

Amchitka Island Shot

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) said the decision to explode a five-megaton nuclear bomb more than a mile beneath the surface at Amchitka, Alaska, now rests solely with President Nixon.

Gravel made his remarks following Senate refusal today to withhold funds for the CANNIKIN explosion, which is scheduled for early October, 1971.

The lawmakers, however, did rephrase the authorizing amendment to stipulate that no funds shall be obligated or expended for the Amchitka detonation

“unless the President gives his direct approval for such a test.”

In expressing his disappointment with the Senate's action, Gravel reiterated his belief that “the test is not necessary for our national security” and again voiced his concern over the “potential danger such an explosion poses to Alaskans and the people of the Pacific rim nations.”

“I hope the President will cancel the test,” Gravel said, “and I urge all Alaskans and other concerned persons to make their views in this regard made known directly to the President.”