

# Stevens pushes for Siberian air service

WASHINGTON — The U.S.-Soviet communique to be issued as a result of the summit will include a provision calling for the lifting of barriers to increased air transportation between the two nations, Sen. Ted Stevens said recently.

Stevens was informed of the communique's transportation provision by National Security Advisor Colin Powell. They met during a White House breakfast held to brief congressional leaders on the results of the summit.

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*'The summit communique is a breakthrough in our efforts to restore air transportation between Alaska and Siberia.'*

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—Sen. Ted Stevens

breakthrough in our efforts to restore air transportation between Alaska and Siberia," Stevens said.

"It is my intention to go beyond the provisions of the communique, however, and seek more than just an increase in existing traffic routes. I am urging the U.S. and the Soviet Union to take the next step and resume air service between Alaska and Siberia."

Stevens contacted James Burnley, U.S. secretary of transportation, and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and urged them to consider Alaska-Siberia transportation in addition to routes between Europe and the Soviet Union.

"During the summit, the U.S. and

Soviet Union agreed to establish a bilateral group to work on Arctic issues," Stevens said. "If we are serious about encouraging exchanges and tourism between Siberia and Alaska, we need to provide better air services."

In October, Stevens contacted the White House and Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze to encourage the resumption of air service between Alaska and Siberia. In his letters then, he called on the two governments to discuss the issue during the summit.