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cc. Mgrs  
Pos  
WINDY CRAGGY  
April 04/92  
statement  
by the Hon.  
D. Miller.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FORESTS ON BEHALF  
OF THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES  
GOVERNMENT MOVING CAREFULLY ON COMPLEX WINDY CRAGGY ISSUE

"HONOURABLE SPEAKER, I RISE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF  
OF THE HONOURABLE ANNE EDWARDS ON A MATTER OF PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE.

I AM REFERRING TO THE PROPOSED WINDY CRAGGY COPPER MINE  
PROJECT AND THE RELATED ISSUES OF LAND USE IN THE  
ALSEK-TATSHENSHINI AREA.

THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE, THE HONOURABLE ANNE EDWARDS,  
CANNOT BE HERE TODAY. SHE HAS ASKED ME AS ACTING MINISTER  
TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THIS HOUSE AND TO THE PUBLIC OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA WITH RESPECT TO WINDY CRAGGY. I AM  
PLEASED TO DO SO AND PLEASED TO ADVISE THE HOUSE THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT IS MOVING CAREFULLY TO DEAL WITH THIS COMPLEX  
ISSUE.

THE WINDY CRAGGY DEPOSIT IS A LARGE AND RICH COPPER  
DEPOSIT. THE SURROUNDING REGION IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HIGH  
POTENTIAL FOR OTHER SIMILAR DEPOSITS.

THE ALSEK-TATSHENSHINI REGION HAS HIGH WILDERNESS VALUES.  
IT IS SURROUNDED, IN ALASKA AND IN THE YUKON, BY PROTECTED  
AREAS.

THE CONJUNCTION OF COMPETING RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES HAS  
PRESENTED THIS GOVERNMENT WITH DECISIONS THAT MUST BE  
MADE. WE SHALL MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. WE WILL MAKE THEM  
RESPONSIBLY AND ONLY AFTER FULL EVALUATION OF THE FACTS  
AND OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE. AND WE WILL MAKE THEM  
PUBLICLY.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- G. McArthur \_\_\_\_\_
- W. McMillan \_\_\_\_\_
- V. Preto ap. 08 \_\_\_\_\_
- P. Matysek \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Lefebure \_\_\_\_\_
- S. Marshall \_\_\_\_\_

LOG NO: MAY 08 1992 VAN 6

ACTION:

FILE NO: WINDY CRAGGY

EVEN BEFORE WE WERE ELECTED, WE WERE AWARE OF THE STRONG FEELINGS THAT EXIST AROUND THIS ISSUE. SINCE BECOMING GOVERNMENT WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED EXISTING KNOWLEDGE. AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO HEAR FROM MANY PEOPLE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND THIS AREA.

WE HAVE HEARD:

- THAT WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE WITH THE YUKON AND ALASKA IN THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTED AREA, FOREGOING THE UNDOUBTED MINERAL WEALTH OF THE REGION.
- OF THE VALUE OF THE MINERAL RESOURCE, OF THE JOBS AND SPIN OFF ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT WOULD FLOW FROM DEVELOPMENT.
- ABOUT THE BIOLOGICAL VALUES OF THE AREA SUCH AS GRIZZLY BEAR DENNING SITES.
- THAT THE WINDY CRAGGY PROJECT CANNOT BE DEVELOPED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE MANNER AND THAT, IF DEVELOPED, IT WOULD REMAIN A CONSTANT THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MIGHT VIOLATE OUR INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS.
- THAT WINDY CRAGGY HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY REVIEWED AND THAT IT COULD BE APPROVED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT PROPER CONSIDERATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES.

WE HAVE HEARD THESE THINGS. WE HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY. AND WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERNS BEING EXPRESSED.

WE ARE NOW ABLE TO ADVISE YOU, HONOURABLE SPEAKER, OF THE COURSE WE ARE ABOUT TO TAKE.

- FIRST: BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE MADE ON THE WINDY CRAGGY PROJECT ITSELF, THIS GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT A FULL RANGE OF LAND AND WATER USE OPTIONS FOR THE ALSEK-TATSHENSHINI ARE CONSIDERED AND EVALUATED. THESE WILL NO DOUBT INCLUDE:

- AN OPTION FOR COMPLETE PRESERVATION OF THE AREA.
- OPTIONS FOR CAREFULLY CONTROLLED MINERAL AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.
- AND OPTIONS FOR PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF KEY AREAS REQUIRED FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND FOR TOURISM.

- THE PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE LAND USE OPTIONS WILL BE PUBLIC. IT WILL BE FAIR. IT WILL CONSIDER ECONOMIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS OF EACH OPTION. SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO ABORIGINAL INTERESTS.

- WE WILL CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTED AREA. BUT WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE REGION'S MINERAL RESOURCES IN SUSTAINING OUR MINERAL INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF OUR PEOPLE.

WE WILL NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBLE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINERAL AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SOLELY BECAUSE THERE MAY BE SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT THE CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR WINDY CRAGGY. NEITHER WILL WE ENCOURAGE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS BECAUSE THEIR BENEFITS ARE MORE TANGIBLE THAN OTHER OPTIONS.

THAT IS THE FIRST STAGE.

- IF, AS A RESULT OF THIS EVALUATION, THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THAT MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IS AMONG THE PREFERRED LAND USES FOR THE REGION, WE WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC MINING PROPOSALS SUCH AS WINDY CRAGGY.

- IN THAT EVENT, RIGOROUS REVIEW OF THE WINDY CRAGGY PROJECT WILL RESUME. THAT REVIEW WILL INCLUDE A FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING BY AN INDEPENDENT PANEL. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, IT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY WITH CANADA AND, POSSIBLY, WITH THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES.
- BEFORE SUCH A HEARING CAN BE HELD, THE PROJECT PROPONENT HAS MUCH MORE WORK TO DO. WE WILL SHORTLY BE RELEASING A DETAILED DOCUMENT CONTAINING OUR STUDY REQUIREMENTS. BEFORE THEY ARE FINALIZED THEY WILL BE REVIEWED BY INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL EXPERTS.
- THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT WILL ONLY PROCEED IF IT IS NON-POLLUTING AND DOES NOT OTHERWISE THREATEN THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS OF THIS INITIATIVE SHORTLY. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU MADAME SPEAKER THAT THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE CONDUCTED OPENLY AND FAIRLY.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS AS STEWARDS OF OUR GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT MINERAL AND WILDERNESS RESOURCES. WE KNOW THAT THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE ON US NOW -- SEEKING OUR LEADERSHIP. WE WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS RESPONSIBLY, COGNIZANT OF OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THE NEED TO BALANCE PRESSING ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVES."

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Victoria, British Columbia  
Monday, April 6, 1992