

Instructions, Colonel G.K. Ugrenin, Commandant of Okhotsk oblast,  
to Company Personnel and to Inhabitants of the Aleutian Islands and their  
Chiefs, June 15, 1787.

To the men on the various Company ships. To the leaders, foremen  
and workers:

There have been many complaints by Aleuts who are subjects of the Russian Imperial Crown. I hereby notify you that in visiting the islands inhabited by the Aleuts, you must treat them kindly. Do not molest them in any way. Above all, do not move them from their birth place to distant islands against their will. Those who go voluntarily must have the same food and be treated the same as the Russians, if not, it will become known after your return from the voyage and the guilty will be punished. The government already knows about your violent deeds with the islanders. Stop this now, and henceforth try to follow the plans and wishes of our merciful Empress who wants all her subjects to increase in numbers and to prosper. Henceforth do not hope to get away with what you have done in the past, for the Divine and Imperial laws will eradicate evil and will keep you on the path of virtue. I hope that this order will have the intended result. And remember, that no matter what position is held by any Russian subject found guilty, it will not shield his evil deeds.

In signing this and affixing the seal of the oblast of Okhotsk, in the Okrug center of Nizhnekamchatsk on June 15, 1787,

I remain,

The Colonel and Commandant of the Oblast of Okhotsk Seal:

Grigorei Kozlov Ugrenin.

Port of Okhotsk.

A Paper [Letter]

To the Inhabitants of the Aleutian Islands in the Northeastern Ocean who are subjects of Russian Empire, to the Toions/chiefs/and the people:

The Mother of the Fatherland, the reigning Great and Wise Empress Catherine Alekseevna, who always holds the welfare of her subjects close to heart, mercifully remembers you, now that you are true subjects of the Russian Empire. Taking this into consideration, she has ordered the Major-General and Cavalier Klichko, the Governor of Irkutsk, to send crests of the Russian Empire to your islands, via Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands. These crests were sent to you. They signify a special maternal benevolence by Her Majesty, the Empress. Instructions have been given to display these crests on all islands that are now under the power of the Russian Crown, that will recognize the suzerainty of the Russian Empire in the future. These crests should be a sign not only for the Russians, but also for the ships of other nations not to molest you. You may feel certain that even if some foreign ships intend to annex you, they will change their minds upon seeing the Russian Imperial Crest because they will not want to break the treaties made between powerful governments.

As to the Russian ships visiting your waters for hunting purposes, when I took charge of affairs in the Okhotsk and Kamchatka oblasts, I received the following petitions from you: one, forwarded through the Sergeant Aleksei Buinov; a second, through the toion's son Izosim Polutov from the Andreanov Island; and a third, through the Aleut Tukuran Aiugin

of the third Fox Island. With deep regret I noted the inhuman deeds of the hunters from these ships, deeds of which the government was until the present time unaware; otherwise, their insolence and lawbreaking would have been stopped. I have forwarded your petitions to the central Government, and you can hope to receive full satisfaction. Meanwhile, I ask you to be quiet and not to despair of the high benevolence of the Great Empress of all the Russians, who, knowing that you are her true subjects will protect you from all harm. This paper is given to you for your protection: show it to all Russian Ships. Every inhabitant of the Islands has a right to stay where his home is, and is not obliged and cannot be forced to go to other remote islands. If some agree to go of their own free will, they must be brought back by the party taking them there. You have a right to insist on having the same kind of provisions as the Russians have. They must realize that you are just as much human beings as they are, and that you also are subjects of the same Empress, and that if they coerce you or use force, I advise you to make a note of such, indicating them, the ship, and to what trader and company it belongs. In due time, you can send your complaints with your proofs of them, and the guilty will be punished accordingly, and you will get full satisfaction. I am told that you bring good skins, the product of your hunting, to pay iasak but that the Russian hunters substitute poor skins that they send to the Empress. I advise you to mark the skins that you bring, so that they cannot change them. In addition to all the above mentioned, I am sending special orders to all of them, which I think will stop them from doing evil.

Assuring all the Islanders of the Imperial benevolence, and of protection by the High Government, and sending you my best wishes, I remain, after signing and affixing the seal on the 15th day of June, 1787.

(Signed on the original.)

Colonel and the Commandant of the  
Okhotsk Oblast of Her Majesty,

Graigorei Kozlov Ugrenin.

The copy signed:

I read the original:

Skipper's Mate Gavriilo Pribylov.

I read the copy:

Skipper, Potap Zaikov.

I read the copy:

Foreman, Leontii Nagaev.