

# U.S. - Soviet summit in Anchorage, Alaska?

Senator Frank Murkowski on March 14 officially invited President Reagan to hold the proposed U.S.-Soviet summit in Anchorage.

Murkowski made the request on behalf of the Alaska Delegation during an afternoon meeting with the President at the White House.

President Reagan told Murkowski he would consider the request but could give no commitment at this time.

"I pointed out to the President several advantages of having the summit in Anchorage," Murkowski said.

"The conference would be symbolic because of our historic relationship, Alaska having been purchased from Russia in 1867.

"Our state is located approximately half-way between Moscow and Washington, D.C. so the location would be an advantage.

"The high-level security for this meeting would be easier to establish and maintain in Anchorage than in many of the other proposed locations.

"The communications for the U.S. and Soviet leaders and the hundreds of journalists who would be covering the summit would be of little problem due to our state's advanced satellite and communications networks.

"And Alaska's location is unique, in that it is part of the United States, yet is separated from the Lower 48 by a foreign country and could be more acceptable to the Soviet leaders."

"I strongly feel Alaska is a most appropriate location, and along with Senator Ted Stevens and Congressman Don Young, I intend to pursue this invitation," Murkowski added.

President Reagan noted that Vice-president Bush had met with new Soviet leader Gorbachev on March 13, Murkowski said.