

# Editorial



## We can work together

Alaskans witnessed an incredible event last week as more than 90 Soviets landed their Aeroflot jet at Anchorage International Airport to start a week-long visit to our state.

The delegation included some of the Soviet Union's top rock musicians, folk singers and dancers, government officials, Native performers and journalists. They were brought to Anchorage by Dixie Belcher of Juneau and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

The visitors did everything from touring Anchorage shopping malls to discussing the effects of *glasnost* and *perestroika* on the media of the Soviet Union. Two of the Soviet journalists even covered President George Bush's Wednesday morning visit to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

It's way too early to predict what the effects of this visit will be, but we can only hope that this opening of the border between the United States and the Soviet Union will prove to be one more step toward open communication between the two superpowers.

In his brief speech to Alaskans gathered at Hangar One, President Bush stressed the idea that the United States is indeed a Pacific power, as well as an Atlantic power. That's not news to Alaskans, but it was important for the president to make the statement.

Unfortunately, the president did not choose to mention the Soviet Union, another Pacific power.

The *Tundra Times* has long called for an opening of the Bering Strait to travel by Alaska Eskimos who have relatives and friends in the Soviet Union. These people have been prevented from traveling freely back and forth for more than 40 years.

We're pleased to see that Sen. Frank Murkowski and Gov. Steve Cowper appear to be putting much effort into winning this battle. We hope this visit is another victory for them.

But another important arena is what could be accomplished if the Soviet Union and the United States worked together to solve fisheries problems in the Bering Sea.

These are just two examples of what can be done if the Soviet Union's policies are allowed to continue. There are many others.

We wish our Soviet visitors well, and we hope they take back memories of goodwill in Alaska. The more we learn about each other as human beings, the more we will be able to accomplish.

