



*The Mackenzie Valley: Alfred Bernard (left), Smoking pit (right).*

omy and on the environment. (The hearings were broadcast daily in seven native languages.)

Below are excerpts from the testimony of one of the more militant spokesmen for the NWT Indians, Frank T'Seleie, former chief of the Fort Good Hope Band.

"I believe you are an honest man. I believe you are a just man, Mr. Berger, and that you do not intend to be a part of a plot to trick us or fool us or play games with us. . . . Let me tell you, Mr. Berger, and let me tell your nation, that this is Dene land and we the Dene people intend to de-

*At the annual meeting of the Indian Ecumenical Council on the Stoney Indian Reserve at Morley, Alberta, North American Indians perform dances after a day of studying Indian spiritual beliefs.*



cide what happens on our land. Different people from outside have asked me whether or not I felt we could really stop the pipeline. My answer is yes, we can. . . . Mr. Berger, there will be no pipeline. There will be no pipeline because we have our plans for our land. There will be no pipeline because we no longer intend to allow our land and our future to be taken away from us so that we are destroyed to make someone rich. There will be no pipeline because we, the Dene people are awakening to see the truth of the system of genocide that has been imposed on us and we will not go back to sleep. There will be no pipeline, Mr. Berger, because we the Dene people will force your own nation to realize that you would lose too much if you ever allowed these plans to proceed. It is your concern about your future, as well as our concern about ours, that will stop the pipeline. For our part, Mr. Berger, we are making our own plans for the Dene nation."

The commission must reconcile native rights with Canada's energy needs. According to estimates, present Canadian gas production will meet Canadian requirements and commitments to US consumers for six to eight years. The best alternate energy sources are in the far Canadian north where proven gas reserves total 3 to 4 trillion cubic feet in the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea area and 10 to 15 trillion cubic feet in the High Arctic Islands. The potential recoverable reserves are estimated at around 50 to 100 trillion cubic feet in each area.

It will take four to five years to construct a natural gas pipeline and longer to develop alternate methods of transport such as railroad or ice-breaking tankers. If northern gas is to be available by 1983, the decision on the method of transporting gas must be made soon. The final Berger commission report is expected next spring, and the National Energy Board is preparing a report on the pipeline proposals in terms of public convenience and necessity. The final decision will be made by the Cabinet.