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Frank Darnell is interviewed by Dave Geeson on December 16, 1968 in Fairbanks, Alaska

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The Arctic Institute of North America will co-sponsor an international conference on cross-cultural education in the north. Frank Darnell talks about how the conference idea was started. Frank Darnell said for many years it became evident to those in education and fields concerned with human resources that they were missing opportunities for exchange of ideas with people living in other countries that were concerned with the same problems. About three years ago during a conference on polar bears at the University of Alaska it occurred to a few of them that if money could be found to study that topic then certainly they could find a means to bring people together from the circumpolar nations to discuss the problems of the indigenous populations or simply of human beings. From this casual idea it has expanded to the idea of a conference. They have brought together a number of people from Canada, the United States and Greenland to design the conference and to carry it out in Montreal. Dave asked how this will affect Alaska and education in Alaska's rural schools. Frank said essentially people that are responsible for administering problems of education have numerous day-to-day problems that prevent them from some of the long-range research to get to the basic problems to eventually that will lead to new processes of education in the villages. There are a number of people in the academic disciplines such as anthropology, sociology and psychology have many expressions as to the nature of the school program and how it should be conducted. But they are not aware of the immediate problems of every day administration. Analysis of school administration may not always be kind. The school administrators may not be receptive to ideas from people that don't have to work with school problems every day. They hope to bring practitioners and theorists together. Dave asked how many places would be represented. Frank said fifty would be from North America and thirty from Greenland, Scandinavian countries and the Soviet Union.