

# Reports U.S. Military to Buy Fruits, Vegetables Grown in State

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel has reported that the United States military has already decided to send a purchasing officer to Alaska next June to buy the fruits and vegetables grown by Alaskan farmers.

This decision is a direct result of the Senator's repeated urgings in recent years that the

military make its plans known before the growing season commences.

In the past, the military waited to make its decision until after the growing season was in progress.

Even then, Senator Gravel was forced to pressure the Defense Supply Agency to make its decision so that the Alaskan

farmers would have this market for their produce.

As a result of the uncertainty, the farmers were unable to take into consideration the military market when planning their spring plantings.

"This year," Senator Gravel said, "the farmers of Alaska know long before the planting season arrives that the military

will be interested in buying their crops. They, therefore, can plan larger crop sizes in anticipation of this demand.

"I expect," Senator Gravel added, "that this information will permit Alaskan farmers to plant their largest crops in history.

"It is accepted fact, verified by experts, that when a market

is anticipated before planting, the crop size is increased, and the variety of produce planted is adjusted accordingly.

"In the past, Alaskan farmers have been able to meet the military's late demand only for potatoes and lettuce. This left twenty-one other types of produce for which the tardy demand exceeded the supply.

"This year, we can look for the supply meeting the demand in all categories.

"This decision makes sense. It is extremely sensible for the military to supply its Alaskan bases with produce grown in the State.

"This decision, made at this time, will permit this to happen and avoid the needless expense of importing produce into the State," Senator Gravel said.