



DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Whitehorse, Y.T.,
May 28th, 1951.

Indian Commissioner for B.C.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Reference your letter of 23rd instant re Proposed Reserve for Champagne Band, Klukshu River, file 166/30-5, and letter of D.J. Allan, Superintendent of Reserves and Trusts, of 16th instant, file 166/30-5 (R2).

Klukshu fishing station is occupied by most of the Indians of the Champagne Band, population 118, during the summer months, for the purpose of catching salmon which come up Klukshu Creek from the Alsek River which opens to the Pacific Ocean. I am informed that the fishing station is very old and was used in exactly the same manner when the oldest member of the village was a boy.

Since the opening of the Haines Cut-off Road, access to the fishing station is easy. Because of this, many visitors, tourists, and others drop in at the village to watch the fishing and drying. It is of interest to note that the fish are caught by the old traditional fish traps which are lifted during the day.

While Klukshu village has not been a year-round settlement for some time, there are about ten cabins in good state of repair which are lived in for some three months each year; as well as several old cabins not now used. There is a small graveyard near the village. The soil is not suitable for gardens. The east bank of Klukshu Creek rises sharply and is not occupied except for one or two cabins close to the Creek.

The Indians fear encroachment on their village; they do not like the intrusion of visitors, particularly in relation to the ascending salmon which they claim are frightened by the cars and people. For that reason both sides of the Creek are particularly requested. The village, the road, and the cemetery are logical claims. The remaining area of the

approximately 270 acres requested, would be used as a fuel supply, (cottonwoods grow abundantly in this area); and as an outer rim of space to provide a certain amount of privacy to the village.

On May 26th I spoke to Donjek Brown, one of the Councillors of the Champagne Band, who pressed for an early survey of the proposed Indian Reserve. His views coincide with the above information. I consider the acreage required not excessive.

The proposed boundaries were drawn up in consultation with Mr. J. MacCott, D.L.S., and probably have in view ease of tying in to convenient survey posts on the Haines Cut-off Road. The proposed Reserve is situated $60^{\circ} 18'$ North, $136^{\circ} 59'$ West. Klukshu Village is shown on the St. Elias Sheet, Preliminary Edition, 1943, scale 8 miles to the inch.

R. J. Heek

(R. J. Heek)
Superintendent
Indian Agency.