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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name COOKSEY, SHERRIE (COUNSEL): FILES

Withdrawer

MJD 8/21/2007

File Folder SMC/ ALASKAN LANDS GIVEAWAY

FOIA

F05-001

Box Number OA 11720

OLSON

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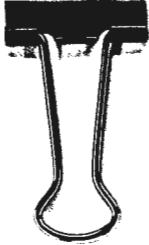
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
40536 MEMO	SHERRIE COOKSEY TO FRED FIELDING RE ALLEGED "GIVE-AWAY" OF ALASKAN LANDS (ANNOTATED)	1	3/15/1985	<i>open 12/2/08</i>
DOCUMENT PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233				
40538 MEMO	SHERRIE COOKSEY TO FRED FIELDING RE ALLEGED "GIVE-AWAY" OF ALASKAN LANDS	1	3/15/1985	"
DOCUMENT PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233				

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: SHERRIE M. COOKSEY *SMC*

SUBJECT: Alleged "Give-Away" of Alaskan Lands

Mark Seidenberg, Vice Chairman of State Department Watch Ltd., forwarded you a copy of a newsletter published by the Fund for Stockowners Rights alleging that the State Department has been "secretly" negotiating with the Soviet Union over division of oil drilling rights in the Navarin Basin (which apparently is close to the Bering Sea). The apparent point of Seidenberg's referral is to suggest that the State Department is operating beyond its authority and contrary to the best interests of many stockholders in certain oil companies in these alleged negotiations. Seidenberg asked if you could "have Ron take a look at this."

The issues raised by the correspondence seem more appropriately directed to the National Security Council. Accordingly, attached for your review and signature is a memorandum referring this correspondence to Paul Thompson for whatever action, if any, he deems appropriate. Also attached is an acknowledgment letter for your signature to Seidenberg.

(It is an interesting sidenote that Seidenberg's correspondence arrived in an official State Department envelope, which seems odd since there is no indication that Seidenberg is a State Department employee or that this was "official" government correspondence.)

Attachments

*SMC-pls
pursue this
(before we report to
him) → 3/18*

*I checked
with all
state dept
locator
services &
they had
no rec. of
Seidenberg
However, I
could be
a contra
employee
& have ac-
cess to
their st-
ation*



*Without
contacting
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there is
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tell
why he
using
state
envelope*

*SMC
3-19*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL THOMPSON
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND
STAFF LEGAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING ^{Orig. signed by FFF}
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Correspondence Alleging a
"Give-Away" of Alaskan Lands

The attached correspondence from Mark Seidenberg, Vice Chairman of the State Department Watch Ltd., alleges that the State Department has been "secretly" negotiating with the Soviet Union over oil rights to the Navarin Basin.

The issues raised by this correspondence seem more appropriately addressed by your office. Accordingly, I am referring this matter to you for review and whatever action, if any, you deem appropriate.

Attachment

FFF:SMC:ph 3/15/85
cc: FFFielding
SMCooksey ✓
Subject
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1985

Dear Mr. Seidenberg:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence enclosing a newsletter published by the Fund for Stockowners Rights regarding oil leases in the Navarin Basin. Be assured that your correspondence is being given the consideration it deserves by the appropriate Administration officials.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

Mr. Mark Jerome Seidenberg
Vice Chairman
State Department Watch Ltd.
Post Office Box 2315
Vienna, Virginia 22180-8855

FFF:SMC:ph 3/15/85
cc: FFFielding
SMCooksey✓
Subject
Chron.

SMC Encl.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1985

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Mr. Mark Jerome Seidenberg
Vice Chairman
State Department Watch Ltd.
Post Office Box 2315
Vienna, Virginia 22180-8855

RA

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

SMC

- O - OUTGOING
 - H - INTERNAL
 - I - INCOMING
- Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: Mark Sudenberg

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Disarray of Alaska Islands and oil-field
leases in the Soviet Union

ROUTE TO: Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION	
			Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>11/12</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85103108</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>11-17</u>	D	<u>85103111</u>	S	<u>85103121</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

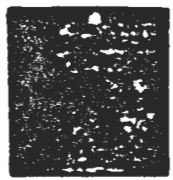
- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
 - C - Comment/Recommendation
 - D - Draft Response
 - F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
 - I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
 - R - Direct Reply w/Copy
 - S - For Signature
 - X - Interim Reply
- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
 - B - Non-Special Referral
 - C - Completed
 - S - Suspended
- FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**
- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 - Code = "A"
 - Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

277348Ca

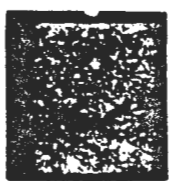
Fred:
Can you have Ron take a look at this?



POST OFFICE BOX 2315
VIENNA, VA 22180-8855

STATE DEPARTMENT WATCH LTD.

MARK JEROME SEIDENBERG
VICE CHAIRMAN



Post Office Box 956
Vienna, Virginia 22180-0956
United States of America
703-281-9050

Issue Number 4
December 1984
Contact: Carl Olson

**Giveaway of Alaskan Islands and Oil-Rich Seabeds to the Soviet Union
Imperils Investments of 500,000 Stockowners of ARCO, UNOCAL, Amoco, and Shell**

Corporate managements of four major petroleum companies have exhibited extreme dereliction of duty to their stockowners by failing to fight the State Department's plan to give their multi-million dollar oil and gas leases in the Bering Sea to the Soviet Union, it was charged by Carl Olson, Chairman of Fund for Stockowners Rights, headquartered in Vienna, Virginia. "Over 860,000 stockowners find themselves under the gun," Olson noted.

Right now the State Department has these four oil companies' fortunes at risk due to its current negotiations with the Soviet Union over just how much of the Bering Sea outercontinental shelf is to be surrendered in the Navarin Basin. These four oil companies--ARCO, Shell, UNOCAL, and Standard Oil (Indiana)--won the competitive process for these leases at the Department of Interior auction on 24 April 1984, bidding over \$108 million on 17 blocks. All the other block winners were given their leases, but the State Department put a hold on these in the anticipation that these would be delivered over to the Soviet Union.

"To this day, none of these four oil companies has uttered so much as one public peep in defense of their highly profitable oil leases that the State Department wants to hand over to the greatest enemy of the United States and the free enterprise system--the Soviet Union," Olson reported. "On numerous occasions the managements of these firms have been pressed not only for their views on this giveaway of oil-rich seabeds, but for their advocacy plans to stop the impending losses of millions of dollars for their stockowners. All four have, by their silence, become tacit supporters of this incomprehensively unprecedented turnover of American property to foreign enemies. They have betrayed the trust of their stockowners and their larger corporate responsibility to the American public," Olson declared.

NAVARIN BASIN SUMMARY (blocks subject to State Department surrender to Soviets):

<u>Company</u>	<u>No. of Blocks</u>	<u>Total Winning Bids</u>	<u>Stockowners</u>
Shell Oil/Transport	14	\$ 50,975,667	395,000
Standard Oil (Indiana)	14	45,173,333	190,000 (Amoco)
AtlanticRichfield	2	10,138,750	198,000
UNOCAL	1	1,886,250	88,000
		<u>\$108,174,000</u>	<u>861,000</u>

These areas were the subject of a high-level delegation led by the State Department's Legal Adviser Davis Robinson which traveled to Moscow for negotiations with the Kremlin's representatives in the week of 23-27 July 1984. These meetings apparently resolved nothing

(more)

The Fund For Stockowners Rights is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to advancing the concept of stockowners as owners of corporations and to promoting the free enterprise economic system--which makes ownership of corporations possible. Model resolutions for votes at annual meetings and instructions on submitting them will be sent at no charge. Donations to the Fund, an IRS 501(c)(3) group, are tax deductible.

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since no word was announced one way or the other, and no further negotiation schedule was announced. Extreme secrecy has shrouded these talks, including the complete refusal of the State Department to reveal who was on the delegation. By other means it was discovered that in addition to Robinson, the delegation included two other members of the Legal Adviser's office Elizabeth Verville and Scott Hajost; Harry Marshall and Richard T. Scully of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Robert W. Smith of the Office of the Geographer.

While these negotiations continue without any resolution, the stakes of billions of barrels of oil, billions of dollars of revenue, thousands of American jobs, the loss of a significant part of America's strategic petroleum reserves, and the irreparable damage to American diplomatic prestige become more and more apparent and credible. The leasing of future oil basins in the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean off Alaska are also imperilled due to the State Department's declared policy of abandoning all Alaskan territory and outercontinental shelf to the west of the 1867 U.S.-Russia Convention Line.

SECRET POLICY PARTIALLY REVEALED

Fortunately for the American public, the State Department had to reveal part of its surrender policy in public last March. When the Navarin Basin was put up for bid on its billions-of-barrel-of-oil blocks, the announcement in the Federal Register for 16 March 1984 (pages 10056 to 10068) disclosed that the State Department could not figure out where the boundary of American territory and outercontinental shelf was in relation to the Soviet Union. Even more startling was the revelation that the State Department was going on a policy that had no basis either in historical fact or international law.

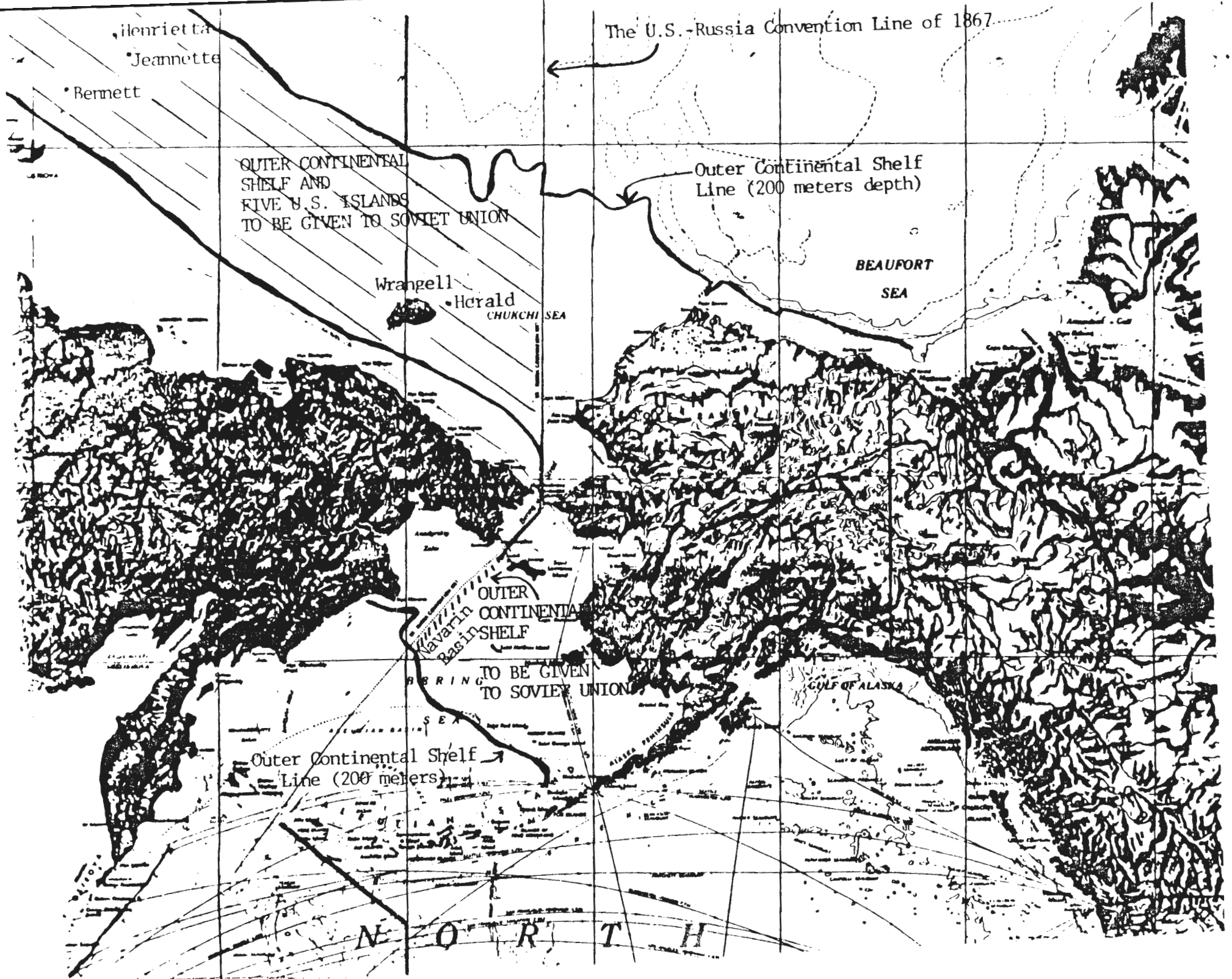
Somehow between 1965 and 1984 the State Department had elevated the old 1867 U.S.-Russia Convention Line (which was used in the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million) from an arbitrary map line up to the status of an international boundary. This creation of an international boundary by the State Department had been done without any treaty being enacted or ratified by the United States Senate. To this day there is no treaty establishing any boundary between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In 1965 the State Department's International Boundary Study No. 14, titled "U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867", flatly stated: "Rather than an ordinary boundary per se, this report concerns a convention line which ordinarily appears on official maps in the same manner as a boundary. ...in keeping with the policy that this line does not constitute a boundary, the standard symbol for the representation of an international boundary should never be used." By 1984, the status of this line has been completely reversed by the State Department, as noted in the 16 March 1984 Federal Register statement (page 10065), which declared: "The United States depicts the 1867 Convention Line as the maritime boundary...."

Even more significant than just the Navarin Basin leases, this State Department policy means that it is surrendering to the Soviet Union vast, strategic, and oil-rich Alaskan islands and outercontinental shelf. Incontrovertible historical fact shows the U.S. sovereignty over the Alaskan islands of Wrangell, Herald, Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette. Wrangell Island, the largest of the five with 2,800 square miles (the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined), was found and claimed for the U.S. in 1881 by Capt. Calvin Leighton Hooper aboard the U.S. Revenue Marine (Coast Guard) ship Thomas Corwin; and included in the landing party was the famed explorer John Muir, whose book The Cruise of the Corwin gives a vivid account of the exciting addition to American territory. The three islands of Bennett, Henrietta, and Jeannette are part of the DeLong Islands, which were named after their discoverer U.S. Navy Commander George Washington DeLong, whose expedition aboard the ship Jeannette is memorialized in a statue at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

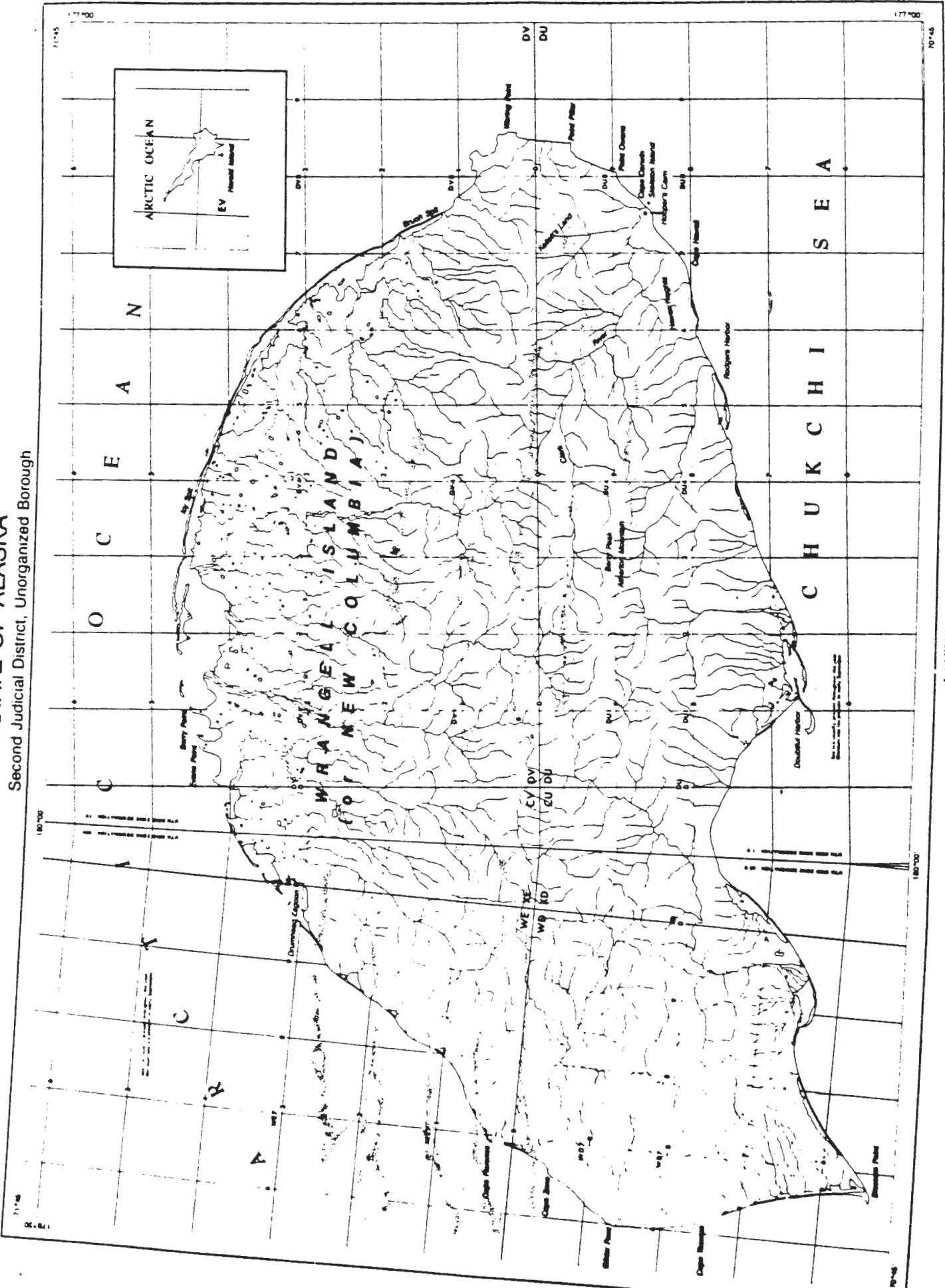
Along with the summary jettisoning of American territory, the State Department is in the same act renouncing all of the oil-rich outercontinental shelf--which is equivalent to approximately four times the state of California. The owners of the islands are not even being compensated for this governmental condemnation of property. Many owners have been fighting this non-treaty usurpation by the State Department for years.

"It's now time for the four oil companies to fight for their 861,000 stockowners, so that they don't find themselves abandoned by the State Department to the wolves, too, or should I say, the bears?" Olson challenged.



STATE OF ALASKA

Second Judicial District, Unorganized Borough



Scale 1:250,000

TERRACON CONSULTING