

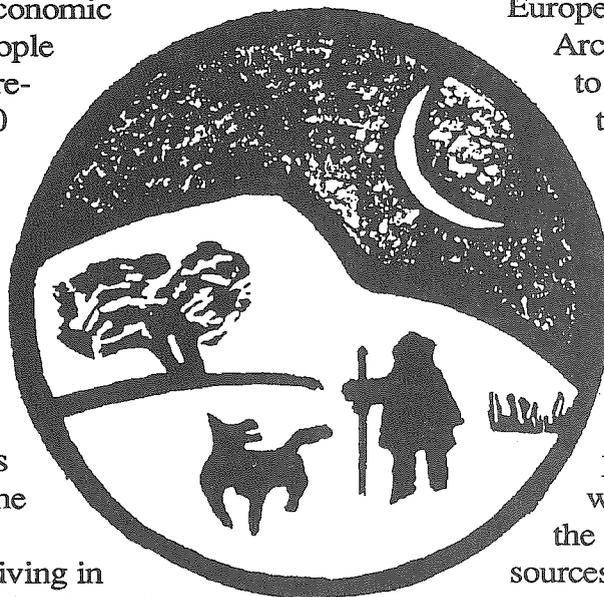


## Canada

# NUNAVUT—"OUR LAND" THE INUIT PEOPLE WIN BACK THEIR TERRITORY

After a long struggle for economic and political rights, the Inuit people won the political rights over a region which is more than 770,000 square miles (1/5 of the Canadian land mass). The government agreed to the creation of a new political subdivision of Canada, which will carry the name of "Nunavut," meaning "Our Land" in the Inuit language. In addition, the government accepted the terms that this territory be independent of the Northwest Territories.

To the 17,000 Inuit people living in the Great North, this agreement marks a victory after a long struggle, which began after the



European explorers claimed the Arctic archipelago. In addition to political and territorial control, the Inuit will receive economic advantages through this accord in the form of an indemnity of one million dollars, payable within 14 years.

Experts believe that the Nunavut Territory is rich in oil, natural gas and precious metals. The Inuit will grant limited rights for the exploitation of these resources.

Source: *Nitanissan Bulletin*.  
No. 24, February 1992