

Alaska, Siberia trade pact on summit agenda

WASHINGTON — A proposal to open travel, communications and trade between Alaska and Siberia has been added to the agenda of items to be discussed at this week's summit meeting between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

National Security Advisor Gen. Colin Powell verified Sen. Frank Murkowski's request to include the Alaska/Siberia gateway proposal to the summit agenda.

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"This presents exciting possibilities for Alaska," Murkowski said. "It means we'll be taking a major step toward the day when our Native people, who have family ties and share cultural bonds with Natives in Russia, will be able to once again visit one another."

The Murkowski initiative would ease travel restrictions and improve communications and trade possibilities between Alaska and Siberia.

One specific proposal is to develop a regular summer season air route between Nome and Providenya — about 220 miles directly across the Bering Sea from Nome.

Providenya and Nome began working earlier this year towards improving collaboration in economic development, science and cultural exchanges.
