



**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF "OILED MAYORS"**

**PART ONE**

**JUNE 26-27, 1989  
VALDEZ, ALASKA**

**Proceedings Published By  
Prince William Sound Community College  
Valdez, Alaska**

**September 1989**



**DELEGATES TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF "OILED MAYORS"**

**JUNE 26 - 27  
VALDEZ, ALASKA**

**FRENCH DELEGATION:**

Alphonse Arzel  
Mayor, Ploudalmezeau Portsall  
Senator of Finistere  
President of the Syndicat Mixte

Adrien Kervella  
Mayor of Saint Pol De Leon  
Vice President, Syndicat Mixte

Georges Le Noanne  
Mayor of Tregastel

Francois Cuillandre  
Deputy Mayor of Brest

Jean Yves Simon  
Mayor of Pleubian

Francois Le Borgne  
Municipal Councilman of Leconquet

Pierre Querne  
Deputy Mayor of Treleven

Roger Rioaul  
Mayor of Plestin Les Greves

Robert Rumeur  
Deputy Mayor of Perros Buirec

**ALASKA DELEGATION:**

Dr. John Devens  
Mayor of the City of Valdez  
President,  
Prince William Sound Community College

John J. Williams  
Mayor of the City of Kenai

Erling T. Johansen  
Mayor of the City of Cordova

Robert B. Brodie  
Mayor of the City of Kodiak

Jerome Selby  
Mayor of the Kodiak Island Borough

Charles Christensen  
Mayor of the City of Larsen Bay

Harry Gieseler  
Mayor of the City of Seward

Georgia L. Buck  
Mayor of the City of Whittier

Sven Haakanson  
Mayor of the City of Old Harbor

---

Charles Pavot  
Mayor of Porspoder

John Totemoff  
IRA Council Chief, Chenega Bay

Andre Boulard  
Chief of Civic Protection Services  
of the Cotes Du Nord

Eileen Totemoff  
Representing the Village of Tatitlek

Jean Jacques Francois  
Supervisor of Legal Affairs Services  
of the French Department of  
Economy and Finances

Eleanor McMullen  
Representing Port Graham Village Chief  
Walter Maganack, Sr.

Pierre Millan  
First Assistant, Legal Affairs Service

Henry Makarka  
Council Vice President  
Traditional Village of Eyak

Jean Baptiste Henry  
Coordinator, Syndicat Mixte

James Kvasnikoff  
English Bay

Nick Peterson  
Akiok

Derenty Tabiois  
Executive Director,  
The North Pacific Rim

**Interpreters:**

Tim O'Brien  
Marnie Saling  
Nadia Ingler





# Conference Summary

In June 1989, mayors representing coastal communities victimized by two of history's worst oil spills — the AMOCO CADIZ (66 million gallons) and the EXXON VALDEZ (11 million gallons) — came together at Valdez, Alaska, to discover and discuss their common experiences from these environmental catastrophies.

*Syndicat Mixte*, an organization formed among ninety-two communities in Brittany, on the the northwest coast of France, sent a delegation of fourteen local, regional and federal officials to tour Alaska's Prince William Sound and meet with their Alaska counterparts: mayors and Native leaders from villages and communities damaged by the EXXON VALDEZ disaster. A contingent of French print and electronic news media also attended the two-day conference.

The first-ever international conference of "oiled mayors" was hosted by the City of Valdez, with strong support from the staff and facilities of Prince William Sound Community College.

June 26, the first day of the conference, consisted of a day-long tour of Prince William Sound aboard the *Glacier Spirit* with Capt. Stan Stephens. In addition to the conference delegates and news media, Alaska Lieutenant Governor Stephen McAlpine — a former mayor of Valdez — was aboard the vessel. The group saw Bligh Reef, where the EXXON VALDEZ had run aground three months earlier, and delegates were lightered to shore in several areas to witness the efforts to remove oil from some of the most heavily damaged beaches. The tour also traversed the pristine waters off Columbia Glacier, and other important areas of Prince William Sound that so far have escaped the deadly effects of North America's largest oil spill.

During the tour, the Alaska mayors learned much from their French counterparts and from Mr. Andre Boulard, who, as Chief of Civic Protection for the Cotes du Nord, is in charge of oil spill response and cleanup in Brittany. As they inspected the damage and cleanup efforts in Prince William Sound, Mr. Boulard and the mayors told of their own experiences in dealing with the aftermath of seven major oil spills off their coast in less than twenty years.

Among the revelations provided by the French was the fact that the United States has declined to become a signatory to the International Oil Pollution Convention, formed in London, despite the fact that most of America's European allies are a party to this accord.

Perhaps the most certain conclusion reached by the mayors of both countries was their agreement that "local" is the critically operative word — or should be — in dealing with the response to the environmental catastrophies that oil spills present. For not only are the impacts most immediate and lasting upon local communities, cultures and economies, experience also has shown that locally-based prevention and response efforts are far more effective than state or federal efforts.

On the second day of the conference, the mayors assembled in formal session in the Valdez Convention Center, where the Alaska mayors and Native leaders detailed for their visitors specific impacts of the EXXON VALDEZ spill and proposals to help their communities deal with future accidents.

At the conclusion of the conference, these local officials, representing the world's first two modern democracies, joined in drafting a resolution to combine into an international association, and scheduled a second conference for October 16 - 20, 1989, in Brittany.

The following document is an edited proceedings of the conference. The conference also was video-taped in its entirety by Video Plex and Connections, two production companies in Anchorage, Alaska. Funding currently is being sought to record the second conference in October, and to produce a special videotape program encompassing both of these historic meetings.

Inquiries concerning the International "Oiled Mayors" Conference should be addressed to:

Office of the Mayor  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

or

Dr. John Devens, President  
Prince William Sound  
Community College  
Post Office Box 97  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

# *Welcome*

**MAYOR JOHN J. WILLIAMS  
KENAI, ALASKA**

Good morning, everyone. My name is John Williams and I have the honor of serving as the president of the Alaska Conference of Mayors this year. I will be the moderator for today's meeting.

As we start, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Alaska Conference of Mayors, and all the people of the State of Alaska, as well as the "Oiled Mayors" of Alaska, to thank all of you for coming to this assembly today, the first-ever international assembly of "oiled mayors," held here in Valdez. Perhaps we will follow our French counterparts in creating a long-term group with continuity that can deal with this problem that we've had for many years.

Also on behalf of the Alaska Conference of Mayors and the International "Oiled Mayors" Conference, I want to take the opportunity to thank John Devens, the Mayor of the City of Valdez, a most gracious host, for all of the things he's put together for us. The City of Valdez has done a tremendous job. Before we start, on behalf of all of us, we thank John Devens for what he's done.

With that, we'll open our conference with our opening speaker, the Honorable John Devens from the City of Valdez.

# Keynote Speakers

MAYOR JOHN DEVENS  
VALDEZ, ALASKA

*Bon jour*, and welcome. It is a pleasure to welcome both the French and Alaskan representatives from the oiled communities.

We in this room are a very select group. More than anyone in the world, we know firsthand the full and frustrating truth about that contemporary environmental disaster, the oil spill. While the world reacts in horror and anger when an AMOCO CADIZ or EXXON VALDEZ spews tons of oil tars into our waters, across our beaches, destroying life, damaging habitat and disrupting economic systems in the same sticky swoop, it is we, not them, who must live through and cope with the wreckage. And for a long time after the world's shock and scorn have gone away, we are stuck with those problems.

As of last week, no fewer than seven reports and proposals had been issued analyzing the EXXON VALDEZ disaster and recommending improvements. Each of these reports cited Exxon, the oil industry, the State of Alaska's planning, and federal government agencies' planning and activities, for errors and omissions that contributed to North America's largest oil spill.

These same documents went on to propose how, in the future, prevention, response, recovery and research could be improved by individual companies, the industry at large, the State of Alaska and the federal government.

But nowhere in any of these reports and proposals are the local governments, or local populations included. There is a bitter paradox in this. Local populations and their governments are given a kind of non-existence, except as a damaged party. No role or control over the risks confronting us, or the response required in the event of another tragedy here, has been addressed.

I find from the conversations with my distinguished friends from Brittany that they have suffered in a similar manner in France. I find this most paradoxical. In France and the United States, the world's first two modern democracies — a form of government in which political power is vested in the people — that the government closest to them, the local government, is usurped by those interests and agencies more remote and removed from the disaster's consequences.

Locally impacted populations and their governments are appropriate for such involvement, because living in the coastal regions of the world's greatest oceans, we have a firsthand dependence on and appreciation of them.

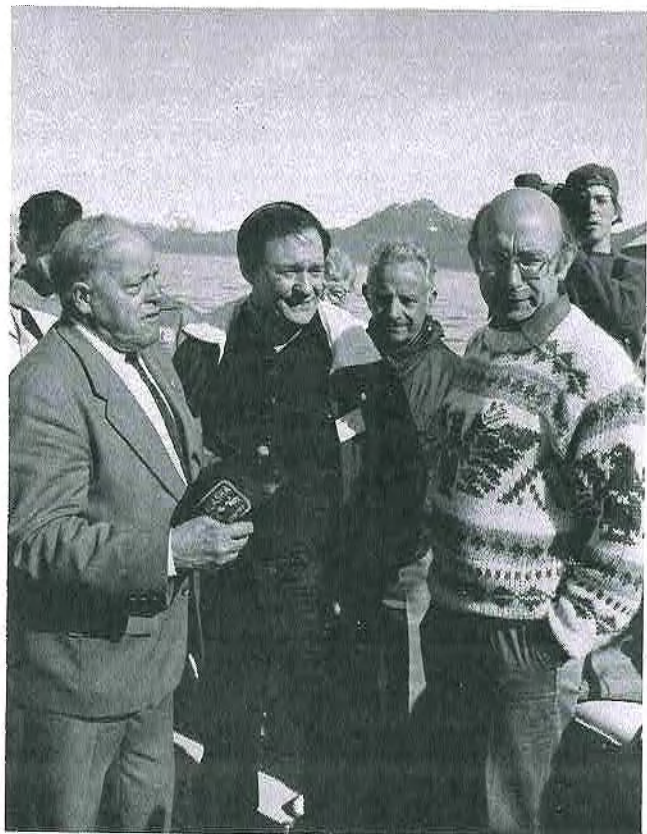
In closing, I would like to see this exchange of experience and ideas resulting from our conference here

continued, if not expanded.

I salute the *Syndicat Mixte* for managing to survive for a decade as an organized response to history's greatest oil spill, the AMOCO CADIZ, and through all the adversities which followed. The unity of your individual local governments is more than admirable — it is necessary. I would hope we Alaskans can achieve a similar consistency and unity, not just to follow your example, but to expand on our own local influence over our local concerns.

And because these are, in the true sense, international concerns, I look forward to the increase of such representation as we have seen here. If necessary, I hope we can form our own global association of local governments constituted for that purpose.

Again, I wish to welcome you, and I know we will have a day of productive information-sharing. Thank you.



## Keynote Speakers, continued

SENATOR ALPHONSE ARZEL  
MAYOR OF PLOUDALMEZEAU PORTSALL  
SENATOR OF FINISTERE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SYNDICAT MIXTE

Thank you very much. Being with you this morning causes me much joy. And, I had the additional pleasure two hours ago of learning that I have become the grandfather of a lovely little girl.

My dear friends, and that is how I call you, with feeling, because over the past few weeks, I feel that friendship is the relationship that we have. In the name of the *Syndicat Mixte* and as the head of the organization, I would like to thank you all for having us, and particularly Mayor John Devens for organizing a wonderful day on the boat for us yesterday. It was a day such as I've never seen.

We are especially moved by the accords and the information that we've shared with our Alaska counterparts since yesterday. Moved because we can feel the hurt that you are feeling from the spill of the EXXON VALDEZ. For twenty years, the communities of Brittany, which we represent, have also been submitted to incredible pollution from seven major oil spills. The world's largest spill occurred at my home community. So we understand your hurt because we too have felt it.

What makes us happy is that the two regions of the world so similarly affected have come together to reflect and to act.

I would like to bring to you the testimony of what we felt from the AMOCO CADIZ disaster. We were made to feel that we were the guilty parties to the disaster, rather than its victims. But it was we who were invaded, if you will. It was the AMOCO CADIZ who was the aggressor.

So we have lived through a similar situation in Brittany. And in spite of our various political differences, we have maintained our unity. If we may give you some advice — because I believe good advice is always useful — it is that you, the mayors of Alaska's oiled communities, stay as unified as we have for such a long time. In Brittany, we have stayed together, even through the change of a national political majority in our country, because Brittany mayors have understood the importance of their role as united local leaders. The *Syndicat Mixte* knew it was the only way to achieve the local, national and international government accords and agreements that have allowed us to move forward.

Our organization — our unity — and the steps we have taken, have been not so much for the money or for reimbursement, but to change the laws that jurisdect such environmental catastrophies. We wanted to create a new jurisprudence, a new set of laws to deal with the problems that we face from oil spills. And we wanted to illustrate what are

the responsibilities of the local mayors, the local governments, and what are the responsibilities of the federal government.

If at first we had difficulty dealing with the federal government, over the years things have changed. One could say that now the *Syndicat Mixte* and the French federal government are united in the same cause. But now our struggle is different, in that we are pushing for the federal government to revise and change the laws that concern prevention of such environmental catastrophies.

I do not wish to speak for a long time, for I feel if others have a chance to speak and ask questions our experiences will be most helpful. But I believe our presence this morning speaks well for the future, because we know that the fact that we are here together can do good for other areas and other countries. Our meeting is going to raise the level of awareness internationally. And our movement means for the future, to mobilize everyone who thinks as we do, to change the laws and practices that permit such environmental catastrophies as we have experienced.

Toward that end, the *Syndicat Mixte* invites you, the Alaska mayors, the third week of October, to come to Brittany to see our sights in relation to what we saw here yesterday; to see the great differences between our countries, but at the same time, the same problems that we faced. The people of Brittany are very moved by what's happening here in Alaska, because they have lived it firsthand, and they know when people speak of pollution, what it really is.

*Merci beau coup.*



# The AMOCO CADIZ Oil Spill: Summary And Status

JEAN BAPTISTE HENRY  
COORDINATOR, SYNDICAT MIXTE

These are little comments on the AMOCO CADIZ oil spill and our experience, because we can say a lot and write a book or several books on the story.

When the tanker AMOCO CADIZ went aground in 1978, approximately 220,000 tons of oil were released into the ocean. The black tide was 300 kilometers. And the Brittany coast is the second-most important area of tourism in France.

The AMOCO CADIZ was under Libyan flag, but the property of Amoco, Standard Oil of Indiana.

The principal cleaning of the beaches lasted until July, followed in September by a less intensive effort. Very different than here, it was the French federal government — the army, the navy, local services and firemen, lots of firemen together with the local municipalities contributed to the cleaning. I don't have exact number of workers, but there were 6,500 men cleaning from the army. Every two weeks they were relieved. Forty thousand participated over three months. There was in addition volunteers and local and regional employees, and elected officials.

Now a summary of the causes of the catastrophe. The AMOCO CADIZ had rudder problems off the coast of Brittany. They tried to ask for a tug. During the trial, it was shown that Amoco knew, that the people on the boat knew that they had the rudder problem for a long time, but the necessary repairs were deliberately left by the wayside until the expiration of the contract with Shell, which was in July 1978. They didn't want to lose \$20 million per day under the contract (while repairs were made). That's why the catastrophe happened.

In spite of these scandalous circumstances, Amoco never made an excuse or apologies to the people of Brittany. Instead, at the trial in Chicago they said they weren't responsible. They tried to evade responsibility.

Now about the damage. The state and the *Syndicat Mixte* were asked for 1.3 billion francs by the fishermen, the oyster culturists, businessmen and others. They tried to cover three principal categories: The cost of cleaning and restoration of the beaches and the littoral areas; the loss of economic activities in the area; and the disruption of the local life.

The AMOCO CADIZ said that their responsibility was limited to the value of the ship. Result: Eleven years later, the trial is still going on in Chicago. We're still waiting for a definitive judgment.

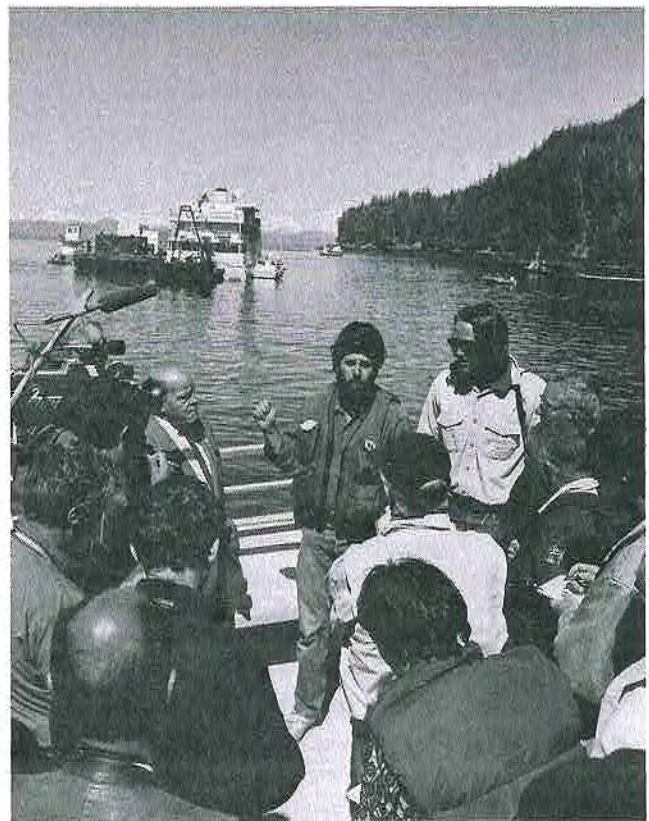
In a judgment in April 1984, Amoco was declared entirely responsible for the catastrophe. There were two parts

of the decision — first the decision on responsibility, and secondly a decision on the damage. It is interesting to note that the head of the Amoco Corporation and not just its subsidiaries were condemned. It's the whole group.

The provisional decision on the damages came down in January 1988, corrected in February 1989, and it gave to the state and municipal governments less than \$100 million in relation to the \$300 million that we asked for. The judge refused to consider most of the categories that we submitted, for example, the repopulation of the area, the loss of image, the trouble to the lives of the locals, and the slowing of investment. In effect all they considered was the reimbursement of the cleaning.

In spite of the small amounts of the indemnities, Amoco said that it was exaggerated, and they have decided to pursue an appeal on the first part saying they're responsible, and also on the damages. So eleven years later we have not received a dime from their negligent behavior.

That's what I wanted to tell you about our experience with the AMOCO CADIZ.



# The EXXON VALDEZ Oil Spill: Impacts And Proposals

MAYOR JOHN DEVENS  
VALDEZ, ALASKA

Valdez has the undistinguished honor, I'm afraid, of having our country's largest oil spill named after it. Unfortunately, of all the tankers that ply the waters of Prince William Sound, it had to be the EXXON VALDEZ that had the accident. Since the spill, the name of Valdez has been tied to this oil spill and has caused us considerable difficulty nationally and internationally with our image.

One of the problems that I share with all of the mayors of Alaska is the lack of local involvement in the decision-making, and even the information loop regarding this oil spill.

Our concern in local involvement in the oil spill and the subsequent cleanup and mitigation of the problems caused by the oil spill.

If the owner of an automobile has an accident; if an airplane crashes at your local airport; if a large truck runs into a school bus; we don't ask the owners of the company ... we don't ask the large corporation to be the initial respondent to these disasters.

The oil industry cannot and should not be the sole mechanism for response to major oil spills. Supplemental and backup response programs are urgently needed by the local communities.

With regard to the EXXON VALDEZ oil spill on March 24th, we saw that the highest priority that Exxon had was the lightering of the oil from the EXXON VALDEZ to the EXXON BATON ROUGE. Precious time was lost while the Exxon corporation pumped the oil from one tanker to another. That time could have been spent in the removing of oil from our Prince William Sound waters.

We are in need of legislation in this country that will allow a more immediate response by local and state government. With regard to the spill that we are experiencing now, local individuals had to be hired and trained before a sufficient cleanup effort could begin. The proper time for planning and training individuals to mitigate a spill is not after the spill occurs, but long before a spill occurs.

With regard to Alaska, we have 800 miles of pipeline that crosses valuable land, and an oil spill response must be planned not only for our waters, but for the area that is transversed by the Alaska Pipeline.

If there was one fortunate thing that happened to us with regard to our spill it was that Exxon (spilled the oil) and not some smaller company that did not have the resources to mitigate the problems that we have faced. A high priority for us would be to establish an economic repatriation fund that

could assist individual communities with the repair and the economic devastation they'll face from the oil spills.

In addition to the environmental devastation, our communities are faced with economic rehabilitation that will take many years to repair our fisheries and our tourism industries.

The need for a local response mechanism in Prince William Sound has been long recognized by the City of Valdez. On January 3rd, 1989, preceding the EXXON VALDEZ disaster by little more than two months, a 70,000-gallon spill in Port Valdez from the tanker THOMPSON PASS resulted from an 11-foot crack in the tanker's hull.

Less than two weeks later a crack in the hull of the tanker COVE LEADER released over 2,500 gallons of crude oil in Port Valdez.

These spills were followed very shortly by a front page newspaper article in the *Anchorage Daily News* entitled, "Valdez tanker fleet has taken a beating." They have had a very difficult life.

This investigative report was based on the results of a U.S. Coast Guard study of structural problems. The report states that while the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System tankers make up only thirteen percent of the entire Pacific Fleet, they account for more than fifty-two percent of all the structural failures from 1984 through 1986.

These problems and others caused the City of Valdez to recognize that we needed some form of protection. In 1986 the City of Valdez imposed an additional tax of three mills on the oil companies in order to raise the money to fund a five-year program of storage of materials needed in a major oil spill. Unfortunately our state government prohibited us from utilizing this money, and when the spill did come, we did not have the response mechanism in place.

As local fishermen and townspeople from Cordova, Homer, Seward, Kodiak and numerous other coastal and island communities so visibly demonstrated, it is the people whose lives are discolored from the unleashed black crude, who rally into action when oil spill dangers threaten. These are the people who banded together to protect our hatcheries and coastlines, and these are the people who should be involved in the decisions and future action when there are other oil spills.

I hope during the remainder of this meeting we will be able to discuss two actions that this group might take. One might be for a resolution to come out of our groups, if not today at least during our visit to France in October. I also hope

that we'll be able to discuss forming an ongoing association between not only the French and the Alaskans, but the other people who have been devastated by oil spills. I see this as something that could be formalized when we meet in France. But we need a group of local officials dedicated to preventing and combatting catastrophic pollution.

In addition, I would like to think that in the future we will also include those other communities in the United States that have only recently been devastated by oil pollution the way France and Alaska have.

Thank you.

**MAYOR BOB BRODIE  
CITY OF KODIAK, ALASKA**

I'd like to say hello and welcome to my comrades in oil. Thank you for generously coming to Alaska in a demonstration of friendship, having nothing to gain for yourselves, but in the spirit of cooperation.

I believe the lesson that Kodiak has learned has been the value of a local emergency plan. The value of an emergency preparedness plan has been vividly illustrated by the EXXON VALDEZ disaster.

Kodiak enjoyed not only the luxury of distance and time from Prince William Sound, but also a functional emergency service plan. The earthquake and tsunami of 1964 which devastated much of coastal Alaska and destroyed the City of Kodiak made a lasting impression on Kodiak's residents.

As a coastal community, Kodiak recognizes its proximity to a natural disaster at any time. The most recent Kodiak response plan encompasses many years of work and study. The entities involved are the City of Kodiak, the Kodiak Island Borough and the United States Coast Guard Base in Kodiak. The Coast Guard has 1,000 people in Kodiak ... with six large airplanes, eight helicopters and many ships.

The city and borough have adopted identical emergency response ordinances, and the Coast Guard has a memorandum of understanding. These ordinances have established an Emergency Services Council. The council is

composed of the City Manager, the City Mayor, the Borough Mayor and the Captain of the Coast Guard Base. In the event of an emergency, this council may declare that a disaster situation exists, thereby activating the emergency response protocol and placing the power in the emergency services council.

Kodiak has also had the benefit of three real life drills in the past two years. Three tsunami alerts have been declared by the geologic service because of earthquakes in the Kodiak area. These three alerts have caused the entire population of the City of Kodiak to be evacuated to above the thirty meter level.

All of this was in preparation for the occurrence of an event, but we discovered that it also prepared us to be in a position to deal with after-the-event mobilization of the community.

The lessons learned in Kodiak can be applied to any town or village. Some pre-emergency planning and annual exercises can set in place the basic tools to deal with local emergencies. In an emergency situation, the most immediate and the most effective action is that taken at the local level.

Kodiak's success can be traced to time and distance and an effective local plan. Each community must prepare the tools to save themselves.

Thank you. And I'm very happy to hear of the kind invitation of the *Syndicat* for next October, and I hope I may attend.

**MAYOR GEORGIA BUCK  
WHITTIER, ALASKA**

This has been a great experience being able to share all of the problems that we have with you, and I hope before we're through we'll be able to solve some more of them.

First of all, Whittier is just a very, very small town and I've never been sure, and I haven't been able to prove, whether it's the *gateway* to Prince William Sound or the *exit* of Prince William Sound.

When we in Whittier first learned of this EXXON VALDEZ oil spill, we were shocked to think such a thing could happen. We were not prepared. Ironically, we had an emergency preparedness plan which we had already had two work sessions on, but had not voted to adopt it.

Since the oil, thank goodness, has not reached the shores of Whittier, the impact has nonetheless been just as great as to some of the other communities. The feelings of frustration and anger became even greater as the days passed and we could not get any response from either Exxon or the



State of Alaska. We were assured in those early days that the oil would never reach our shores, and therefore they didn't feel that we should be that concerned. In order to eliminate some of the anger and frustration, we did declare a state of emergency, and our emergency committee was formed.

Whittier depends in the summertime wholly on tourism and the fishing industry. We have forty cruise ships which dock there. The Alaska state ferry system docks daily. And we have three private charter boats which dock daily.

In trying to keep up with all of the influx of people who have come in from the oil spill and still try to get our tourist industry taken care of, we have a resulting problem. The local impact became even greater as time went on. We've had to hire two extra police officers to handle the influx of people.

Because of the high salaries that the VECO people are paying, and because of a very short budget, we are not able to meet those costs. And I'm sure you can understand the problems.

I hope in the future that legislation will be passed to promptly avoid some of the problems that we've come up with at this point. I think there should be a fund set up for immediate availability to small communities, and others as well, as needed to provide those services. And I think most of all we need the proper training, proper equipment, and personnel to handle some of the problems that have arisen, and maybe in the future we'll be able to avoid those same problems.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining us, and I hope we can learn from each other the things that maybe will prevent this same thing in the future. And I hope to see you in October in France.

## **MAYOR ERLING JOHANSEN CORDOVA, ALASKA**

To go to the beginning, Friday morning when the tanker crashed, it was sort of a word-of-mouth rumor type of discussion on the streets of Cordova. The City of Cordova was unable to reach responsible people at the Alyeska Terminal emergency phone in Valdez. There was nobody answering the phone.

I'd like to personally thank Mayor John Devens for his personal telephone call to me on the night of the 24th, saying, "Mayor Johansen, we are facing what appears to be a serious problem."

After that notice from the Mayor of Valdez, I did come over to Valdez, overfly the oil spill and found it to be absolutely amazing, and then returned to Cordova and gave a local report in the community meeting room.

The City Council of Cordova decided early on that Cordova should take a lead, because Cordova is one of the communities standing the greatest risk of losing the most. The local response that we all represent here embodied itself in Cordova in the activities of the City Council and many associations and groups in Cordova, such as the Cordova District Fishermen United, and other groups formed subsequently, such as the Animal Rescue Group.

We have spent at this time approximately \$800,000 in city funds, of which received cash back of approximately \$300,000, including some reimbursement from the state and from Exxon. We've also had expenses by Exxon rejected.

We anticipate that there is probably another \$500,000 to \$700,000 required in our response to this disaster. And one of the curious points that Mayor Devens and Mayor Buck and all of us in Prince William Sound can relate to is that these are expenditures that are required as the result of an incident out of our municipal boundaries.

The economy of Cordova is extremely fragile in that it's fishing only. Fish catching and fish processing. And the result of that is since there is not a road into Cordova and there is not a substantial tourism industry based on that sort of access, that when there is a problem in Prince William Sound and if that marine environment is damaged as it has been now, then our entire economy is jeopardized. In the month of April our entire fishing industry of herring seining, herring gillnetting, kelp ponding and wild kelp, as well as black cod ... were all closed and there was no fishing activity. No processing.

Now, one of the things that concerns many of us is that we have anticipated certain things that have ultimately resulted. We anticipated, for example, that the herring fishery would be closed as a result of this, and it was closed. We anticipated, for example, that the assurances by Exxon that the cleanup would be done by September 15 were ... unreal, unreasonable.



Now we're also anticipating other things. And one of the things that we've heard from our friends from France is that they were walked away from by many of the responsible parties and are still, after a decade or so, waiting for compensation and indemnification from that event. And that is an anticipation that we are very worried about in Cordova, and I believe in many of the other communities, too. We do not want to be walked away from by Exxon or the state or federal government.

The City of Cordova established the Oil Spill Disaster Response Office in Cordova with paid staff so that we'd get out of the volunteer mode, because we were going against extremely well paid staff from the other side. We believe Exxon has more lawyers than Cordova has residents.

Some of the things in our institutional response that we're going to continue to work with — and we intend to work cooperatively with the other communities to the greatest extent we can — are such things as the oiled mayors reimbursement agreement, uniform reimbursement agreement, and the state and federal government.

Many of my constituents need protection from the so-called "gray area." We've heard from many of the groups, including Exxon, "Just show us in black and white and we'll honor any reasonable claims." What about the gray area claims that are reasonable from a community perspective? We need to have those addressed.

One of the important points which I learned on the boat yesterday is that in France, the concern for recovering from the spill crossed all party lines, and we expect to see that continue here in Alaska, also. And that the challenge we have to address, I think, is maintaining continued state support for our regional cause. You have my word that I'll personally do the best I can on a continuing basis to take care of local responsibilities.

And I do have a visa for France.

# **MAYOR HARRY GIESELER SEWARD, ALASKA**

My comments today will be different, I think, than what most of the mayors have already spoken to.

The EXXON VALDEZ was a disaster, but I think that the disaster we're in right now is even worse than the oil spill itself. The mayors and the communities are working very hard to work as one body and to speak as one. "Big oil" is trying to divide us and to conquer us individually. If they do with us as individuals what they want to do, everybody is not treated equally, as the small villages do not have the same amount of resources as a larger community.

I feel that part of the mission of big oil is to say, "See how many millions of dollars we have spent?" But they forget that it is all of us that are paying that million dollars at the gas pumps.

During this oil spill, if a person speaks out against the oil companies, the way to subdue them is to offer them a good job or give them a lot of money. Small communities and individual people cannot compete with that kind of money.

The same thing is on the state level. The money has been given to the state to spend on the oil spill, but it is not going to the individual communities. What is happening is government is getting bigger so that it is harder to deal with them.

When crime goes up in our communities because there is more money in the communities, and there is more drinking and things of this nature, and we ask the state for additional help in the instance of a police officer, we get somebody to come down and do a study.

The mayors have asked for representation from our communities that are directly involved with the oil spill to be involved in the decision-making process at the state level, but we have been refused. This is what I mean by government is getting bigger from the spill, and the small people are suffering.

Although there is money now, this winter that money will not be there, and the people who normally would have been working at their regular jobs increasing tourism and increasing what their communities stand for are working to clean up the oil spill. Next year it will be even harder on us.

One of the important things that I am going to take back to Seward from this meeting with the distinguished mayors and representatives from France is that if you continue to work together for a common cause, it's going to be hard to overcome you. You are a strong people. You have overcome many hardships as you overcame the oil spill and I salute you. Thank you.

**MAYOR CHARLES CHRISTENSEN  
LARSON BAY, ALASKA**

Good afternoon. Larson Bay is on the west shore of Kodiak Island, on Shelikof Strait.

In early April we were hit with oil, and about that time I received a FAX inviting me to the "oiled mayors" conference. I attended a meeting in early April. After meeting with those distinguished mayors, they built a little self-confidence in me. At the time I wasn't sure what I was getting into, but the more I attended, I felt a lot better, and now, like I say, I've got a little self-confidence. I never spoke in public before. And after meeting these mayors, I feel real proud. These men are dedicated and they're making me feel the same way, and I'll go a long way with them.

Most of our people in Larson Bay are very dedicated. They don't want oil on their beaches. I think most of them I can safely say weren't there just for the money. They wanted the area cleaned up. I'm happy to say that they all volunteered just as soon as the oil hit Larson Bay. Nobody had a contract with VECO or Exxon or anybody. They went out, got on their boats and skiffs, and they went out on the beaches and started cleaning. We decided later that we would ask for contracts, but first of all, we were interested in getting our beaches clean.

What is hurting us real bad now is that everybody in Larson Bay makes their living salmon fishing or any other type of fishing. It's very doubtful now that there will be any fishing going on this summer in our area of the island.

I think that's about it for now. I'm glad I met you French mayors, and God willing, I'll probably see you in October.

their beaches, so we will know how extensive we can clean our beaches. So we need documentation from the French people to our government telling us how much we can do so we can get back to our subsistence lifestyle and live off the sea. (Please see Mr. Henry's response under "A Message Of Hope.")

Our people are scared to eat the food now. I think I speak for most of the people on the island. Many of our elders are real concerned. We want to know some facts — if they can eat. My smokehouse is empty, because we're scared to touch the fish.

There is much hurt and confusion in the villages. Somebody will come and say, "Go ahead, you can eat anything." Another person will come and say, "Don't eat it, it's poison." We need someone not from the oil company, but maybe from the Health Department. I hope they will come and set the record straight.

Thank you very much. I won't take any more time, so I just want to say, *viva le France!*

**MAYOR SVEN HAAKANSON  
OLD HARBOR, ALASKA**

I would like to ask the French mayors if they could tell us — our people are really concerned about the beaches. We read papers that in your country after they cleaned up, after three or four years or so, the beaches came back to life.

Now, Karlak village people called me and they told me that their cleanup crew was reprimanded for cleaning a beach with digging. They want to clean that beach so it would come back to life. We live off all the seafood — the clams, sea urchins — we are a subsistence lifestyle people.

We want to ask the French people how they cleaned

**COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT HENRY MAKARKA  
TRADITIONAL VILLAGE OF EYAK, ALASKA**

We are very honored to have you in our presence. Our village chief ... is disabled right now and she asked me to come in her place.

I would like to give you a little history of the Aleut people, including my family background, because I think it would fit in with the story I have to tell. First, my grandmother was born in the village of Tatitlek, my grandfather in the historical village of Nuchik.

Alaska is an Aleut word which means "the Great Land."

In 1964 we had an earthquake. In that earthquake I had the opportunity to see how the people reacted. It was amazing to me to see how people forgot their monetary and material items. They all came and ran to higher ground, concerned about one another. They all became human beings.

Now again on Good Friday of this year we are struck with an oil spill.

The people of the Prince William Sound — on the map you can see in the white areas — the Aleut people encompass most of that white area from there to there.

The Aleut people are affected by the oil spill. We depend on a subsistence lifestyle.

On April 8th, I had the opportunity to fly from Anchorage to Cordova. It was a day like today, visibility was good throughout the whole Prince William Sound and down to the Seward area. From up there you can see the oil for miles.

It became very emotional to me. I knew what it was going to do with the wildlife, the waterfowl, the very animals and fowl and fish that we survive on.

I had the opportunity also to go out on a boat to see the oil in the Sound. I watched the workers picking up the dead animals and the dead birds. Seeing some of the fish, the bottomfish, the shellfish lying dead.

Most of the islands in the Sound are furbearing islands that the Aleut people make their living off of. Knight Island is abundant with land otter and sea otter. Those animals, the mink and the land otter, are still not accounted for, because they are going to go into their dens and die and nobody knows.

It's sad for people to watch when they pick up the very animals that we subsist off of. A lot of the people cried, including myself when I saw it from up there.

I hope from this day on that maybe the oil companies would be more prepared to handle such an incident.

**PORT GRAHAM VILLAGE CHIEF WALTER MEGANACK, SR.  
(REPRESENTED BY VILLAGE COUNCIL SECRETARY  
ELEANOR McMULLEN)**

First, Port Graham has a population of approximately 200 people. In the summertime we grow to maybe 100 more. My village chief, Walter Meganack, wasn't able to come. His health was such that he wasn't able to come, and he asked me to read this in its entirety. {A Transcript of Chief Maganack's Remarks Follows}

"Good day, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank Mayor Devens for arranging this historic international event, and for inviting me to to speak on behalf of the villages of the Chugach Native Region of Alaska.

"The Native story is different from the white man's story of oil devastation. It is different, because our lives are different, what we value is different; how we see the water and land, the plants and the animals, is different. What white men do for sport and recreation and money, we do for life: For the life of our bodies, for the life of our spirits, and for the life of our ancient culture. Fishing and hunting and gathering are the rhythms of our tradition; regular daily lives, not vacation times, not employment times.

"Our lives are rooted in the seasons of God's creation. Since time immemorial, the lives of the Native peoples harmonize with the rhythm and the cycles of nature. We are a part of nature; we don't need a calendar or a clock to tell us what time it is. The misty green of new buds on trees tells us; the birds returning from their winter vacation tell us; the daylight tells us.

"When the days get longer, we get ready. Boots and boats and nets and gear are prepared for the fishing time. The winter beaches are not lonely anymore, because our children and our grownups visit the beaches in springtime and they gather the abundance of the sea: The shellfish; the snails; the chitons. When the first salmon is caught, our whole villages are excited. It is an annual ritual of mouth-watering and delight. The children are excited, the parents are pleased and proud, the elders smile in their memories of seventy-three other springtimes in the village.

"When our bellies are filled with the fresh new life, then we put up the food for the winter. We dry and smoke and can. Hundreds of fish to feed a family. The homes have hanging fish alongside hanging laundry. The sights and smells of a village in the spring. This is the Native way. This is the way the elders taught us, and their elders taught them, for thousands of years. Since the big ice left Alaska. There was no Europe then. No Roman Empire. There were no Jews, no Christians. No Egyptian civilization. But my people were here, the Alaska Natives were here, celebrating spring and

life and laughing and loving and working and teaching. The rhythm of nature. The rhythm of our lives.

"Much has happened to our people in recent centuries. We have toilets now, and schools. We have clocks and calendars in our homes. Some of us go to an office in the morning. The children go to school in the morning. But sometimes the office is empty and locked. Sometimes the child is absent from school. Because there are more important things to do. Like walking the beaches, collecting the chitons, watching for the fish.

"The roots of our lives grow deep into the water and the land. That is who we are. We are like our brothers the bear and the deer — we live on the land, and our food is mostly from the water. Bear eat fish, deer eat seaweed, Natives eat all of the life in the water.

"The land and the water are our sources of life. The water is sacred. The water is like a baptismal font, and its abundance is the holy communion of our lives.

"Of all the things that we have lost since non-Natives came to our land, we have never lost our connection with the water. The water is our source of life. So long as the water is alive, the Chugach Natives are alive.

"It was early in the springtime. No fish yet. No snails yet. But the signs were with us. The green was starting. Some birds were flying and singing. The excitement of the season had just begun. And then we heard the news: Oil in the water. Lots of oil. Killing lots of water. It is too shocking to understand. Never in the millenium of our tradition have we thought it possible for the water to die. But it is true.

"We walk our beaches. But the snails and the barnacles and the chitons are falling off the rocks. Dead. Dead water. We caught our first fish, the annual first fish, the traditional delight of all — but it got sent to the state to be tested for oil. No first fish this year. We walk our beaches. But instead of gathering life, we gather death. Dead birds. Dead otters. Dead seaweed.

"Before we have a chance to hold each other and share our tears, our sorrow, our loss, we suffer yet another devastation. We are invaded by the oil company. Offering jobs. High pay. Lots of money. We are in shock. We need to clean the oil, get it out of our water, bring death back to life. We are intoxicated with desperation. We don't have a choice but to take what is offered. So we take the jobs, we take the orders, we take the disruption. We participate in the senseless busy-work.

"We start fighting. We lost trust for each other. We lose control of our daily life. Everybody pushing everyone. We Native people aren't used to being bossed around. We don't like it. But now our own people are pointing fingers at us. Everyone wants to be a boss; we are not working like a team.

"We lose control of our village. The preschool

meets in the Community Center. We shut down preschool so the oil company can have the Center. We work for the oil company now. We work for money now. The springtime season of our village ways is gone. Destroyed.

"Our people get sick, elders and children in the village, workers on the beach. Lots of sickness this year. Stomach sickness. Head pains. Bad colds.

"We hardly talk to each another any more. Everybody is touchy. Everybody is ready to jump you and blame you. People are angry. And afraid. Afraid, and confused. Our elders feel helpless. They cannot work on cleanup, they cannot do all the activities of gathering food and preparing for winter. And most of all, they cannot teach the young ones the Native way. How will the children learn the values and the ways if the water is dead? Very afraid. If the water is dead, maybe we are dead — our heritage, our tradition, our ways of life and living and relating to nature and to each other.

"The oil companies lied about preventing a spill. Now they lie about the cleanup. Our people know what happens on the beaches. Spend all day cleaning one huge rock, and the tide comes in and covers it with oil again. Spend a week wiping and spraying the surface, but pick up a rock and there's four inches of oil underneath. Our people know the water and the beaches. But they get told what to do by ignorant people who should be asking, not telling.

"We fight a rich and powerful giant, the oil industry, while at the same time we take orders and get a paycheck from it. We are torn in half.

"Will it end? After five years, maybe we will see some springtime water life again. But will the water and the beaches see us? What will happen to our lives in the next five years? What will happen this fall when the cleanup stops and the money stops? We have lived through much devastation. Our villages were almost destroyed by chicken pox and tuberculosis. We fight the battles of alcohol and drugs and abuse. And we survive. A wise white man once said, 'Where there is life, there is hope.' And that is true.

"But what we see now is death. Death — not of each other, but of the source of life, the water.

"We will need much help, much listening in order to live through the long barren season of dead water, a longer winter than ever before.

"I am an elder. I am chief. I will not lose hope. And I will help my people. We have never lived through this kind of death. But we have lived through lots of other kinds of death. We will learn from the past, we will learn from each other, and we will live. The water is dead. But we are alive. And where there is life, there is hope.

"Thank you for listening to the Native story. God bless you."



**BOROUGH MAYOR JEROME SELBY  
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH, KODIAK, ALASKA**

Hello, friends. Even in a time of disaster, there are always positive things. Today's opportunity to make new friends and share ideas is one positive aspect of the EXXON VALDEZ oil spill disaster. We welcome this opportunity and welcome you to Alaska.

Today I want to offer three action items for our consideration. These items are critical for local communities to be able to effectively deal with disasters and minimize the long-term damage that severely affects the people in our communities.

First, each community must have an Emergency Services Council with a plan to deal with any emergency and the authority to implement that plan. Mayor Brodie earlier described the Emergency Services Council for Kodiak Island. But the responsibility is for each of us to go forward in our community and develop this plan.

The second action I would propose is that we develop regional oil spill plans. These associations would be identical to what you folks have done in France and what we have done in Alaska. The only difference is I think you folks, and we in Alaska, did it after the disaster. But there may be more disasters in the future and we must be prepared. By working together, we have all learned that we can be much more effective in dealing with any disasters whether it's an oil spill or some other catastrophe. I am convinced that the more cleanup effort that we can make during the first few days of an oil spill, the less long-term damage and the less cleanup that will be necessary. So as groups, you folks in Brittany, we in Alaska, and other mayors need to form and develop these regional plans.

The third point I would offer is that we then must organize internationally. We must go to our national governments and have legislation adopted which provides for quick and effective response to an oil spill. This legislation must include at least five points:

First, it must contain authorization for each local community to immediately take charge of the defense and cleanup of that community.

Second, it must provide for readily available equipment, including an adequate amount of boom to contain oil, and large effective skimmers to remove oil from the water quickly. These large skimmers should be placed permanently at strategic locations and available for immediate use. And our technology should focus on developing even more effective skimmers.

The third point that must be included is a fund which

becomes immediately available to local governments to pay for the expense of defending against a spill and then cleaning the spill as soon as possible.

The fourth item that should be included is also a fund which is available to assist the people living in our communities whose way of life is damaged or destroyed by an oil spill.

And the fifth point would be more restrictive regulations for tanker traffic in and near our communities to prevent spills from ever occurring.

Now, I have intentionally focused the proposed legislation and international effort on community governments, because we can do the job best. We have learned Amoco and Exxon make oil spills; local people live with and clean up oil spills. Our people know the most about our geographic areas. Our local governments can manage the effort more efficiently by providing the most results with the funds expended. Our people care the most that oil not come ashore, because we live there. And if the oil does come ashore, our people will see that it is totally cleaned up. We will work harder to get the job done. And because we care, we will help our citizens whose lives are damaged by the spill.

In conclusion, it does not matter if the disaster is the AMOCO CADIZ or the EXXON VALDEZ. It is a disaster. Oil spills do not recognize international boundaries. Lives and lifestyles are forever changed and the economic damage goes on for many years.

If we can agree on these three action items, then let us also agree to work together to make them part of our future. If we are successful, our children and grandchildren will never experience an AMOCO CADIZ or and EXXON VALDEZ disaster.

*Merci beau coup.*

# A Message Of Hope

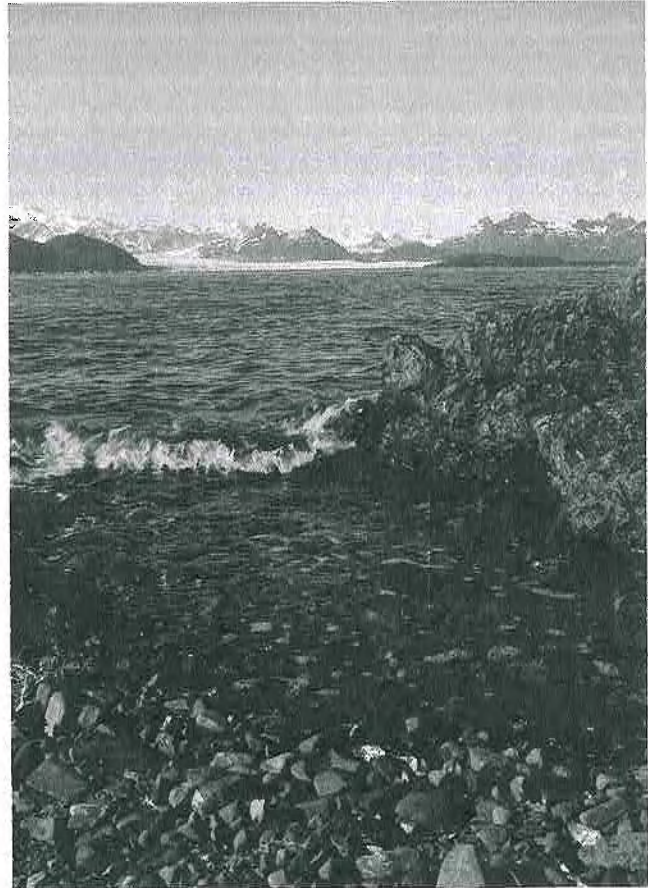
**JEAN BAPTISTE HENRY**  
COORDINATOR, SYNDICAT MIXTE

{Mr. Henry's Response To A Question About Recovery Time  
For Heavily Oiled Beaches.}

It's a difficult question, and the answer is not easy. In Brittany, the ecological system is not the same as it is in Alaska. The wildlife is not so rich, and the fishing industry is not so strong as here. What I can say about the recovering of biological life forms is that after about five years, yes, there was a recovering. There were some important species that took the place of the original species. I am speaking of micro-organisms.

When the spill occurred, the first days all was dead for the shellfish, all on the shore, all was dead. And there was a recovering, but many years after. Those species were most affected by the oil spill, because the oil came deep in the sand or in the mud. But in Brittany the shellfish are not very important as an economic activity, and also we don't have a subsistence economy, not so much as you have here.

I want to say that, don't see all in black because of the oil spill. There will be a recovering, yes. I don't know how much time it takes to be the same as it was before. But there is a recovering. It's a message of hope.



## Closing Remarks

**SENATOR ARZEL**

For those who reach for the sky, the earth is always closer. All of our thanks to the mayor of the community that welcomed us. I hope that we'll all meet together in Brittany in October to finalize the proposition we've come to today.

**MAYOR WILLIAMS**

On behalf of the Alaska Conference of Mayors and the Subcommittee on "Oiled Mayors," we thank you all for being here. Good luck, God bless you, and safe return to your homes.

## ***The International Conference Of "Oiled Mayors" Joint Resolution***

We, the local officials of BRITTANY (France) and ALASKA (U.S.A.), have compared the experiences and difficulties we have faced as a consequence of major oil spills.

We emphasize that it is essential to improve our ability to prevent such spills, to study ways to combat oil pollution, and to make immediately available to the affected communities adequate financial and technical assistance to address both direct and indirect damages caused by such spills.

The parties agree to prepare specific proposals which will be discussed and adopted during the visit of the ALASKA officials to BRITTANY in October 1989.

Done in Valdez, Alaska, June 27, 1989

---

Nous, les élus de BRETAGNE (France) et ALASKA (U.S.A.) avons confronté nos expériences et nos difficultés face aux conséquences des marées noires provoquées par les accidents de mer.

Nous soulignons la nécessité d'améliorer la prévention, l'étude des méthodes de lutte contre la pollution, et de prévoir la mise à disposition immédiate des collectivités concernées, des moyens financiers et techniques correspondant à l'importance des dommages directs et indirects.

Les parties conviennent d'élaborer des propositions précises qui seront débattues et adoptées lors de la visite en Bretagne des élus de l'ALASKA en Octobre 1989.

Fait a VALDEZ, ALASKA, le 27 juin 1989.

**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ADOPTION**