

Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources  
Arctic Division

ESKIMO CORRESPONDENCE RECORD

(Instructions: copies of letters concerned must be attached hereto)

1. Written by TOMMY ONALIK Disc No. E7-286 2. Date received May 12/58.

3. Address Mountain Saw,  
Hamilton, Ont.

4. Summary (use back of sheet if extra space required)  
*Transcribed TAP 5-7*  
To Bobby - I am writing a little again because I want to pay something and here I have no interpreter. My mother wants me to return home and she asks me to speak to the doctors. Because I love her very much, she is blind and an old woman - I feel sorry for her. So Bobby you will write to me eh? Write to my mother. Her name is Susie E7-281. She lives at Frobisher. If I can't go home in the near future, let her be told frequently by the bosses about it, for I love her and she is old & blind. Let her be told that there is nothing wrong here now. You will speak to the doctors. Never mind if I don't get completely ~~healed~~ healed. I want only to go home now while my mother is still living, because I love her. I want to join her. Indeed for all the long time I have been here, I won't be made to have eternal life by the doctors. Please write to the doctors. But perhaps like her, like Iniki, you will frequently not want to say the things you are asked to, to the bosses. My life is half over and I haven't died yet so I want to go home. My mother is old and she keeps asking me to come home. The white man can't be loving and kind to the Eskimos anyway - I know that now. Do you understand what I write? Write often to my mother. The white-man's country is the worst of all - to an Eskimo anyway. It is rotten. It is nothing but a prison. The doctors here are not  
(over)

5. Action required Reply required. (I spoke to Tommy when he was in Hamilton and explained that the doctors would not let him go home until spring of 59. Dr Deart is fully aware of Tommy's Request. A.G.)

6. Action taken (check where applicable)  
 Letter to Correspondent  Referral for Casework Services  
 Letter to Relatives  Other Action (specify below)  
 Letter to Medical Director  No Action Necessary

Alm: Is a further reply along reassuring him needed?

Walter: I don't feel that Tommy needs any further reassurance but perhaps we should write to his mother and tell her that Tommy is O.K. and for now goes home in the spring.  
Date ..... Chief, Welfare Section

Yes.