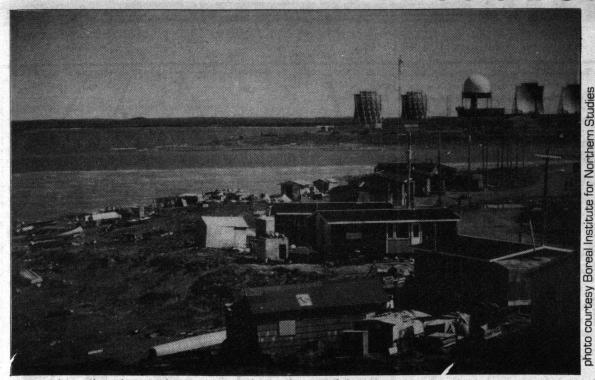
Americans increase Arctic awareness



Town of Inuvik with DEW line station in the background.

by Brad Johnson

A former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories thinks that a good deal of interest is finally developing in the Arctic as the "global top of the world."

Gordon Robertson spoke last Thursday in Humanities Centre.

Robertson, Commissioner from 1953 to 1963 and presently Fellow in Residence of the Institute for Research in Public Policy, gave a lecture entitled "Canada and the Arctic World" to about 30 students in the Canadian Studies course on the North.

In the 33 years since assuming the job of Commissioner, Robertson said, "there have been numerous changes (in the North)." There are now available health services, housing, education for all children, and employment.

However, our awareness of the North up until now has been very narrow. "We have been very limited in our vision," he said.

In fact it wasn't until June of 1986, when Joe Clark brought out a white paper on foreign policy, that sovereignty, defense, commerce, and circumpolar cooperation were even seriously mentioned by the government with respect to the North.

It was partly the two voyages of U.S. ships through the Arctic archipelago, "which jolted Canadian public opinion, I think, for the first time," he said

Another reason for this new awareness of the North is superpower rivalry, as "the Arctic is the place where the Soviet Union and the United States face each other."

Also, each of the Arctic countries has specific national interests there.

In the past, "We haven't tended to look at the far North and the Arctic in global terms."

"The Arctic Ocean is really almost a lake," Robertson said, in that it is in effect closed to other oceans and the northern countries share its shoreline.

Environmentally, there are "questions which must be seen in a global way."

On the subject of the Inuit, who are native to all of the Northern countries, Robertson said there are a lot of difficult problems.

"It's not going to be easy," Robertson said, to provide the economic viability and still protect their culture."

He said an Inuit circumpolar conference was held in 1977 at Barrow, Alaska with Inuit from all polar countries, except the U.S.S.R. participating.

Native self-government, in the sense of being another level of government in Canada, would enable us to establish our sovereignty there, he said. Unlike any other group in Canada, they actively use these waters.

Robertson's lecture was hosted by Gurston Dacks, Chairman of the Canadian Studies Committee of the Faculty of Arts.



VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTRE

The Volunteer Action Centre (Phone 482-6431), a United Way Agency, has urgent requests for the following volunteer assignments that are of interest to students:

Corrections: Volunteers needed to work with clients on probation, and in institutions or group homes, to help with recreation, employment preparation and probation supervision.

Tutors: Volunteers needed in West Edmonton to tutor adults whose education stopped between grades four and nine. Volunteer tutors needed downtown to help beginning ESL students in the classroom.



8217 - 112 St. 433-1645 College Plaza

- prescriptions filled
- lens duplication
- repair servicefine frames
- quality sunglasses
- contact lenses

*Expert cosmetic & optical advice



SPEND READING WEEK ON THE BEACH A TRIP FOR 2 TO... includes air fare and accommodation for one week (Feb. 14 - 2 See Entry Form for Contest Detail DRAW DATE: FEBRUARY 9 CONTEST CLOSES: FEBRUARY 7 ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE LISTER HALL DINING ROOM AT: CAB CAFETERIA THE SUB WAY CAMPUS LUNCHROOMS WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$3.00 OR MORE)

NORTHWISET ORIENT AID INCE

NORTHWISET ORIENT AID INCE

NORTHWISET ORIENTAID INCE

NORTHWISET ORIENTAID

NORTHWISET ORIENTA THE SHIP SPONSORED BY: HOUSING AND FO NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES