

# Alaska-Siberia proposals studied

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. State Department wants to hear Alaskans' specific proposals for travel, trade and reuniting families between Alaska and Siberia and get those proposals as soon as possible, according to Sen. Frank Murkowski.

Murkowski was briefed recently by the director of the Office of Soviet Affairs, Mark Parris, and by other State Department officials who participated in discussions at the summit meetings.

In the past summit statement issued by President Reagan and Secretary

General Gorbachev, the two leaders said they exchanged views on means of encouraging expanded contacts and cooperation on issues relating to the Arctic and that they support the development of bilateral and regional cooperation.

According to Parris, the summit statement "gives a good push" to proposals for family reunification, as well as travel and economic ties between Alaska and Siberia.

"This joint statement is significant because it means both sides have sign-

ed off on the concept of closer ties," Parris told Murkowski. "In the weeks ahead, we need to define what that concept will involve."

The State Department official said his department would like to see as many concrete proposals as possible, such as the Nome-to-Provideniya air route.

"The sooner we can process the proposals through an inter-agency review on our side, the sooner we can take the proposal to the Soviets," he said.