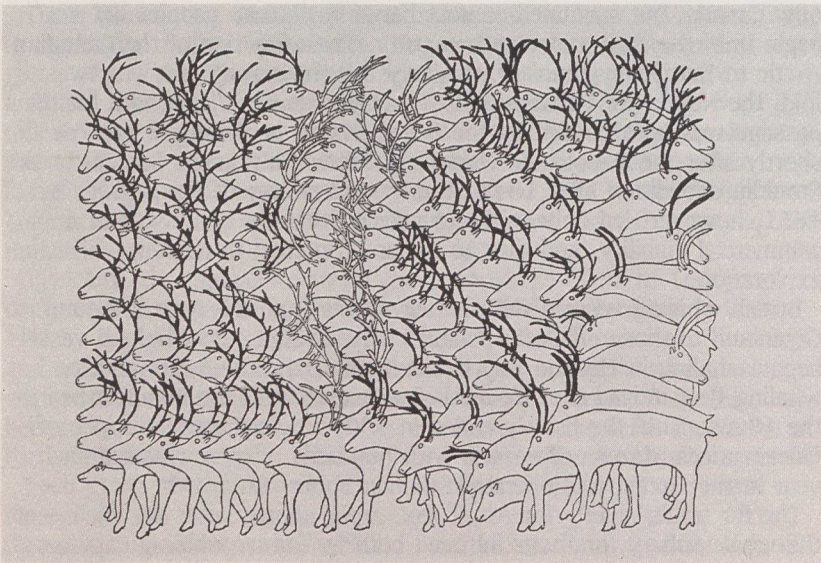


were established all across the Arctic. It was only at that time that sustained contact was finally established with the most isolated Inuit bands of the Central Arctic.

Although a few Inuit were from time to time taken to Europe by explorers and whalers as curiosities, the Inuit as a whole remained isolated from European and North American society until comparatively recently. As late as 1950, the Inuit of Canada continued to live in small hunting camps scattered across the Arctic, entirely dependent on fish and game, and on the limited range of goods their furs brought in trade. Few Inuit spoke any language other than their own. Few had more than two or three grades of schooling and many none at all. Consequently few were aware of, much less participated effectively in, the political, economic, and social life of Canada as a whole. There are Inuit still alive today who in their childhood never saw an outsider, and who well into their adulthood knew only fur traders, missionaries and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. By the same token, southern Canadians remained largely ignorant of the Inuit.

The major forces of change and modernization began with the establishment of military bases in the Arctic during the Second World War and the subsequent Cold War period, and establishment by the federal government of health, educational, and administrative facilities throughout the Arctic, beginning in the 1950s. Gradually, these developments introduced the Inuit to schooling, health care, paid employment, and



*Hundreds and Hundreds, Herds of Caribou* (print by Ruth Qualluaryuk)