

selected by the claimant group. I should like to reiterate that aboriginal rights which are not related to land and are not under negotiation would not be affected in either case outlined.

Thus, the federal Government is committed to the resolution of comprehensive land claims through the negotiation of settlement agreements. We believe that negotiation rather than litigation on other adversarial approaches is the best means whereby the interests of aboriginal people may best be represented and served.

In any settlement area the continuing interest of claimants must be recognized. Agreements are not simply based upon land and cash or cash transactions. They should provide the means and establish the mechanisms whereby claimants can enhance their cultural and social well-being and promote self-reliance and economic development.

The Government has indicated that it is prepared to discuss a wide range of issues in comprehensive land claims negotiations. Some of the issues which may be discussed are: land selection, self-government, environmental management, resource revenue sharing, hunting, fishing and trapping rights, as well as other topics.

The policy of the federal Government on self-government acknowledges the desire expressed by communities to exercise greater control and authority over the management of their affairs. The objectives of this policy are based upon principles which we all understand. Local control and decision-making must be substantially increased. Flexibility is needed to recognize diverse needs, traditions, and cultures. Greater accountability to community must be achieved.

Self-government in the context of comprehensive land claims is tied closely to the need for the continuing involvement of aboriginal peoples in the management of land and resources. It is also linked to the development of self-governing institutions which recognize the place of aboriginal people in Canadian society.

In seeking to settle aboriginal claims to land that falls within provincial boundaries, the co-operation and participation of provincial Governments are essential. The federal Government has strongly encouraged the participation of provincial Governments in the negotiation of settlements involving areas of provincial jurisdiction or provincial lands and resources.

An opportunity will be provided to aboriginal groups to consider the implications of developments which may take place and to identify, where appropriate, the conditions under which such activities should be provided. Under the policy, interim protection measures can be planned and agreed to for a specified period of time at the outset of the negotiations rather than devised in an *ad hoc* manner as has been done in the past.

The comprehensive claims process has many important features which relate to the general issues under debate today. It seeks to provide clarity of rights of aboriginal people. It seeks to provide certainty to aboriginal and non-aboriginal

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groups in respect of land ownership and management. It seeks to provide fair and equitable settlements through a process of negotiation which brings major parties affected by the claim to the negotiating table. As well it seeks to protect both aboriginal and non-aboriginal interests in the process.

Aboriginal peoples were the original inhabitants of the country. Their claims derive from their original use and occupancy of the land. Their aboriginal rights flow from their relationship to the land. They cherish their culture. They cherish their heritage. It is incumbent upon non-aboriginal Canadians to understand the aboriginal perspective and to respect it.

In recognition of the Haida claim which affects the South Moresby area, the federal Government would initially establish a national park reserve. Traditional native activities could continue, and the Haida people would be involved in all aspects of park planning and operations. While the establishment of a national park reserve would not of itself settle the Haida claim, the proposal would protect under federal legislation natural and cultural resources which are central to the Haida way of life. Moreover, a national park reserve would provide an important means for the Haida people to participate in the management of this key part of their ancestral homeland.

The creation of a national park reserve is something to which we all look forward. Again, the issue has diverse points of view. It is not as simple as some of us would initially believe it to be. However, as early as 1973, under the National Parks Act the creation of a national park reserve was recognized as being a way of protecting the aboriginal title until it could be addressed in another form and allowing aboriginal people—in this case the Haida people—to play an important part in the management of their land and resources, their ancestral homeland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a comment and pose a question to the Hon. Minister. I appreciate seeing the Hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) and the Hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) across the way, and I appreciate the fact that they have taken part in the debate. That is the way Parliament should work.

I should like to refer to a report in which I was involved, not in a big way. I refer to the report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline inquiry entitled: *Northern Frontier, Northern Homeland*. I had the honour of being a co-counsel along with Ian Scott, who is now the Attorney General of Ontario.

Mr. Justice Berger issued a report on April 15, 1977, or just over 10 years from which I should like to quote the following:

The concept of native self-determination must be understood in the context of native claims.