

## ALASKA DAY – OCTOBER 18



Alaska Day is the anniversary<sup>1</sup> of the formal transfer of the Territory of Alaska from Russia to the United States.

Russians started to settle in Alaska in 1784, setting up **trading posts** and **Eastern Orthodox** churches, mostly along the coast.

The United States purchased Alaska from the

Russian Empire on March 30, 1867, for the sum of \$7.2 million (\$125 million today). It was negotiated<sup>2</sup> and signed by Eduard de Stoeckl, Russia's Minister to the United States, and William H. Seward, the American **Secretary of State**. It was mostly considered beneficial<sup>3</sup> to both countries. "From the Russian point of view, the deal made a lot of sense," said Susan Smith-Peter, a historian at the College of Staten Island in New York. "They could irritate<sup>4</sup> Britain, and they could have a closer relationship with the United States.

The formal **flag-raising** took place at **Fort Sitka** on October 18, 1867. The original ceremony included 250 uniformed U.S. soldiers, who marched to the governor's house at Castle Hill. Here the Russian troops<sup>5</sup> lowered the Russian flag and the U.S. flag was raised.

Alaska Day is celebrated in Sitka on October 18. Schools release students early, businesses close for the day and a re-enactment<sup>6</sup> of the flag-raising and **a bunch of other** events are held.

**Vocabulary:**<sup>1</sup>výročí|<sup>2</sup>vyjednat|<sup>3</sup>prospěšný|<sup>4</sup>dráždit|<sup>5</sup>jednotka(vojenská)|<sup>6</sup>rekonstrukce(události)

**Language notes:** trading post=obchodní stanice|Eastern Orthodox=pravoslavný|Secretary of State=ministr zahraničí(USA)|flag-raising=vztyčení vlajky|Fort Sitka=pevnost ve městě Sitka|a bunch of=spousta (neformálně)

**Sources:** nytimes.com|en.wikipedia.org