

Senator seeks tariff reduction

Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski earlier this month urged Taiwanese government officials to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers to their markets and to increase purchases of U.S. goods and services.

In meetings with Republic of China President Chiang Ching-Kuo and Premier Yu Kuohwa, Murkowski stressed the need for a more equitable trade relationship, noting that Taiwan's trade surplus with the United States is expected to reach \$15 billion in 1986. He also noted that China has amassed foreign currency reserves in excess of \$43 billion, surpassing foreign exchange reserves of Japan.

"I indicated to President Chiang and Premier Yu that given the reality of our trade imbalance there is no justification for the ROC's blocking of American access to their markets by imposing these high tariffs and quotas," Murkowski said.

The senator also met with Y.T. Wang, minister of agriculture, and J.C. Lee, director of fisheries, to request Taiwan's cooperation in ending the interception of salmon on the high seas.

"Minister Wang and Director Lee assured me that they would work to see that ROC fishermen comply with their domestic laws prohibiting the taking of salmon on the high seas," Murkowski said.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Murkowski was on a 12-day trade mission to Taiwan, Japan and Korea.