ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1987-1988 8672
5049 HRLS SJR 21 - SJR 42

624

Thomas Foley, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Max Kampelman, Head of Delegation and Defense and Space Negotiator; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

3

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Niilo Koponen

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542 4th Avenue, Suite C
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE NIILO KOPONEN

DATE: MARCH 22, 1988

RE: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NUCLEAR FREEZE AND NUCLEAR REDUCTION

Discussion took place in today's House Rules Committee hearing concerning the difference between nuclear disarmament and nuclear freeze and whether or not language supporting a freeze was necessary in light of recent developments in international arms negotiations. Specifically it was argued that the INF treaty reductions agreed to in Europe and the negotiations presently underway went beyond the "freeze" concept.

In fact the freeze addressed in the resolution specifically applied to testing, deployment and production of nuclear weapons. Though the reductions of long range missile systems are a positive first step the freeze would extend to new testing programs, the production of new weapons systems, and continued deployment of weapons. Though we are reducing existing weapons in some theaters. we have not discontinued testing, nor have we discontinued building or deploying systems, as the attached article from the Monday, March 21, 1988 Anchorage Daily News illustrates.

Continued efforts in support of a nuclear weapons freeze go hand in hand with the ongoing and praiseworthy efforts towards nuclear weapons reductions of the present administration.

Midgetman missile proposal gets boost from House study

By TIM AHERN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The "Midgetman" atomic-tipped missile is a good idea that can do more to improve U.S. nuclear deterrence than putting MX nuclear missiles aboard trains, according to a House Armed Services study released Sunday.

The report by the Democratic-controlled panel was the latest round in a long-running fight between the Pentagon and Congress over the best type of land-based nuclear weapons to build.

The report was critical of Air Force plans to put MX weapons aboard trains for transport on the nation's railways during times of crisis.

"The Air Force is assuming that because MX would be roaming commercial rail lines only in times of international crisis, public resistance to launch-ready missiles in boxcars will evaporate," said Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the panel.

"Maybe that's true, but the Air Force has no evidence to support the assumption. On the other hand, rail-basing schemes have been shelved twice in the past because of public opposition," he said.

But the Air Force was sharply critical of Aspin.

"There he goes again," Gen. Larry Welch, Air Force chief of staff, said, referring to previous Aspin criticism of Air Force atomic weapons that the service says was unfounded.

In a statement, the service said the rail-basing plan "has been subjected to a rigorous, analytical, and careful acquisition process," and it said civilians would support the idea.

The dispute has its roots in the bitter fights during President Reagan's first term about whether the build the MX as a successor to the aging Minuteman missiles, which are the heart of the U.S. land-based atomic deterrent force.

Reagan wanted 100 of the 10-warhead weapons, but Congress cut the total to 50 because of fears that the large number of warheads on each missiles, combined with their placement in stationary silos, would make them easy targets for Soviet attack.

A presidential commission said the MX program should go ahead, but should eventually be succeeded by a single-warhead weapon, dubbed Midgetman. Aspin became one of the biggest champions of the Midgetman.

THE DEFENSE MONITOR

The Center for Defense Information supports an effective defense. It opposes excessive expenditures for weapons and policies that increase the danger of nuclear war. CDI believes that strong social, economic and political structures contribute equally to the national security and are essential to the strength and welfare of our country.

 I.S.S.N. #0195-6450

Vol. XVI, Number 7 1987

TWO TRILLION DOLLARS IN SEVEN YEARS

Defense Monitor in Brief

- Preparations for war have cost the United States $2 Trillion since 1981. This amounts to $21,000 for each American household.
- Since 1981 preparations for nuclear war have cost $427 Billion. Preparations for conventional war in Europe have cost $736 Billion. Preparations for conventional war in Asia and the Persian Gulf have cost $588 Billion.
- A major part of the increase in military spending has been directed toward nuclear war-fighting forces.
- Military spending has increased the capability of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Special Operations forces to project U.S. military power throughout the world.
- Since 1981 U.S. active-duty military men and women have increased by 106,000 to 2,168,000. Civilians on the Pentagon payroll have increased by 111,000 to 1,160,000.
- Higher military spending has contributed significantly to the dramatic increase in the national debt, which grew from $1 Trillion in 1981 to $2.6 Trillion in 1987.

Spending Up—Security Down

The United States has spent almost $2 Trillion on the military since President Reagan took office. **Not since World War II has a country spent comparable sums on its military forces.** Recent increases in U.S. military spending exceed those of our NATO and Japanese allies—as well as our potential adversary, the Soviet Union.

The economic health of the United States is being compromised by federal budget deficits—and related trade deficits—that are driven, in large part, by the current administration's profligate military expenditures. The modest increase in the capability of our military establishment to wage war was, first of all, unnecessary, and second, not commensurate with the dramatic increase in military spending.

Part of the $2 Trillion in Reagan military spending was used to enhance our already excessive nuclear retaliatory capability. Before military spending skyrocketed, we could devastate the Soviet Union many times over after a surprise attack on the U.S.; additional nuclear forces did not increase that capability. An increasingly large portion has gone to buy weapons that actually increase the risk of a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. Furthermore, **most of the increased spending for conventional forces went to buy weapons to protect Europeans and Asians** who are capable of spending more for their own defense.

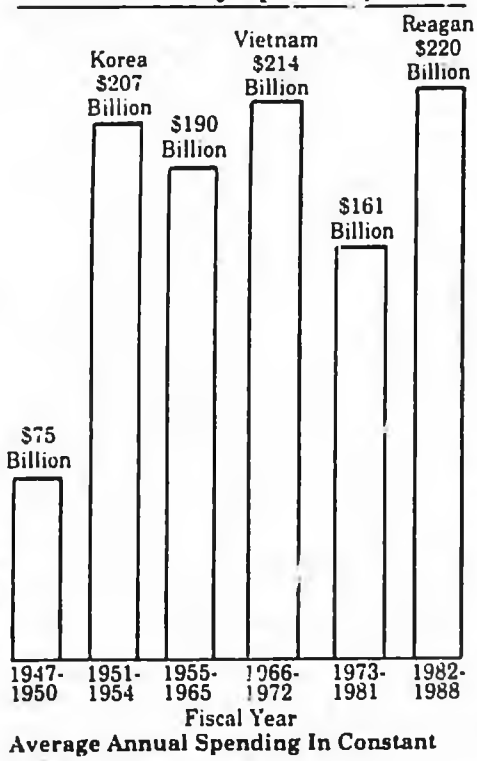
Much of the $2 Trillion has been spent for armaments rather than for personnel, maintenance and training. Nevertheless, the number of tanks, missiles, ships, and planes in the armed forces has increased by only a small amount during the Reagan Administration.

Administration successes—particularly in the area of skilled military personnel—are threatened by the current stress on costly weapons systems. If cuts are not made in the large number of new unneeded weapons that are now planned for production, money may not be available to maintain our armed forces at their present size and level of combat readiness.

How Much Was Spent

- The last seven years have seen **the largest peacetime military budgets in United States history.** Military spending under President Reagan is more than one-third greater than during the Ford and Carter Administrations, even adjusting for inflation.
- The Reagan Administration has spent enough on the military to support a full-scale war. Indeed, taking inflation into account, the average Reagan military budget is larger than the average military budgets of the Korean and Vietnam war years.
- The Reagan Administration has spent $1.9 Trillion on the military. This works out to $743 million per day, $31 million per hour, $516,000 per minute, and almost $9,000 per second.

Reagan Administration Tops All Post-WWII Military Spending



Average Annual Spending In Constant FY82 $

Total Military-Related Spending, FY1982-FY1988

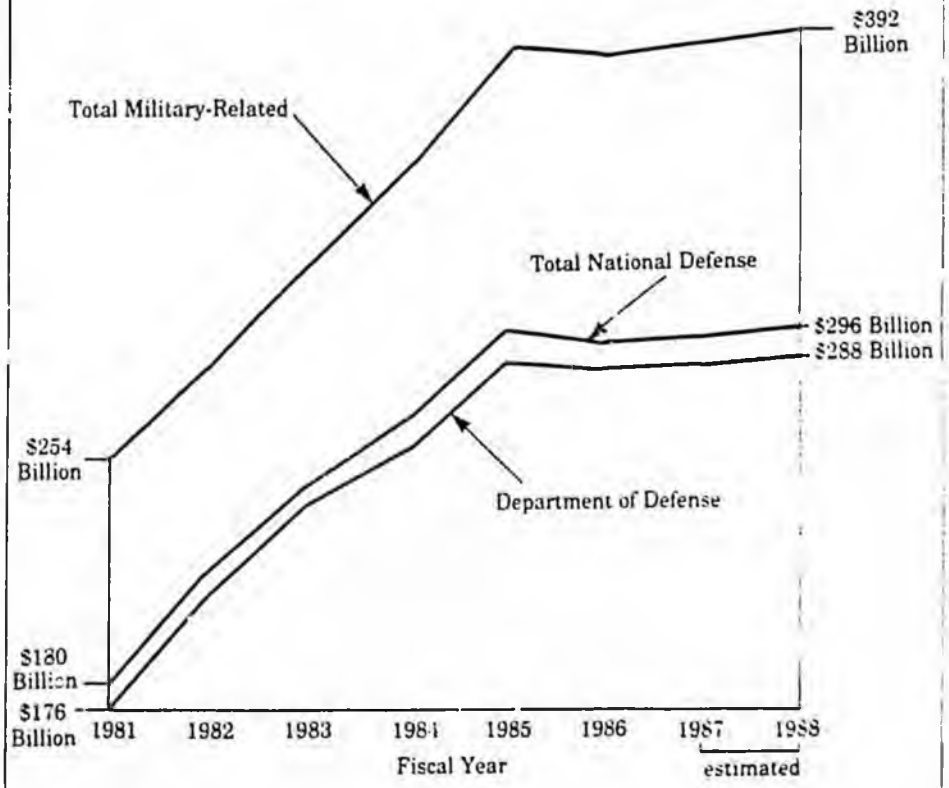
Department of Defense	$1,849.7 Billion
Department of Energy Budget (Military systems)	$46.9 Billion
Equals "National Defense" Spending	$1,899.5 Billion
Plus military-related spending	
NASA (military related)	$13.9 Billion
Foreign Military Aid	$38.3 Billion
Other	$4.9 Billion
Plus costs of past military activities	
Veterans Benefits	$186.2 Billion
Military's Share of Interest on Federal Debt	$345.0 Billion
Equals Total Military-Related Spending	**$2.5 Trillion**

"National Defense" spending includes military expenditures by the Department of Defense, nuclear weapons and naval nuclear reactor programs in the Department of Energy, and small amounts to fund the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Selective Service.

Approximately one-quarter of NASA's budget is for military projects. In the past seven years, the government has spent $38.3 Billion for military aid to foreign nations. There are also miscellaneous military-related programs like Impact Aid for Education, the Maritime Administration, and portions of the Coast Guard.

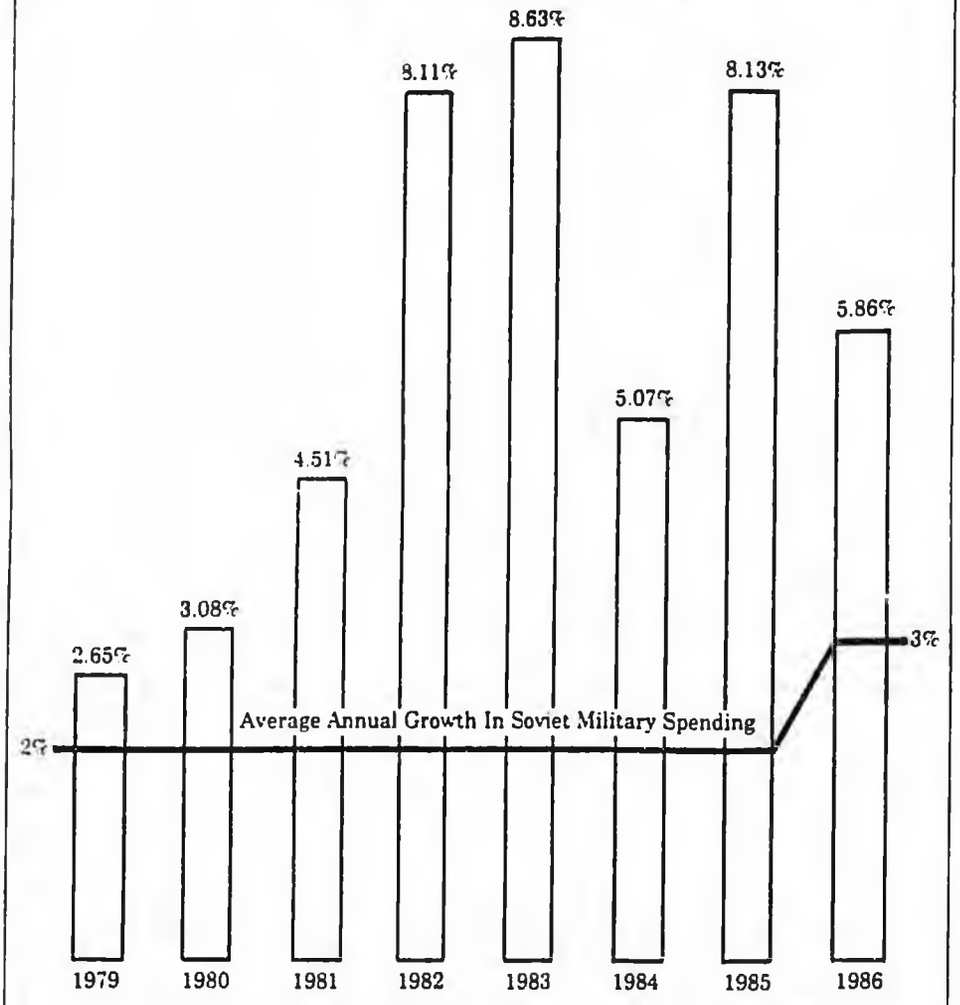
In addition, the government has paid out about $186.2 Billion since 1981 to military veterans for their previous service. Over forty percent of the interest payments made to finance the federal budget deficit during the last seven years—approximately $345.0 Billion—can be attributed to military spending.

Military-Related Spending Rose By Over 50% Since 1981— Will Reach Almost $400 Billion This Year



Sources: OMB, DoD, Council on Economic Priorities, and CDI
Chart by CDI

U.S. Military Spending Has Grown Much Faster Than Soviet Spending



Annual Growth Above Inflation of U.S. Military Spending (Outlays)

Sources: CIA, DIA, and OMB
Chart by CDI

• Military spending by the Reagan Administration has cost each American household approximately $21,000.

• Since 1981 Defense Department military costs have increased from $176 Billion to $288 Billion this year. Spending by the Energy Department, primarily for nuclear weapons, has climbed from $3.7 Billion to $8.1 Billion during the same period.

• From 1979 to 1986, U.S. military spending rose by an average of 5.8 percent each year. By contrast, American intelligence agencies have estimated that Soviet military spending rose at an average annual rate of 2.1 percent during this period.

• In 1985 U.S. military spending was one and a half times the total spending of our European and Canadian allies combined. U.S. military spending in 1985 was about 17 times larger than that of Japan. The United States outspent the European and Canadian members of NATO despite the fact that they have a combined population that is 50 percent larger than ours.

• So large and rapid has been the increase in military spending during the last seven years that **the Defense Department has been unable to spend about $185 Billion of the nearly $2 Trillion it has received.** The Reagan Administration has accumulated twice as many unspent military dollars each year as did the Carter Administration.

Spending Up For Nuclear War

• Under President Reagan the U.S. has spent about 22 percent of its military budget—$429 Billion—on preparations for nuclear war with the Soviet Union and its allies.

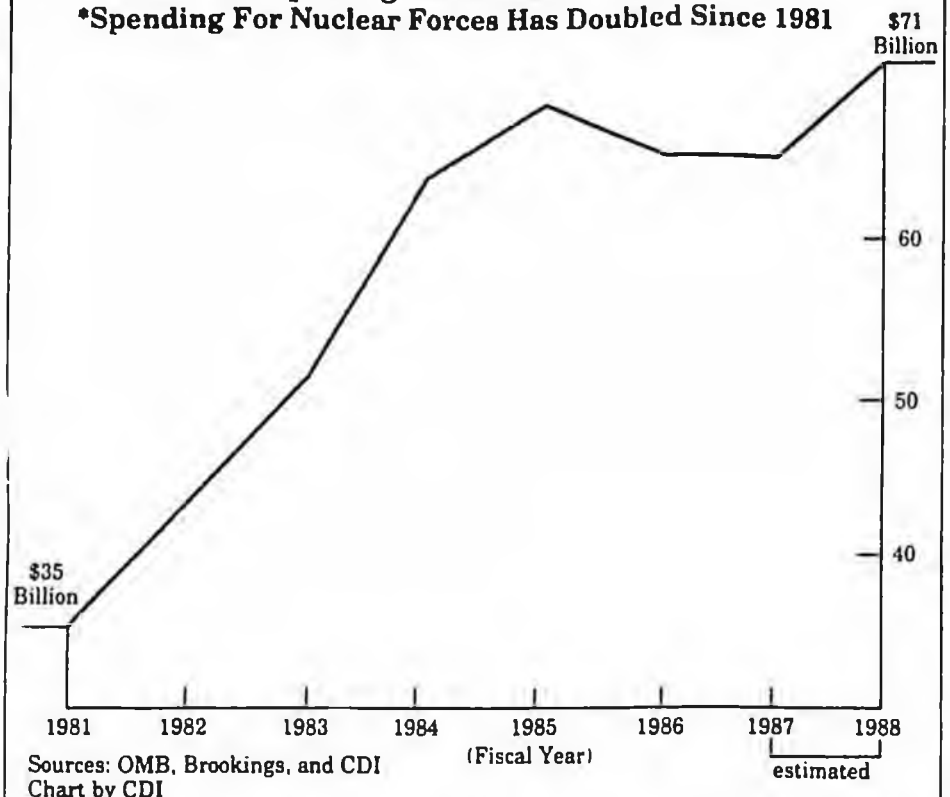
• Spending for nuclear weapons—and the aircraft, missiles, and submarines necessary to deliver these weapons—has more than doubled since President Reagan has been in office. **Money for nuclear weapons research climbed dramatically from $3.2 Billion to $10 Billion under President Reagan.** In an effort to develop a system to shoot down Soviet ICBM's after they have been launched, Congress has given President Reagan $10 Billion and is providing an additional $4 Billion this year.

• The United States spends about 40 percent of its military budget to defend Germany, France, and other Western European nations against a highly unlikely Soviet attack. The cost to the American taxpayers to defend Germany, France, and other European members of NATO has grown steadily under President Reagan and totaled $736 Billion over the past seven years.

• About 16 percent of military costs—$294 Billion over the last seven years—has been spent on conventional forces to defend Japan, South Korea, and other Pacific nations against the Soviets and the North Koreans. The U.S. has also spent $294 Billion to arm and train a military force to conduct operations in the 16 nations of the Middle East.

• The Department of Defense during the Reagan Administration has emphasized spending for new weapons—although there have also been significant increases in spending for manpower. The amount of money spent to buy weapons and other munitions hit a high of $97 Billion in 1985. In just seven years annual spending for research and development of future weapons increased from $17 Billion to $41 Billion.

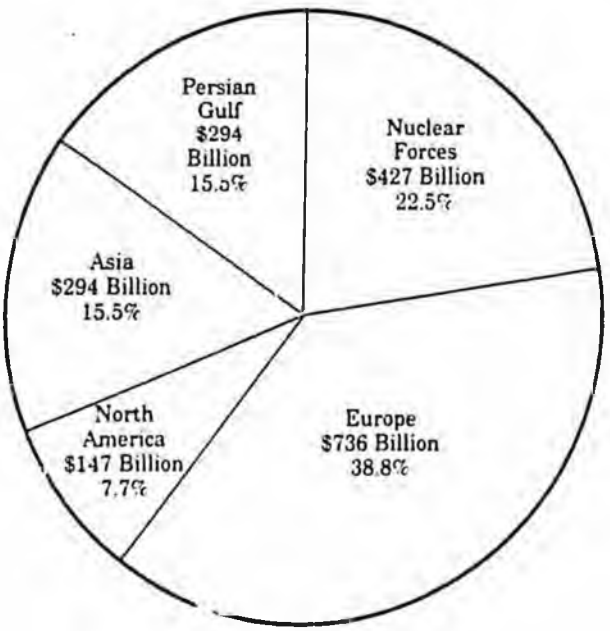
Preparing For Nuclear War:
*Spending For Nuclear Forces Has Doubled Since 1981



Sources: OMB, Brookings, and CDI
Chart by CDI

*Includes 100% of strategic forces costs, 5% of general purpose forces costs, 30% of intelligence and communications costs, 8% of non-strategic research and development costs, and 10% of DoD overhead costs.

Preparing For War Around The World:
How $2 Trillion Was Spent, FY1982-FY1988



Sources: OMB, Brookings, Cato Institute, Coalition For A New Foreign Policy, and CDI
Chart by CDI

• President Reagan's preference for expensive weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, favored spending by the Air Force and the Navy. Air Force spending increased most rapidly—up 89 percent since FY 1981, but the largest overall share of the Defense Department pie went to the Navy: $632 Billion. The Air Force received almost as much: $619 Billlion. The smallest share, $481 Billion, went to the Army, which relies primarily on less expensive, non-nuclear weapons. The remaining $135 Billion went to independent agencies, like the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, as well as for joint service military projects.

What Was Achieved

• **U.S. armed forces have grown only a little since 1981.** Active-duty personnel strength increased from 2,062,000 to 2,168,000 today. Strategic nuclear forces declined in some areas. However, the total number of strategic weapons grew by 2,686, primarily because of the introduction of Trident submarines armed with Trident I ballistic missiles and the arming of B-52G/H strategic bombers with air-launched cruise missiles. The number of major active Army and Marine units increased slightly. The number of main battle tanks increased by about 2,000. The number of fighter/attack and interceptor aircraft rose by about 360. There were 36 more major combat ships and 12 more attack submarines in 1987 than in 1981.

• President Reagan alleged that his predecessors ignored the "vulnerability" of U.S. nuclear forces to a surprise attack by the Soviet Union. However, his administration has spent comparatively little on making our nuclear forces less vulnerable. On the other hand, it has spent $50 Billion on nuclear weapons systems—like the MX and Trident II missiles—designed to fight and win a nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

• In the conventional area, the Reagan Administration has directed spending toward forces that have little to do with the Soviet-American

5-0753N
Bannister
3/25/88

Original sponsors: Eliason, Kelly, Josephson, et al.

IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (Rules)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATUR. SECOND SESSION

Requesting the President of the United States to propose an international freeze on nuclear weapons, verification safeguards for the freeze, the use f nuclear weapons funds for peaceful nonnuclear uses, and nuclear disarmament by all nations; and requesting the state Congressional delegation to urge the president to make the proposals.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the unleashing of nuclear weapons in warfare would cause untold deaths, suffering, and destruction; and

WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and removal of nuclear weapons from an area would reduce the risk of destruction to the area; and

WHEREAS the continued development, testing, and production of nuclear weaponry and related delivery systems increase distrust and apprehension among nations, the likelihood of nuclear accidents, and the potential magnitude of an internati.nal conflict; and

WHEREAS the burgeoning defense budget required for production and deployment of nuclear weapons has contributed to the increase of the United States budget deficit; and

WHEREAS since 1981 the defensive preparations for nuclear war have cost the taxpayers of the United States $427,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS governmental funds spent for nuclear weaponry and related

delivery systems may be used more wisely for peaceful pursuits; and

WHEREAS a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons, deployment of most nuclear weapons delivery systems, and production of fissionable materials can be verified with a high degree of confidence by a worldwide network of seismic monitors, satellites, and other techniques; and

WHEREAS the intermediate nuclear forces treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union on December 7, 1987, set important verification and nuclear arms reduction precedents for future treaties, including the on-site inspections of both nation's nuclear weapons facilities; and

WHEREAS the successful ongoing efforts of the Reagan Administration towards nuclear arms reductions are consistent with the intent of this resolution; and

WHEREAS General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev stated in a speech delivered on October 1, 1987, in the Soviet city of Murmansk, that the Soviet Union is prepared to negotiate a nuclear weapons free zone for portions of the Arctic; and

WHEREAS 58.4 percent of Alaska's voters in the August 1986 election expressed their support for ballot measure no. 1, which established as state policy the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is encouraged to continue the current efforts at arms reductions and is respectfully requested to propose to the Soviet Union and other nations

(1) a mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles, watercraft, and aircraft designed primarily to delivery nuclear weapons;

(2) verification safeguards for the freeze that are satisfactory

to all parties;

(3) continued reduction in nuclear arms leading to eventual nuclear disarmament by all nations, beginning with a verifiable and enforceable treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States that provides for

(A) a nuclear-weapon-free Arctic and subarctic encompassing Alaska and Siberia; and

(B) eventual expansion into a multilateral treaty involving all nations with territory and claims in the Arctic and subarctic, which would prevent the testing and placement of nuclear weapons and related devices in Arctic and subarctic regions; and

(4) that a summit conference be held in Alaska so that world attention and concern can be focused on the environmental and security concerns of Arctic and subarctic areas; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the requested freeze is mutually agreed upon and the Soviet Union conclusively proves that it has frozen all nuclear testing, production, and deployment, the President of the United States is respectfully requested to propose that funds that would have been used for nuclear military purposes be used for peaceful nonnuclear uses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska delegation in Congress is respectfully requested to urge President Reagan to make the proposals requested in this resolution.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R.; the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Byrd, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable

Thomas Foley, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Max Kampelman, Head of Delegation and Defense and Space Negotiator; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

II

5-0753N
Bannister
3/21/88

Concurrent Resolution to Change Title
Changed to reflect reduction

Original sponsors: Eliason, Kelly, Josephson, et al.

IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (Rules)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Requesting the President of the United States to propose an international freeze on nuclear weapons, verification safeguards for the freeze, the use of nuclear weapons funds for peaceful nonnuclear uses, and nuclear disarmament by all nations; and requesting the state Congressional delegation to urge the president to make the proposals.

reductions outdated

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the unleashing of nuclear weapons in warfare would cause untold deaths, suffering, and destruction; and

WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and removal of nuclear weapons from an area would reduce the risk of destruction to the area; and

WHEREAS the continued development, testing, and production of nuclear weaponry and related delivery systems increase distrust and apprehension among nations, the likelihood of nuclear accidents, and the potential magnitude of an international conflict; and

WHEREAS the burgeoning defense budget required for production and deployment of nuclear weapons ~~increases~~ contributed to the United States budget deficit, ~~which has grown from $1,000,000,000,000 in 1981 to $2,600,000,000,000 in 1987~~; and

contributed to the increased cost

add 8

WHEREAS since 1981 the preparations for nuclear war have cost the taxpayers of the United States $427,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS governmental funds spent for nuclear weaponry and related delivery systems may be used more wisely for peaceful pursuits; and

WHEREAS a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons, deployment of most nuclear weapons delivery systems, and production of fissionable materials can be verified with a high degree of confidence by a worldwide network of seismic monitors, satellites, and other techniques; and

WHEREAS the intermediate nuclear forces treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union on December 7, 1987, set important verification precedents for future treaties, including the on-site inspections of both nation's nuclear weapons facilities; and

WHEREAS General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev stated in a speech delivered on October 1, 1987, in the Soviet city of Murmansk, that the Soviet Union is prepared to negotiate a nuclear weapons free zone for portions of the Arctic; and

WHEREAS 58.4 percent of Alaska's voters in the August 1986 election expressed their support for ballot measure no. 1, which established as state policy the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is ~~respectfully requested to propose~~ adds encouraged to continue its proposals to the Soviet Union and other nations

(1) a mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles, watercraft, and aircraft designed primarily to delivery nuclear weapons;

(2) verification safeguards for the freeze that are satisfactory to all parties;

(3) eventual nuclear disarmament by all nations, beginning with a verifiable and enforceable treaty between the Soviet Union and the United

States that provides for

(A) a nuclear-weapon-free Arctic and subarctic encompassing Alaska and Siberia; and

(B) eventual expansion into a multilateral treaty involving all nations with territory and claims in the Arctic and subarctic, which would prevent the testing and placement of nuclear weapons and related devices in Arctic and subarctic regions; and

(4) that a summit conference be held in Alaska so that world attention and concern can be focused on the environmental and security concerns of Arctic and subarctic areas; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the requested freeze is mutually agreed upon and the Soviet Union conclusively proves that it has frozen all nuclear testing, production, and deployment, the President of the United States is respectfully requested to propose that funds that would have been used for nuclear military purposes be used for peaceful nonnuclear uses; and be it

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COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Byrd, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Foley, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

amendment from Jim White Speaker - add Bush + 2 minority leaders

Mikhail Gorbachof
Max Kampelman head of delegation

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. Rules March 22, 1988 8:00AM

House Rules Committee Mtg. 3-22-88 / 8:10

Present: Navarro, Grussendorf, Pettyjohn, Martin
Gruenberg, Hoffman

SJR 21

Kopomen: CS SJR 21
changes make senate res. go along w/ the hs. resolution

MN - pg. 1 line 28? in preparation for war rather than national defense?

Pettyjohn - we built the weapons to prevent war

Martin - lines 25 + 26 are inflamitory and should be deleted -
Canada has been very successful w/ nonnuclear weapons ? ?
Add Minority leader to line 22 pg. 3

Gruenberg - Add speaker of the hs. and George Bush * amendment
MN - * no objections - moved

Gruenberg - Add Gorbachev, Max Kempleton, and one other? ...

Pettyjohn - pg. two line 5 "high degree of confidence" how can we verify that?

* Gmussendorf - pg. 1 line 28 change to "for the defense of nuclear war" delete "preparations"

No objections - moved

Martin - delete whereas on line 24 pg. 1

MN - contributed to ... on line 2; pg. 1

Gmenberg - does it match the title

Martin - Ln. 21 pg. 2

Pettyjohn - amendment to line 21 (23) pg. 2 change freeze to reduction

Gmssendorf - agreed w/ Pettyjohn

Martin - change in title - reduction rather than freeze

MN - Bill held till Mon. or Tue. 8:50 AM

Official Business

COMMITTEE: Hs. RULES

DATE: 3-22-88

Subject of meeting: SJR 21

SIGN-IN

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?
Rep. Niilo Koponen	P.O. Box V, Juneau, Ak. 99811	465-4992		Yes

Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone:
(907) 465-3764
465-3765

AGENDA - HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1988

8:00 A.M. - ROOM 208

AGENDA:

SJR 21am - Requesting the President of the United States to propose an international freeze on nuclear weapons, verification safeguards for the freeze, the use of nuclear weapons funds for peaceful nonnuclear uses; and nuclear disarmament by all nations; and requesting the state Congressional delegation to urge the president to make the proposals.

INDEX

I

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Niilo Koponen

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Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4992

542 4th Avenue, Suite C
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8161

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21
Sectional Analysis with Amendments

A majority of amendments were taken out of House Joint Resolution 4 which passed the House Floor 30 -4 on April 15, 1987.

Other amendments came from the December 1987 meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Line 17 - whereas nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and removal of nuclear weapons from an area would reduce the risk of destruction to the area; (Page 1 Line 24 of HJR 4)

Line 26 - which has grown from $1,000,000,000,000 in 1981 to $2,600,000,000,000 in 1987;

Line 28 - since 1981 the preparations for nuclear war have cost the taxpayers of the United States $427,000,000,000;
(This figure spent by the U.S. since 1981 in preparation for nuclear war and national debt statistics are taken from The Defense Monitor, Vol. XVI, No. 7).

PAGE 2

Line 3 - a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons, deployment of most nuclear weapons delivery systems, and production of fissionable materials can be verified with a high degree of confidence by a worldwide network of seismic monitors, satellites, and other techniques; (Page 2 Line 26 of HJR 4)

Line 7 Whereas the intermediate nuclear forces treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union on December 7, 1987, set important verification precedents for future treaties, including the on-site inspections of both nation's nuclear weapons facilities;

Line 11 Whereas General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev stated in a speech delivered on October 1, 1987, in the Soviet city of Murmansk, that the Soviet Union is prepared to negotiate a nuclear weapons free zone for portions of the Arctic;

Line 15 - Whereas 58.4 percent of Alaska's voters in the August 1986 election expressed their support for ballot measure no. 1, which established as state policy the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems;
(Page 1 line 27 of HJR 4)

Line 23 - and verifiable freeze

PAGE 3

Line 6 - which would prevent the testing and placement of nuclear weapons and related devices in Arctic and subarctic regions;
(Page 3 line 28 of HJR 4)

Line 8 - that a summit conference be held in Alaska so that world attention and concern can be focused on the environmental and security concerns of Arctic and subarctic areas;
(Page 4 Line 1 of HJR 4)

II.

5-0753N
Bannister
3/21/88

Original sponsors: Elias on, Kelly,
Josephson, et al.

IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (Rules)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and removal of nuclear weapons from an area would reduce the risk of destruction to the area; and

WHEREAS the continued development, testing, and production of nuclear weaponry and related delivery systems increase distrust and apprehension among nations, the likelihood of nuclear accidents, and the potential magnitude of an international conflict; and

WHEREAS the burgeoning defense budget required for production and deployment of nuclear weapons could contribute to the increases the United States budget deficit, and ~~which has grown from $1,000,000,000,000 in 1981 to $2,600,000,000,000 in 1987; and~~

WHEREAS since 1981 the preparations for nuclear war have cost the taxpayers of the United States $427,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS governmental funds spent for nuclear weaponry and related delivery systems may be used more wisely for peaceful pursuits; and

WHEREAS a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons, deployment of most nuclear weapons delivery systems, and production of fissionable materials can be verified with a high degree of confidence by a worldwide network of seismic monitors, satellites, and other techniques; and

WHEREAS the intermediate nuclear forces treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union on December 7, 1987, set important verification precedents for future treaties, including the on-site inspections of both nation's nuclear weapons facilities; and

WHEREAS General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev stated in a speech delivered on October 1, 1987, in the Soviet city of Murmansk, that the Soviet Union is prepared to negotiate a nuclear weapons free zone for portions of the Arctic; and

WHEREAS 58.4 percent of Alaska's voters in the August 1986 election expressed their support for ballot measure no. 1, which established as state policy the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to propose to the Soviet Union and other nations

(1) a mutual and verifiable ~~freeze~~ reduction on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles, watercraft, and aircraft designed primarily to delivery nuclear weapons;

(2) verification safeguards for the freeze that are satisfactory to all parties;

(3) eventual nuclear disarmament by all nations, beginning with a verifiable and enforceable treaty between the Soviet Union and the United

States that provides for

(A) a nuclear-weapon-free Arctic and subarctic encompassing Alaska and Siberia; and

(B) eventual expansion into a multilateral treaty involving all nations with territory and claims in the Arctic and subarctic, which would prevent the testing and placement of nuclear weapons and related devices in Arctic and subarctic regions; and

(4) that a summit conference be held in Alaska so that world attention and concern can be focused on the environmental and security concerns of Arctic and subarctic areas; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the requested freeze is mutually agreed upon and the Soviet Union conclusively proves that it has frozen all nuclear testing, production, and deployment, the President of the United States is respectfully requested to propose that funds that would have been used for nuclear military purposes be used for peaceful nonnuclear uses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska delegation in Congress is respectfully requested to urge President Reagan to make the proposals requested in this resolution.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Byrd, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas Foley, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

III

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: SJR 21am
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Revision Date: March 22, 1988
Title: Nuclear Freeze resolution

Agency Affected: none
BRU: _____

Sponsor: Sen. Eliason
Requestor: House Rules Cmte.

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars) N/A

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Representative Mike Navarre, Chairman
Phone: 465-3764
Division: House Rules Committee
Date: March 21, 1988

Approved by Commissioner: _____
Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Dist. by Sen. Eliason

VI

BALLOT MEASURE #1: NUCLEAR FREEZE
(Election District Vote Breakdown)

	FOR	AGAINST
Statewide total:	80,326 (58.4%)	57,125 (41.5%)
District 1:	2,609 (56.6%)	2,001 (43.4%)
District 2:	1,748 (63.0%)	1,027 (37.0%)
District 3:	1,583 (62.5%)	947 (37.4%)
District 4:	6,671 (64.3%)	3,697 (35.7%)
District 5:	4,538 (55.6%)	3,616 (44.3%)
District 6:	1,303 (60.4%)	1,134 (39.6%)
District 7:	2,652 (58.4%)	1,887 (41.6%)
District 8:	5,148 (58.4%)	3,662 (41.6%)
District 9:	4,749 (60.7%)	3,073 (39.3%)
District 10:	4,305 (58.3%)	3,072 (41.6%)
District 11:	2,805 (61.2%)	1,776 (38.8%)
District 12:	3,799 (62.7%)	2,258 (37.2%)
District 13:	2,611 (56.1%)	2,045 (43.9%)
District 14:	3,808 (55.7%)	3,030 (44.3%)
District 15:	3,952 (55.1%)	3,215 (44.8%)
District 16:	5,273 (55.7%)	4,185 (44.2%)
District 17:	1,814 (54.0%)	1,540 (45.9%)
District 18:	2,022 (50.7%)	1,966 (49.3%)
District 19:	2,774 (63.5%)	1,595 (36.5%)
District 20:	3,869 (56.9%)	2,930 (43.1%)
District 21:	2,841 (66.7%)	1,420 (33.3%)
District 22:	1,380 (55.3%)	1,115 (44.7%)
District 23:	1,684 (57.2%)	1,261 (42.8%)
District 24:	1,608 (55.4%)	1,294 (44.6%)
District 25:	1,452 (52.2%)	1,327 (47.7%)
District 26:	1,472 (57.7%)	1,079 (42.3%)
District 27:	1,356 (59.5%)	923 (40.5%)

note: percentages have been rounded to the nearest tenth.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1
Initiative No. 83-03

NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREEZE

The initiative would officially recognize that the prevention of nuclear war is the greatest challenge facing the Earth and that the nuclear arms race dangerously increases the risk of a war that would destroy humanity. The initiative would promote mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, to be followed by nuclear weapons reduction. The initiative would direct the governor to conduct the state's affairs in conformity with the initiative's goals.

A vote **"FOR"** adopts the initiative. 80,326 **FOR** ☐ 58.4%

A vote **"AGAINST"** rejects the initiative. 57,125 **AGAINST** ☐ 41.5%

NEUTRAL SUMMARY—83-03
Prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency

This initiative would declare as the policy of the state the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze to be followed by a reduction in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems in order to halt the nuclear arms race and to reduce the risk of nuclear war. The initiative bases this policy on its recognition that the greatest challenge facing the earth is the prevention of nuclear war by accident or by design and that the nuclear arms race is dangerously increasing the risk of a holocaust that could be humanity's final war. The governor is directed to conduct the affairs of the state and to carry out state programs in conformity with this policy.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSITION

For An Act Entitled: "An Act relating to the establishment of a nuclear freeze as the policy of the State."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section 1. **DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is the policy of the State of Alaska: (1) to recognize that the greatest challenge facing the Earth is to prevent the occurrence of nuclear war by accident or design; Dist. by Sen. Eliason

(2) to recognize that the nuclear arms race is dangerously increasing the risk of a holocaust that would be humanity's final war;

(3) to promote a mutual and verifiable freeze followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems in order to halt the nuclear arms race and to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Section 2. **IMPLEMENTATION.** (a) The governor shall conduct the affairs of state and carry out state programs in conformity with this policy.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall deliver copies of this Act to Congress and the President of the United States.

Section 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This initiative shall be effective when enacted according to law.

Statement IN SUPPORT of the Nuclear Arms Freeze Proposition

Alaskans have a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to world peace when they vote August 26. They can do this by casting their vote in the "For" (meaning "yes") column on the Nuclear Freeze Initiative question they'll find on the ballot.

It is important, however, to realize several things the initiative does **not** do:

The initiative does **not** encourage or obligate the U.S. to any sort of **unilateral** or "go-it-alone" policy regarding a freeze or reduction of nuclear warheads. It calls, instead, for a **mutual** freeze and reduction of such weapons. If other nations—particularly the Soviet Union—will not participate, then there is no obligation for the U.S. to do so.

And, the initiative does not call for any sort of "blind trust" toward the Soviets or any other nation. Instead it specifies that any agreement must be not only mutual but **verifiable** before we agree to participate. In other words we have to have arrangements in place to scientifically verify that no one is cheating, or there's no deal.

Truly, we have nothing to lose by adopting this policy.

But what will we gain?

For starters, just the freezing of production of nuclear weapons, just the limiting of arsenals to their present strength—which is already sufficient to destroy civilization as we know it today, many times over—will be a significant step forward in the

(CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE)

quest for lasting peace. And, over time, as the nations mutually reduce their nuclear armaments (again, in a way that can be scientifically verified by all concerned) the threat of atomic holocaust will significantly diminish.

If the world fails to achieve this kind of nuclear disarmament is there any doubt that sooner or later, either by design or accident, one nation or the other will use its nuclear weapons?

And if that happens it is foregone that other nations will respond without restraint.

The result would have to be near-total destruction of life on earth. (Just recall the panic, loss of human life, damage and contamination of food hundreds of miles away when a single accidental melt-down occurred recently in the Soviet Union.)

But nuclear destruction need not happen. We have the capacity, through verifiable agreements such as the initiative proposes, to make the threat of nuclear war obsolete.

What would be the State of Alaska's role in this? The initiative calls upon the governor to conduct our Alaskan affairs in ways that conform with this policy. It directs the lieutenant governor to deliver copies of the Act to Congress and to the President of the United States. It lets our national leaders and policymakers know that Alaskans stand for common-sense peace.

Similar initiatives have already passed in local Alaska elections. Now Alaska, alone of all the states, has a nuclear freeze initiative on the ballot this fall. This is our chance to speak and act positively on the issue of peace not only statewide but nationally through press attention to our unique ballot question.

Mike M. Miller, Alaska State Representative & prime sponsor.

Statement OPPOSING the Nuclear Arms Freeze Proposition

Your vote on this resolution sends a message—an international message. Unfortunately, this resolution aims the wrong message at the wrong people. It is also a naive, simplistic and cruelly false solution to a complex and deadly problem which it would only aggravate.

Chernobyl and Bhopal show that the ultimate danger to human survival is technology itself, not just the risk of nuclear war. Future energy or biogenetic disasters could terminate life on our planet even more certainly than "nuclear winter", and the Soviet system suppresses genuine environmental activism. A primary source of Arctic air pollution is the USSR. Nuclear weapons ended the "conventional" holocaust of World War II, and Deterrence has been one of the few successes in curbing Soviet militarism and mistakes.

A "freeze" of the research, development and production of nuclear weapons cannot be verified. Our spy satellites may read license plates, but the Soviets have nonetheless succeeded in seriously violating existing nuclear and biological weapons treaties. The Soviets' unrepented murder of Major Arthur Nicolson demonstrates that even their signed guarantees of on-site treaty verification inspections mean nothing.

Our government has heard our concern about the cost and dangers of the arms race. It has tried to negotiate fair, verifiable disarmament treaties which will also continue deterring war. The Soviets refuse these and break others. Genuine Soviet peace activists attempting to petition their government are condemned to KGB psychiatric prisons.

Soviet leaders do not feel threatened by the terror and terrible costs of the arms race. They see Western "peace" activism as only a tool for nuclear terrorism, to demoralize our resistance to their increasingly aggressive militarism. Our FBI verified KGB involvement in the formation of the American freeze movement.

When unilateral agitation like this resolution undercuts our government's bargaining position and even leads Soviet leaders to think the arms race may be winnable, they have no use for genuine disarmament. While the Kremlin promotes a nuclear arms freeze, even the **Washington Post** has editorially opposed it as bad policy.

This resolution tells the Kremlin that nuclear terrorism works on Alaskans. Such fear and weakness precipitated Hitler's invasion of Poland and the Pearl Harbor attack. Such agitation led to our desertion of the Cambodians and Vietnamese and to the genocide which resulted.

Despite Kremlin propaganda, Soviet military preparations betray a doctrine that nuclear war is "winnable". (Even our Pentagon has renounced that.) Strategic advantage goes to the attacker, and Soviet development and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery systems surpassed us in the 1970's. Freezing our attempt to restore deterrence encourages Soviet attack.

Judging by their fast reaction to our State Senate's Wrangel Island resolution and Gennady Gerasimov's recent visit here, Soviet leaders realize Alaska's military and geopolitical importance and monitor us closely.

If you want to do something to help deter another world war, to express solidarity with our government's struggle for genuine disarmament and to send the Kremlin a strong and clear message that Alaskans can't be snowed, then please help vote this down.

Lou Coatney, Juneau

Provided by Senator Eliason

Regarding Senate Joint Resolution 21

All excerpts from Department of State Bulletin: The Official Monthly Record of United States Foreign Policy, (emphasis added throughout)

Excerpts from "Prospects for World Peace" by President Reagan, an address before the 41st session of the UN General Assembly in New York City on Sept. 22, 1986, appearing in Dept. of State Bulletin, November 1986:

"It is for this reason that I wrote last summer to Mr. Gorbachev with the new arms control proposals. Before discussing the proposals, let us be clear about which weapons are the most dangerous and threatening to peace. The threat does not come from defensive systems, which are a shield against attack, but from offensive weapons -- ballastic missiles that hurtle through space and can wreak mass destruction on the surface of the earth, especially the Soviet Union's heavy, accurate intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), with multiple warheads, which have no counterparts in size or number in any other country.

"That is why the United States has long urged radical, **equitable, verifiable reductions in these offensive systems.** Note that I said reduction; for this is the real purpose of arms control; not just to codify the levels of today's arsenals, not just to channel their further expansion, but to reduce them in ways that will reduce the danger of war. **Indeed, the United States believes the prospect of a future without such weapons of mass destruction must be the ultimate goal of arms control.**

"I am pleased to say that the Soviet Union has now embraced our idea of radical reductions in offensive systems. At the Geneva summit last November, we agreed to intensify work in this area. Since then, the Soviets have made detailed proposals which, while not acceptable to us, appear to represent a serious effort. So, we continue to seek a 50% reduction of American and Soviet arsenals -- with the central focus on the reduction of ballistic missile warheads. If the Soviet Union wants only a lesser reduction, however, we are prepared to consider it but as an interim measure. In other provisions, as well, we have sought to take account of Soviet concerns. So, there has been movement.

"Similarly, in the area of intermediate-range nuclear forces, **the United States seeks the total elimination of such missiles on a global basis.** Again, if the Soviet Union insists on pursuing such a goal in stages, we are prepared to conclude an interim agreement without delay."

"As the United States has repeatedly made clear, we are moving toward a future of greater reliance upon strategic defence. The United States remains prepared to talk about how -- under what ground rules and process -- we and the Soviet Union can do this cooperatively. Such strategic defenses, coupled with radical reductions in offensive forces, would represent a safer balance and would give future statesmen the opportunity to move beyond it to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth."

Nuclear and Space Arms Negotiations
White House Statement excerpt
Aug. 31, 1986
Department of State Bulletin, November 1986

The United States and the Soviet Union will begin a new round of discussions on arms control in Geneva on September 18. An interagency arms control group has been meeting during the past several weeks to prepare for this round of talks. The United States considers this new round to be important in the process of reaching an agreement for meaningful arms control leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons. The September discussions come at a critical juncture in the process.

The recent exchanges between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev have served to underscore the seriousness of the discussions. We are pleased that the Soviet Union has moved from a position of limiting the expansion of the arms race to a discussion of reducing the nuclear arsenals on both sides.

U.S. Policy on Arms Control: Purpose, Prospects, and Process
by Allen Holmes (Ambassador Holmes, Assistant Secretary for Politico-Military Affairs) Excerpt from address delivered before the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City on June 2, 1986, appearing in Dept. of State Bulletin, Sept. 1986:

"The objective of this Administration is to enhance security and reduce the risk of war, to ensure strategic stability at the lowest feasible level, and ultimately -- some day -- to do away with nuclear weapons."

Excerpt from letter from President Reagan to the Congress, August 5, 1986, accompanying unclassified version of classified report on U.S. Interim Restraint Policy, appearing in Dept. of State Bulletin, Sept. 1986:

"I want again to emphasize that no policy of interim restraint is a substitute for an agreement on deep and equitable reductions in offensive nuclear arms, provided that we can be confident of Soviet compliance with it. Achieving such reductions continues to receive my highest priority. This is the most direct path to achieving greater stability and a safer world."

Excerpts from Unclassified Report to the Congress on U. S. Interim Restraint Policy and Representative Soviet and U.S. Dimantlement and Strategic Force Projections With and Without SALT I and II, appearing in Dept. of State Bulletin, Oct. 1986

From I. Introduction: U.S. Interim Restraint Policy and U. S. Responses to Soviet Noncompliance

"In his May 27 statement, the President emphasized that no policy of interim restraint is a substitute for an agreement on deep and equitable reductions in offensive nuclear arms, provided that we can be confident of Soviet compliance with it. Achieving such reductions has received, and will continue to receive, his highest priority. We hope the Soviet Union will act to give substance to the agreement reached by the President and General Secretary Gorbachev at the summit meeting last November to achieve early progress in the Geneva negotiations. It was agreed to focus, in particular, on areas where there is common ground, including the principle of 50% reductions, appropriately applied, in the strategic nuclear arms of both countries, as well as an interim agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces. If the Soviet Union carries out this agreement, we can move now to achieve greater stability and a safer world."

From IV. Soviet Political and Negotiating Responses

"No policy of interim restraint is a substitute for an agreement on deep and equitable reductions in offensive nuclear arms, provided that we can be confident of Soviet compliance with it. We hope the Soviet Union will act to give substance to the agreement reached by the President and General Secretary Gorbachev at the summit meeting last November to achieve early progress in the Geneva negotiations.

"Our objectives in Geneva remain the same as stated at the summit: to seek common ground in negotiating deep, equitable and verifiable reductions in strategic and intermediate-range offensive nuclear arsenals and to discuss with the Soviet Union how we could enhance deterrence and stability by moving toward a world in which we would no longer rely exclusively on the threat of nuclear retaliation to preserve the peace. We hope the Soviets will negotiate seriously with us toward these important goals."

Excerpts from remarks delivered by President Reagan in Glassboro, New Jersey, June 19, 1986, appearing in Dept. of State Bullentin, September 1986:

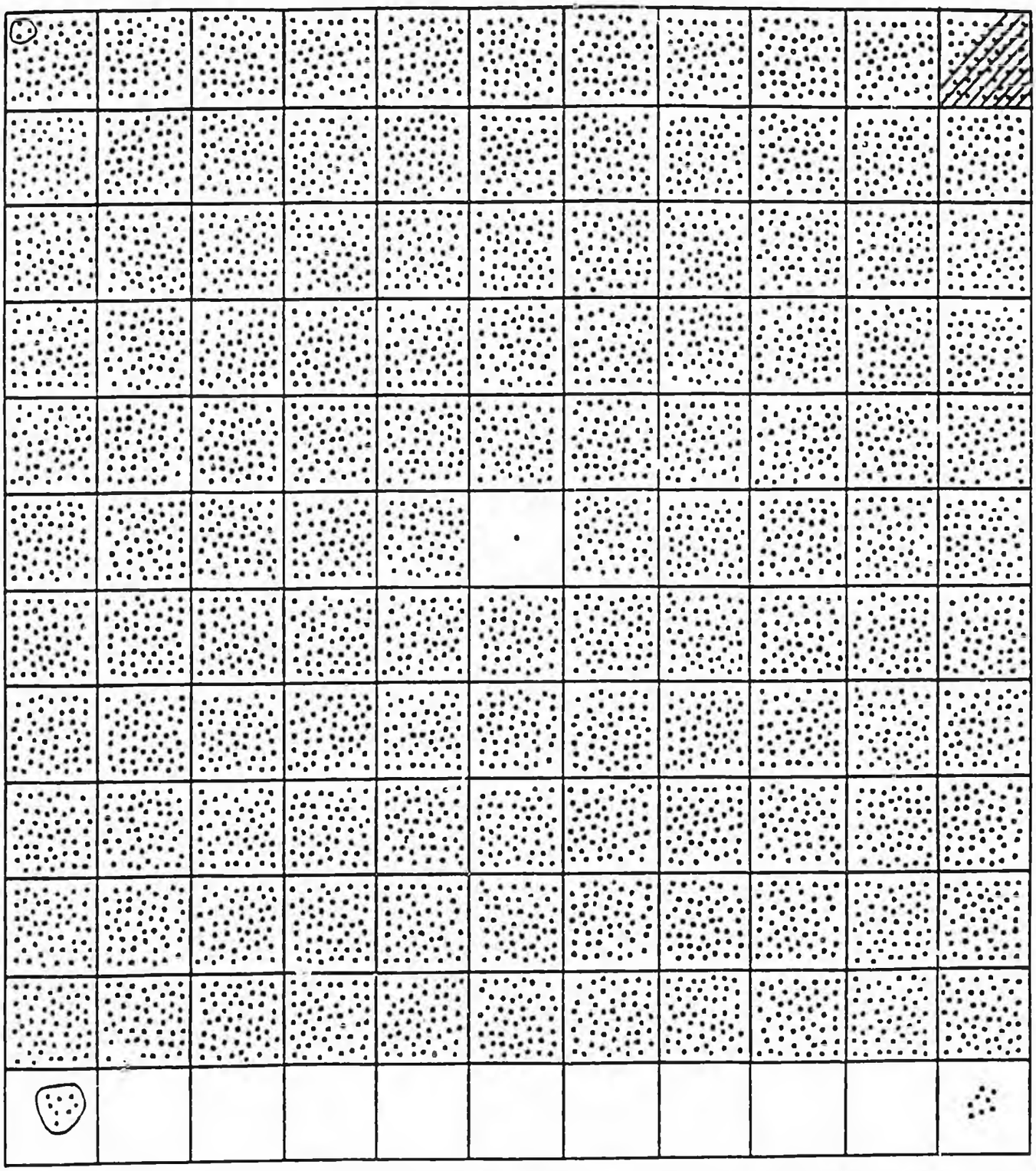
"When I met Mr. Gorbachev last November in Geneva, he and I agreed to intensify our effort to reduce strategic arms...And we both spoke of the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons."

"In this essay on peace, then, we can assert that the time has come to move forward. Let us leave behind efforts to seek only limits to the increase of nuclear arms and seek instead actual arms reductions -- the deep and verifiable reductions that Mr. Gorbachev and I have agreed to negotiate. The goal here is not complicated. I am suggesting that we agree not on how many new, bigger, and more accurate missiles can be built, but on how to reduce and ultimately eliminate all nuclear missiles.

"Let us leave behind, too, the defense policy of mutual assured dstruction, or MAD, as it's called, and seek to put in its place a defense that truly defends. You know -- let me interrupt right here and say that possibly you haven't considered much about this system. This MAD policy, as it's called -- and incidentally, MAD stands for mutual assured destruction, but MAD is also a description of what the policy is. It means that if we each keep enough weapons that we can destroy each other, then maybe we'll both have enough sense not to shoot those weapons off. That's not exactly the way for the world to go on, with these massed terribly destructive weapons aimed at each other and the possiblity that some day a madman somewhere may push a button and the next day the world starts to explode."

Provided by Sen Eliason

NUCLEAR WEAPONS CHART



The dot in the center represents all the firepower of World War II—three megatons. The other dots represent the world's present nuclear weaponry, which equals 6,000 World War II's (18,000 megatons). The U.S. and the Soviets share this firepower with approximately equal destructive capability.

The top left-hand circle, enclosing nine megatons, represents the weapons on one Poseidon submarine—equal to three World War II's, enough to destroy more than 200 of the largest Soviet cities. The circle in the lower left-hand square (24 megatons, eight World War II's) represents one new Trident sub with the power to destroy every major city in the northern hemisphere.

Just two squares (300 megatons) represent enough firepower to destroy all the large- and medium-sized cities in the world.

The amount in the shaded area—100 megatons, or less than 1% of the U.S. or Soviet arsenal—represents the amount necessary to bring on the "nuclear winter." The dust lofted into the air by the explosion of this small amount would block out sunlight and make temperatures drop so dramatically that our planet would be uninhabitable for plants, animals and humans.

This chart, which has been reviewed for accuracy by U.S. Senate staff members, appears in *The Trimtab Factor: How Business Executives Can Help Solve the Nuclear Weapons Crisis* by Harold

Nuclear Weapons Freeze (requesting)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21, by Senators Eliason, Kelly, Josephson and Jones. Requests the President of the United States "to propose to the Soviet Union and other nations (1) a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles, watercraft, and aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons; (2) verification safeguards for the freeze that are satisfactory to all parties; and (3) eventual nuclear disarmament by all nations. . ."

SJR 21, (cont'd)

If the freeze is mutually agreed upon and the Soviet Union conclusively proves that it has frozen all nuclear testing, production, and deployment, the President is requested to propose that funds that would have been used for nuclear military purposes be used for peaceful nonnuclear uses. The Alaska delegation in Congress is requested to urge President Reagan to make the proposals requested in the resolution.

On March 3 Sen. Fischer added his name as co-sponsor.

Introduced March 3 and referred to State Affairs; Health, Education & Social Services; Labor & Commerce.

Nuclear Weapons Freeze (requesting)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21, (see page 266). Reported back to the Senate April 10 by State Affairs recommending it do pass. Concurring: Abood (Chair), Uehling, Hensley and Josephson. To Health, Education & Social Services.

Nuclear Weapons Freeze (requesting)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21, (see pages 266;507). On May 6 the Health, Education & Social Services referral was waived at the request of the Chairman. The Labor & Commerce referral was waived on the same day by the Chairman of Labor & Commerce.

On May 9 amendment 1 by Senator Fischer was adopted. It changes the language in the "Resolve" clause to read: "BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to propose to the extent consistent with the concept of deterrence, to the Soviet Union and others (1) a mutual freeze. . ." (underlined language text of amendment).

The resolution then passed the Senate, 18-0-1-1. Excused: Binkley. Absent: Bennett.

Nuclear Weapons Freeze (requesting)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (AM), (see pages 266;507; 708). Received in the House May 11 and referred to State Affairs.

Nuclear Weapons Freeze (requesting)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21 (AM), (see pages 266;507;708) Reported back to the House May 16 by State Affairs recommending it be replaced with a House State Affairs substitute and as follows: Ulmer (Chair) and Donley recommend it do pass; Martin recommends it do not pass; Menard and Boucher have no recommendation. Boucher further signed "pending floor debate." To Rules.

The House State Affairs substitute proposes that the eventual nuclear disarmament by all nations begin with a verifiable and enforceable treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States that provides for a nuclear-weapon-free Arctic and subarctic encompassing Alaska and Siberia; and eventual expansion into a multilateral treaty involving all nations with territory and claims in the Arctic and subarctic.

SJR

35

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y · STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907·465·3800

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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

House Rules:

May 2, 1988

5-7-88

~~Hoffman~~, ~~Navarre~~, Martin
~~Gussen~~dorf, Pettyjohn, ~~Boucher~~
Hs. Rules -
8:10 AM

SJR 35 - Martin moved
no objections

SB499 - Martin moved

Adjourned @ 8:11

Renee - Jean -
I was not sure which
two reps made the
motions to move the
bill & resolution - thought
they were Martin &
Pettyjohn - ? Deb

Original sponsors: Jones, Sturgulewski,
Coghill, et al.

IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35 (Rules)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Relating to maintaining timber industry employment, funding of U.S. Forest Service operations, and the allowable timber harvest level in Southeast Alaska and amendment of sections 703 and 705 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the House Interior Committee of the U. S. Congress has passed a bill that would make a number of major changes in the sections of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) that affect the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS holders of the 50-year contracts, independent timber interests, Native corporations, local communities, and fishing, tourism, and environmental advocates are working hard to achieve a compromise; and

WHEREAS representatives from Southeast Alaska are working hard to achieve a compromise and the Congress should work to achieve a compromise developed by Alaskans; and

WHEREAS a reasonable compromise should provide for

(1) adequate input from the people of Southeast Alaska;

(2) meaningful consideration of the issues set out in the ongoing Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) revision process;

(3) maintenance of job levels in the dependent and independent timber industries;

(4) adequate fish and game protection;

(5) an adequate wilderness system;

(6) recognition of community interests; and

(7) protection of subsistence;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States House of Representatives to review sections 703 and 705 of ANILCA and the bill that passed the House Interior Committee and continue working with all parties from Alaska to achieve a reasonable compromise that will

(1) consider the issues raised in the TLMP revision process;

(2) maintain the timber supply needed to support existing timber industry employment in the Tongass National Forest;

(3) protect subsistence, fish and game habitats, and commercial fisheries;

(4) provide for mining opportunities;

(5) support local community self-determination;

(6) recognize the growing tourism industry; and

(7) maintain transportation and utility corridors.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard E. Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable E de la Garza, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable George Miller, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; William P. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,

members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

SJR

42

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date referred:

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: February 5, 1988

The House Rules Committee has considered SJR 42

RECOMMENDS:

[xx] replace with HCS SJR 42(Rules)

[xx] the **same** title

[ ] a **new** title

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[X] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendation

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] additional referral to the ______ Committee

ADOPTS: [ ] ______ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

[ ] fiscal impact

[X] **zero** fiscal note

[ ] **zero** with analysis

[ ] same as previous fiscal note published ______

[ ] same as previous **zero** fiscal note published ______

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- No Rec.

Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y · STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907·465·3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. Rules 2-5-88

Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone:
(907) 465-3764
465-3765

SJR 42 - **Relating to the use of state airports for plutonium shipments under a proposed United States agreement with Japan.**

(Senator Uehling)

INDEX

5-1079B
Bannister
02/04/88

Original sponsors: Uehling and Rodey

IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42 (Rules)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Relating to the use of state airports for plutonium shipments under a proposed United States agreement with Japan.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS plutonium is a long-lived, highly radioactive, and extremely toxic material that is used to construct nuclear weapons and as fuel in nuclear reactors; and

WHEREAS the proposed Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy establishes a 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement that would permit the shipping of plutonium as reprocessed reactor fuel from reprocessing plants in Europe to Japan; and

WHEREAS the shipments would begin by air carrier in the early 1990's and would occur every two weeks in amounts of 500 to 600 pounds each, which is enough plutonium to build 40 bombs of the size dropped on Nagasaki, Japan at the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS the plutonium will be shipped in the form of plutonium oxide powder, and the amount of the powder that is the size of a sugar cube can cause 3,000,000 fatalities from lung cancer; and

WHEREAS the polar route planned for the shipments would necessitate a refueling stop in Alaska; and

WHEREAS a cask for the economical and safe transportation of plutonium that meets the requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not been developed; and

WHEREAS a loophole in the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2011-2296) may

allow the cask standards of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be overlooked in favor of the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency that require the cask to meet only 1/10th of the impact velocity required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

WHEREAS a cask that met the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency recently failed a test that simulated an airplane crash; and

WHEREAS a cask should not be considered safe unless the cask loaded with test materials can survive both a test crash of a cargo aircraft that has been fully loaded with full-scale samples of loaded casks, and a test drop from the maximum cruising altitude of the aircraft; and

WHEREAS the signing of the agreement would substitute a blanket 30-year approval for the present case-by-case review process that gives the United States ongoing control over the safety and security of plutonium shipments; and

WHEREAS both the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the United States House Foreign Affairs Committee have requested that the President withdraw or renegotiate the proposed agreement because each has independently concluded that the agreement is not consistent with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 2153(b) (Atomic Energy Act of 1954) which is designed to protect the Nation against unreasonable risks to common defense and security; and

WHEREAS an environmental impact statement has not been prepared for the proposed agreement, although there is court precedent for the proposition that the movement of nuclear fuel qualifies as a major federal action requiring preparation of an impact statement; and

WHEREAS state law (AS 18.45.027) expressly prohibits the transportation of used nuclear reactor fuel except for purposes of disposal outside the state; and

WHEREAS allowing the planes carrying the plutonium to land in the

state would have tremendous consequences for the health and safety of the state's residents and the protection of the state's environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the proposed 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and Japan that would allow the shipment of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan by polar route, resulting in refueling stopovers in the state during the shipments; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to prevent to the greatest extent possible under the authority of AS 18.45.027 the use of state airports for shipments of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Frank C. Carlucci, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense; the Honorable John S. Herrington, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; the Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; the Honorable James H. Burnley IV, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee; the Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr., Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the Honorable Steve Cowper, Governor of the State of Alaska; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

III

Senator Rick Uehling

Senate District H
Downtown, Elmendorf, Northeast Anchorage

M E M O R A N D U M

Senate Finance Committee
Chair, International Trade Committee
Vice-Chair, State Affairs Committee
Labor & Commerce Committee

TO: Representative Mike Navarre, Chairman
House Rules Committee

FROM: Senator Rick Uehling

RE: SJR 42, "Relating to the use of state airports for plutonium shipments under a proposed United States agreement with Japan."

DATE: February 1, 1988

I would appreciate it if you would schedule SJR42, relating to plutonium shipments through Alaska, for a hearing in the House Rules Committee. My office has been working with Representative Ellis, to make changes which would update the resolution to reflect new information which became apparent during the interim.

There has been considerable recent interest in Congress regarding the plutonium shipment issue. I feel it is important for the Legislature to express our concerns to Congress.

Congress is currently considering whether or not to ratify the recently negotiated 30 year agreement between the United States and Japan which would permit the shipment of highly toxic plutonium by air between European reprocessing factories and Japanese nuclear plants. Alaska is the likely refueling point for the cargo planes.

There are three major concerns raised by the proposed shipment of plutonium through Alaska. First, the agreement does not specify which safety standards will be used to guarantee the safe transport of the plutonium. The United States' Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards are much more stringent than those established by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Also, a cask or container for safely shipping large amounts of plutonium by plane has not been designed yet. Senator Murkowski has introduced legislation which would require the development of a tested and safe shipping cask before any shipping could occur. However, there is apparently nothing in the agreement which precludes air shipment even if a safe cask is not developed.

P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, AK 99811 (907) 465-4821 • 3111 C ST. #515, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503 (907) 561-7613

Finally, no Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared yet. Obviously, the proposed shipments pose potentially great risks to the people of Alaska , especially in the event of an aircraft crash, collision, or terrorist attack. The level of that risk and the potential health hazards have not yet been determined.

This resolution opposes the proposed shipment of plutonium through Alaska because of the lack of information about the hazards involved and because it appears that there is no currently available method for safely shipping large quantities of plutonium. Again, I would appreciate your hearing this resolution.

IV

Health and Safety.
CHAPTER 45.
Atomic Energy.
CITATION Sec. 18.45.027.
CATCH LINE
TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE MATERIAL.
TEXT (a) The transportation of high level nuclear waste material, except for purposes of disposal outside the state, is prohibited.

(b) For purposes of this section, "high level nuclear waste material"

(1) means

(A) used nuclear reactor fuel;

(B) waste produced during the reprocessing of used nuclear reactor fuel; and

(C) elements having an atomic number greater than 92 and containing 10 or more nanocuries per gram;

(2) does not include radioactive materials used in medicine, education, or scientific research that are stored or disposed of in conformity with procedures established by the Department of Environmental Conservation by regulation adopted under AS 46.03.250(3).

HISTORY (Sec. 2 ch 93 SLA 1981)

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR

V

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

Jim

December 9, 1987

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Co-Chair of the House
Health, Education
and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
3111 C Street, Suite 455
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Johnny,

Thank you for your letter of support regarding the state's efforts to ensure that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared prior to the shipment of plutonium through Alaska pursuant to the nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and Japan.

Since the President submitted the agreement to the Congress, the state, through my Washington, D.C. office, has been working closely with the Alaska Congressional Delegation to obtain legislation which would require an actual crash test of an airplane which is loaded with the type of cask that would be used for the plutonium shipments. In addition we are seeking the preparation of an EIS for the development of the cask and for evaluation of the shipment routes and trans-shipment sites. As you probably know, we worked with Senator Murkowski to attach an amendment to the Senate version of the Energy Appropriations bill, which amendments would require crash testing of casks. We will continue to work for legislation which would not be limited in duration to the fiscal year and which covers both crash testing and the application of the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition, we will pursue appropriate judicial remedies as necessary. As you probably know, Judge Fitzgerald of the U.S. District Court in Alaska did not grant our request for a temporary restraining order on the grounds that our request was moot. This finding was based on the finalization of the U.S.-Japan agreement by the Secretaries of State and Energy in the intervening period between the

hearing on the TRO and the judge's decision. Despite this set back, there may be other junctures in the federal government's consideration of the plutonium issue which can be litigated. We are monitoring the process closely to ascertain if and when this becomes appropriate.

Thank you again for your support and views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Cowper
Governor

VII

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

December 17, 1987

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 123b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. S2153(b) (the "Act"), we are writing to advise you that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has concluded that the proposed Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, submitted to the Congress on November 9, 1987 (the "Agreement"), is not consistent with Section 123 of the Act. The Committee respectfully requests that you renegotiate the Agreement to bring it into conformity with U.S. law. If the Agreement is not renegotiated, then it must be resubmitted to the Congress with an exemption of statutory requirements, in accordance with Section 123a. of the Act, and must await affirmative action by Congress through enactment of a joint resolution of approval.

As made clear in the Conference Report accompanying the 1985 amendment to the Act, "(t)he Congress fully expects...that the President will resubmit any agreement for which he has not submitted an exemption if either (Foreign Affairs) Committee during the prior consultation period recommends that an exemption is required."

In submitting the Agreement to Congress, your Administration expressed the conclusion that the Agreement "meets all statutory requirements". The Committee cannot accept this assertion. The proposed Agreement would provide for thirty-year advance consent of extraction, transport and widespread commercial use of plutonium by Japan -- actvities which, as the Administration itself states, are "unprecedented in...nature and scope...." In our judgment, Section 123 of the Act unqualifiedly requires that the United States retain prior approval rights in its agreements for cooperation over the transfer and reprocessing of nuclear material. While the Administration asserts that these requirements are met, the Implementing Agreement exercises in Article 1 the consent rights provisions on a one-time basis for the life of the Agreement, a proposal totally incompatible with the provisions of the Act.

The Committee also has serious reservations about the finding that the Agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security--inasmuch as this determination was made arbitrarily in the face of serious, written objections from both the Department of Defense and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Committee also finds fault with the Administration's interpretation of the Act's requirements with regard to the "timely warning" criterion. Congress intended in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act for timely warning to be something more than a mere restatement of the general test of "inimicality" which the Act provides for subsequent arrangements. Rather, Congress intended timely warning to be a technically-based criterion, judged in light of the workability of safeguards and physical security measures. Since the Administration has not made such a determination, we do not believe that the exercise of consent rights in the Agreement is consistent with the requirements of Section 131b.(2) of the Act. Consequently, the safeguards and physical security criteria of Section 123 of the Act are not met.

The Committee is deeply concerned about the major policy implications of the precedents which would be established by entry into force of this Agreement. Testimony taken by the Committee indicates that the U.S. is preparing to give blanket authorization for the next 30 years to air-shipment of several hundred kilograms of weapons-usable plutonium each month over and through U.S. territory. Before embarking on such a perilous course -- which could seriously jeopardize our nonproliferation interests while posing a grave environmental risk -- we wish to consult with the Administration very closely. It is therefore our purpose in this letter to stop the "ninety day clock", and to begin a good faith dialogue with all parties on how the fundamental deficiencies in the Agreement can be corrected.

The Committee has reached these judgments of the basis of its own investigations, as well as its lengthy hearing conducted on December 15, 1987. Accordingly, the Committee finds that the Agreement must either be renegotiated, or, at a minimum, resubmitted with an exemption from the appropriate provisions of Section 123 of the Act. The Committee requests that your Administration communicate its intentions to the Chairman and to the Ranking Republican Member by January 11, 1988, in order to provide sufficient time to consider necessary legislative action and other remedial options.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman

Jesse Helms
Ranking Republican Member

Alan Cranston
Chairman,
Subcommittee on
Asia and Pacific
Affairs

Frank H. Murkowski
Ranking Republican Member,
Subcommittee on
Asia and Pacific
Affairs

John F. Kerry

Rudy Boschwitz

Paul Simon

Terry Sanford

Paul S. Sarbanes

Brock Adams

Daniel P. Moynihan

Christopher J. Dodd

Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Larry Pressler

Joseph R. Biden Jr.

VII C

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

December 11, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
446 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my deep concern about certain elements of the new agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Japan, which agreement was recently submitted to the Congress by the Reagan Administration.

We do not claim to be experts in nuclear nonproliferation policy or in certain other matters which are proper prerogatives of the federal government. Further, I recognize and support Japan's effort to diversify its sources of energy. However, we have carefully examined the health and safety aspects of the proposed agreement - matters which are appropriately within the state's purview - and believe that the agreement and accompanying environmental assessment demonstrate a disregard for possible detrimental effects on residents of Alaska.

In making this statement, I am aware that the agreement does not specify a particular transportation route or transshipment point within the United States. Yet, the initial reaction of certain Canadian officials, transportation efficiencies, domestic political considerations, and other factors have led us to conclude that Alaska presents the most likely transportation scenario.

For the people of my state, the relevant health and safety implications are clear-cut. Plutonium is the most toxic substance known to man. In our opinion, this fact can not be masked by the types of arithmetic calculations incorporated into the environmental assessment prepared by the Department of Energy.

Further, we believe that the analysis of health and safety considerations contained in the assessment is completely inadequate. For one thing, both the agreement and the assessment were concluded in secrecy. There has been no opportunity for analysis and input by outside experts.

Moreover, even though the agreement raises extremely important health, safety, and security issues, it has not been exposed to the rigors of a process culminating in the preparation of a true environmental impact statement. The environmental assessment's analysis of alternatives and consequences is superficial. Further, even a cursory reading of the assessment, which was prepared long after the agreement was negotiated, indicates that its true purpose is to support the Administration's decision to enter into the agreement rather than to present an objective array of options and possible results.

For these reasons, I directed the initiation of litigation against the federal government to require the preparation of an environmental impact statement which would properly address the health and safety issues raised by the agreement. The Departments of Energy and State succeeded in mooting this effort by submitting the agreement to the President before the judge could rule on our request. Unfortunately, the health, safety, and other issues remain, and in our opinion, the Congress does not now have an adequate analytic foundation upon which to premise its decision to approve or disapprove the agreement.

In these circumstances, I respectfully recommend the following course of action. First, the Congress should require the Administration to prepare a proper environmental impact statement, accompanied by the opportunity for public input, before the agreement and subsequent arrangement are approved or disapproved. (In making this suggestion, I recognize that if Congress does not act affirmatively, these arrangements will be deemed approved after a specified period.)

In our opinion, it is important that a programmatic environmental impact statement be prepared now. Otherwise, approval of the agreement at this juncture will create a momentum which will make it far more difficult for federal officials to make objective decisions later with respect to such specific matters as the selection of transportation routes and the approval of transportation casks. In other words, approval of the agreement now, without adequate analysis of alternatives and consequences, would create

expectations in Europe and Japan that could well bias subsequent decision-making on issues left undecided by the current proposal.

Second, we suggest that the Congress adopt a specific requirement for the preparation of a full environmental impact statement, with public input, at the time when the federal government begins to consider transportation routes and transshipment points across or within the United States. In our opinion, such a requirement already exists. However, there has been much ambiguity on the part of the Departments of State and Energy about how the National Environmental Policy Act may apply, if at all, to downstream decision-making under the agreement.

Third, we recommend that the Congress mandate the preparation of an environmental impact statement for decisions concerning the subsequent approval of a cask to transport plutonium under the agreement. Beyond this, we believe that successful air crash testing of the cask (rather than laboratory simulations alone) should be required as a prerequisite to cask approval. In this regard, past experience indicates that a cask might pass a physical test in a laboratory setting but fail in an air crash designed to approximate real world conditions.

To facilitate the committee's consideration of our suggestions, I have taken the liberty of enclosing statutory language which would accomplish the four objectives described above. I respectively urge that this language or a variant thereof be enacted into law in connection with Congressional consideration of the agreement. In making this request, I want to note the excellent efforts of Senator Frank Murkowski to incorporate some of these suggestions into other legislation.

The effects on public health and safety of an air crash or mishandling of plutonium oxide are almost too disastrous to describe and cannot be hidden in the bureaucratic prose of the environmental assessment. The negotiation of the proposed agreement and the concomitant analysis of environmental effects have been shrouded in secrecy until recently. We believe that enactment of the measures suggested here would help resolve the clear deficiencies in the current analytic process and would facilitate informed decision-making by the Congress and the executive branch on these matters of extreme importance to the people of my state.

If we can be of further assistance in your consideration of our suggestions, please call me (907) 465-3500 or John W. Katz (202) 624-5858. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

John W. Katz for
Steve Cowper
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young

Identical letters sent to all members of the Committee

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, plutonium in any form may not be transported by aircraft under the New Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation between the United States and Japan unless:

1. the Secretary of Energy prepares environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act which cover a. the new agreement between the United States and Japan b. the Subsequent Arrangement under the U.S.-EURATOM Agreement for Cooperation and c. shipment plans and cask approval which occur pursuant to the New Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation between the United States and Japan.

2. such plutonium is transported in a container which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has certified to Congress as safe in accordance with subsection (b) and all other applicable law including Public Law 94-79 and related regulations.

"(b) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall --

"(1) conduct an actual crash test of a cargo aircraft carrying a sample full scale container loaded with test material;

"(2) conduct an actual drop test from maximum cruising altitude of a sample full scale container loaded with test material;

"(3) certify to the Congress that a safe container for use in the transport of plutonium by aircraft has been developed and tested:

(A) in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2),

(B) in a way which uses the best practicable means to stimulate actual transport conditions, and

(C) which did not rupture and release its contents into the environment during such tests; and

"(4) evaluate the container certification required by Public Law 94-79 and paragraph (3) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Public Law 91-190, as amended, and all other applicable law.

"(c)(1) the tests required by subsection (b) shall be designed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after public notice and a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the design of such tests.

"(2) The results of all tests under this section shall be available to the public and submitted to the Congress.

"(d) Plutonium in any form contained in a medical device designed for individual human application is not subject to the provisions of this section.

VIII

Submitted by: Assemblyman Joe Evans
Prepared by: Assembly Members Joe Evans, Heather Flynn and Jim Barnett
For Reading: January 26, 1988

APPROVED
Date: 1-26-88

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 88-10(S1)

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PLUTONIUM SHIPMENTS THROUGH ANCHORAGE OR ALASKA UTILIZING FACILITIES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE UNDER A PROPOSED UNITED STATES NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

WHEREAS, the United States and Japanese governments have negotiated a 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement, beginning in the early 1990's, which would potentially permit the shipping of tens of thousands of pounds of plutonium, a long-lived, highly radioactive, extremely toxic substance; and

WHEREAS, the polar route planned for the shipments would necessitate mid-air refueling (which is currently only available for military aircraft) or a potential refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, technologically, secure airborne transportation of plutonium which meets the applicable requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not yet been developed and thoroughly tested; and

WHEREAS, the release of plutonium oxide powder could constitute a most serious public health hazard to humans and all living organisms in the Municipality of Anchorage resulting in death, cancer and agonizing disease; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of these shipments in aircraft

could expose the citizens of this municipality to a wide variety of potential dangers; and

WHEREAS, Alaska state law (AS 13.45.027) expressly prohibits the transportation of used nuclear reactor fuel except for disposal outside the state; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the legislative bodies of the Yukon and Greenland have unanimously approved resolutions which call for restricting the Arctic to uses that are environmentally safe; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has unanimously passed resolutions opposing the U.S.-Japan agreement (HJR 35 and SJR 42);

Section 1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly strongly opposes the section of the proposed 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Japan which would allow the polar route shipment of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan over Alaskan land and/or waters and potentially through the Municipality of Anchorage; and

Section 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Departments of Defense, Energy, and State be required to conduct a complete environmental impact study (EIS) examining all possible alternatives and their impacts before further consideration of this agreement; and

Section 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should: a) conduct an actual crash test of a cargo aircraft traveling at maximum cruising speed, appropriately loaded with sample full scale packages containing

test material; b) conduct a series of actual drop tests from maximum cruising altitude of full scale packages containing test material; and, c) publicly certify that the package is acceptably safe for use in the transport of plutonium by aircraft.

Section 4. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly respectfully requests that the Governor, the alaska State Legislature and Alaska's Congressional delegation 1) oppose the section of the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement relating to possible air shipment of plutonium through the United States; 2) seek the review and test conditions described herein; and, 3) work ardently to prevent the use of Alaskan air space and land for shipments of plutonium between Europe and Japan.

Section 5. This resolution is not intended to apply in any way to the potential homeporting of United States Naval vessels in Alaska.

Section 6. This resolution does not apply to plutonium in the form of nuclear weapons nor other shipments of plutonium directly connected with the United States national security or defense programs.

Section 7. This resolution shall become effective upon passage and approval by the Anchorage Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 1987.

_____
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION NO 11

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PLUTONIUM SHIPMENTS THROUGH ALASKAN AIRSPACE OR ON ALASKAN SOIL UNDER A PROPOSED UNITED STATES NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

WHEREAS, the United States and Japanese governments have negotiated a 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement, beginning in the early 1990s, which would potentially permit the shipping of tens of thousands of pounds of plutonium, a long-lived, highly radioactive, extremely toxic substance; and

WHEREAS, the polar route planned for the shipments would necessitate mid-air refueling (which is currently only available for military aircraft) or a refueling stop in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a fail-safe shipping cask for the safe, secure airborne transportation of plutonium which meets the applicable requirements of the Nuclear regulatory Commission (NRC) has not yet been developed and thoroughly tested; and

WHEREAS, the release of plutonium oxide powder could constitute a most serious public health hazard to humans and all living organisms in Alaska, resulting in death, cancer and agonizing disease; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of these shipments in aircraft could expose the citizens of this State to a wide variety of potential dangers; and

WHEREAS, Alaska state law (AS 18.45.027) expressly prohibits the transportation of used nuclear reactor fuel except for disposal outside the state; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the legislative bodies of the Yukon and Greenland have unanimously approved resolutions which call for restricting the Arctic to uses that are environmentally safe; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has unanimously passed resolutions opposing the U.S.-Japan agreement (HJR 35 and SJR 42);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League strongly opposed the proposed 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Japan which would allow the polar route shipment of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan over Alaskan land and/or waters; and

(OVER)

By: Joe Ryan
Valerie Therrien
Introduced: 12/10/87
Substituted: 12/17/87
Amended: 12/17/87
Adopted: 12/17/87

RESOLUTION NO. 87-113 (Fairbanks, AK Borough Assembly)

A RESOLUTION REGARDING PLUTONIUM SHIPMENTS UNDER A PROPOSED UNITED STATES NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

WHEREAS, the U.S. and Japanese governments have negotiated a 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement which would permit the shipping of plutonium as reprocessed reactor fuel from reprocessing plants in Europe to Japan; and

WHEREAS, the shipments would begin by air carrier in the early 1990's and would occur every two weeks in amounts of 500 to 600 pounds each, which is enough plutonium to build 40 atomic bombs of the size dropped on Nagasaki in 1945; and

WHEREAS, the polar route planned for the shipments may necessitate mid-air refueling or a refueling stop in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a cask for the economical and safe transportation of plutonium that meets the requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not been developed; and

WHEREAS, plutonium is a long-lived, highly radioactive, and extremely toxic material which is used to construct nuclear weapons and as a fuel in nuclear reactors; and

WHEREAS, a loophole in the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2011-2296) may allow the cask standards of the NRC to be overlooked in favor of the standards of the International atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which require the cask to meet only 1/10th of the impact velocity required by the NRC; and

WHEREAS, the shipped plutonium will be in the form of plutonium oxide powder, which is easily airborne, and minute quantities of which can cause cancer if ingested; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a terrorist attack, in-flight mechanical failure, mid-air refueling collision, crash on landing or take-off, the public health and environmental threat to the people of Alaska and in other countries exposed to hundreds of pounds of liberated powdered plutonium oxide would be catastrophic; and

WHEREAS, the execution of the agreement would mean U.S. concurrence in the development of a plutonium-fueled nuclear industry, which would result in the increased proliferation of plutonium and the attendant danger of nuclear weapons coming into the possession of there nations and terrorist groups; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the legislative bodies of Yukon and Greenland have unanimously approved resolutions which call for restricting the arctic region to uses that are environmentally safe; and

WHEREAS, resolutions in the Alaska State Legislature opposing the U.S. - Japan nuclear cooperation agreement (HJR 33 and SJR 83) have passed unanimously in their respective bodies; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association Recently approved a resolution opposing the proposed nuclear cooperation agreement as a serious public health threat; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly strongly opposes the proposed 30-year nuclear cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Japan which would allow the polar route shipment of plutonium by air between Europe and Japan resulting in mid-air refueling over Alaska or stopovers in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. government by required by Congress to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact study (EIS) examining all possible alternatives and their impacts before further consideration of the agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. government be required by Congress to establish and adhere to the existing crash standards of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for casks involving a real (rather than simulated) crash of an airplane under realistic flight conditions; and be it

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly respectfully requests the Governor and Alaska's congressional delegation to 1) actively oppose this agreement, 2) seek the review and test conditions described above and 3) ensure the prevention of plutonium shipments on or over Alaskan land or waters, 4) actively support the Murkowski/Proxmire amendment to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill (HR-3708) or a similar amendment which will as a minimum, which will require a free fall drop test and fully loaded crash test of a 747 from cruising altitude a of the plutonium cask before

any shipments occur, and 5) actively support a congressional action to return the nuclear cooperation agreement to the administration for revisions which will assure the health and safety of alaskans and minimize the chances of nuclear proliferation and/or terrorism.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1987

Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Assembly

Final Plutonium Air-Transport Cask Aircraft Crash-Testing Amendment (Markowski-Proxmire Amendment) IX

[Reported by Conference Committee - 12/17/87, Passed by Congress - 12/21/87]

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To prohibit the transportation of plutonium by aircraft between foreign countries through United States air space in containers not determined safe by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

On page ___, line ___ insert the following:

SEC. ___. TRANSPORTATION OF PLUTONIUM BY AIRCRAFT THROUGH AIR SPACE OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no form of plutonium may be transported by aircraft through the air space of the United States from a foreign nation to a foreign nation unless the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has certified to Congress that the container in which such plutonium is transported is safe, as determined in accordance with subsection (b), the second undesignated paragraph under section 201 of Public Law 94-79 (89 Stat. 413; 42 U.S.C.5841 note), and all other applicable laws.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION.-

(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall determine whether the container referred to in subsection (a)(2) is safe for use in the transportation of plutonium by aircraft and transmit to Congress a certification for the purpose of such subsection in the case of each container determined to be safe.

(2) In order to make a determination with respect to a container under paragraph (1), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall--

(A) require an actual drop test from maximum cruising altitude of a full-scale sample of such container loaded with test material; and

(B) require an actual crash test of a cargo aircraft fully loaded with full-scale samples of such container loaded with test material; unless the Commission determines, after consultation with an independent scientific review panel, that the stresses on the container produced by other tests used in developing the container exceed the stresses which would occur during a worst case plutonium air shipment accident.

(3) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may not certify under this section that a container is safe for use in the transportation of plutonium by aircraft if the container ruptured or released its contents during testing conducted in accordance with paragraph (2).

(4) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall evaluate the container certification required by Public Law 94-79 (89 Stat. 413; 42 U.S.C. 5841 note) and paragraph (2) of subsection (a) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) and all other applicable law.

(c) CONTENT OF CERTIFICATION.--A certification referred to in subsection (a)(2) with respect to a container shall include-

(1) the determination of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as to the safety of such container;

(2) a statement that the requirements of subsection (b)(2) were satisfied in the testing of such container; and

(3) a statement that the container did not rupture or release its contents into the environment during testing.

NUCLEAR CONTROL INSTITUTE
1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 704, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 822-8444

December 23, 1987

Press Advisory

SENATE AND HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES
REJECT U.S.-JAPAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT AS UNLAWFUL;
CONGRESS CURBS JAPANESE PLUTONIUM AIR SHIPMENTS OVER U.S.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee each has notified the President that he should withdraw and renegotiate a new U.S.-Japan nuclear-cooperation agreement because it does not meet requirements of U.S. nuclear non-proliferation law.

In a related action, Congress enacted a law requiring that casks to be used for air shipments of highly toxic Japanese plutonium be subjected to an actual, worst-case crash test of a cargo plane before such flights can take place over or through the United States.

Both actions, taken in the closing days before the Congressional recess, were responsive to specific proposals made by the Nuclear Control Institute. Paul Leventhal, president of the Institute, commented: "The new U.S.-Japan nuclear agreement is illegal and dangerous. It should not be permitted to go forward in its present form. The identical actions taken by the Senate and House committees should assure that it does not. The new law requiring actual crash testing of plutonium air-shipment casks might block any Japanese plutonium flights from passing through U.S. airspace. Some experts believe that no cask can be developed to survive a worst-case crash of a high-flying aircraft."

The action of the Senate and House committees was taken pursuant to a law signed by President Reagan in 1985. The law provides that either committee, during an initial 30-day consultation period, can notify the President that he must renegotiate a legally defective nuclear-cooperation agreement or resubmit it with an exemption from legal requirements. In the latter case, Congress must approve the agreement before it can take effect; otherwise, an agreement that is found by the committees to meet all legal requirements would take effect automatically 90 days after submittal to Congress.

The Nuclear Control Institute, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, proposed the rejection of the agreement by the procedure eventually followed by the two Committees. Both committees acted within the required 30 days and thereby stopped the "ninety day clock," according to nearly

identical letters sent to the President. Both letters were signed by majorities of the committees: 15 of 18 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and 23 of 45 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. [Copies of the signed letters are attached.]

The Institute also issued a report last March disclosing that air-shipment casks being developed for transport of Japanese plutonium from Europe to Japan had failed to survive simulated crash tests on the ground. In the report, the Institute proposed that there be an actual crash test a cargo plane fully loaded with casks containing dummy material before such flights are permitted over or through the United States.

Under the terms of the U.S.-Japan agreement, Japanese plutonium flights, each containing hundreds of pounds of plutonium powder (enough to cause millions of cases of cancer) would pass over the northern United States two or three times a month, with a refueling stop in Anchorage or perhaps Seattle. The Institute's report prompted the introduction of the Murkowski-Proxmire amendment to require actual crash testing, which was enacted into law. [A copy of the amendment as approved by a House-Senate conference committee is attached, with related items.]

Leventhal, commenting on the recent Congressional actions, said:

"The Committees' action represents an historic rejection of the Reagan Administration's policy to permit widespread foreign use of plutonium, a nuclear weapons material, as fuel for nuclear power reactors. It is also a sharp rebuke of Ambassador-at-Large Richard T. Kennedy, who championed this policy and negotiated the agreement.

"U.S. non-proliferation law was written to inhibit the spread of plutonium that is produced through use of U.S.-supplied nuclear fuel and reactors and, therefore, is under U.S. control. By negotiating an agreement with Japan that accelerates this spread, the Reagan Administration has violated the law and jeopardized vital U.S. interests.

"Commercial use of plutonium inside the United States was also stopped by Congressional action because of the extraordinary security and health risks and the high economic costs involved. These risks and costs apply to Japan as well, especially in view of the vast quantities of plutonium that Japan plans to acquire through use of U.S.-supplied nuclear fuel and reactors.

"Indeed, Japan, under this agreement, would acquire more plutonium than the 200 tons now contained in U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons combined. Japan's motives are peaceful, but the same cannot be said of radical states or terrorists who might gain access to Japanese plutonium. Plutonium is a nuclear explosive that is also highly toxic; 15 pounds is enough for a bomb, a mere speck can cause cancer. A single bomb made from stolen plutonium, a single crash of a plutonium-laden cargo plane, could alter the course of history."

The Nuclear Control Institute is a non-profit research center that deals primarily with nuclear-proliferation problems. The Institute's Senate testimony, which provides a detailed analysis of the U.S.-Japan agreement and of the options available to Congress, is available upon request.

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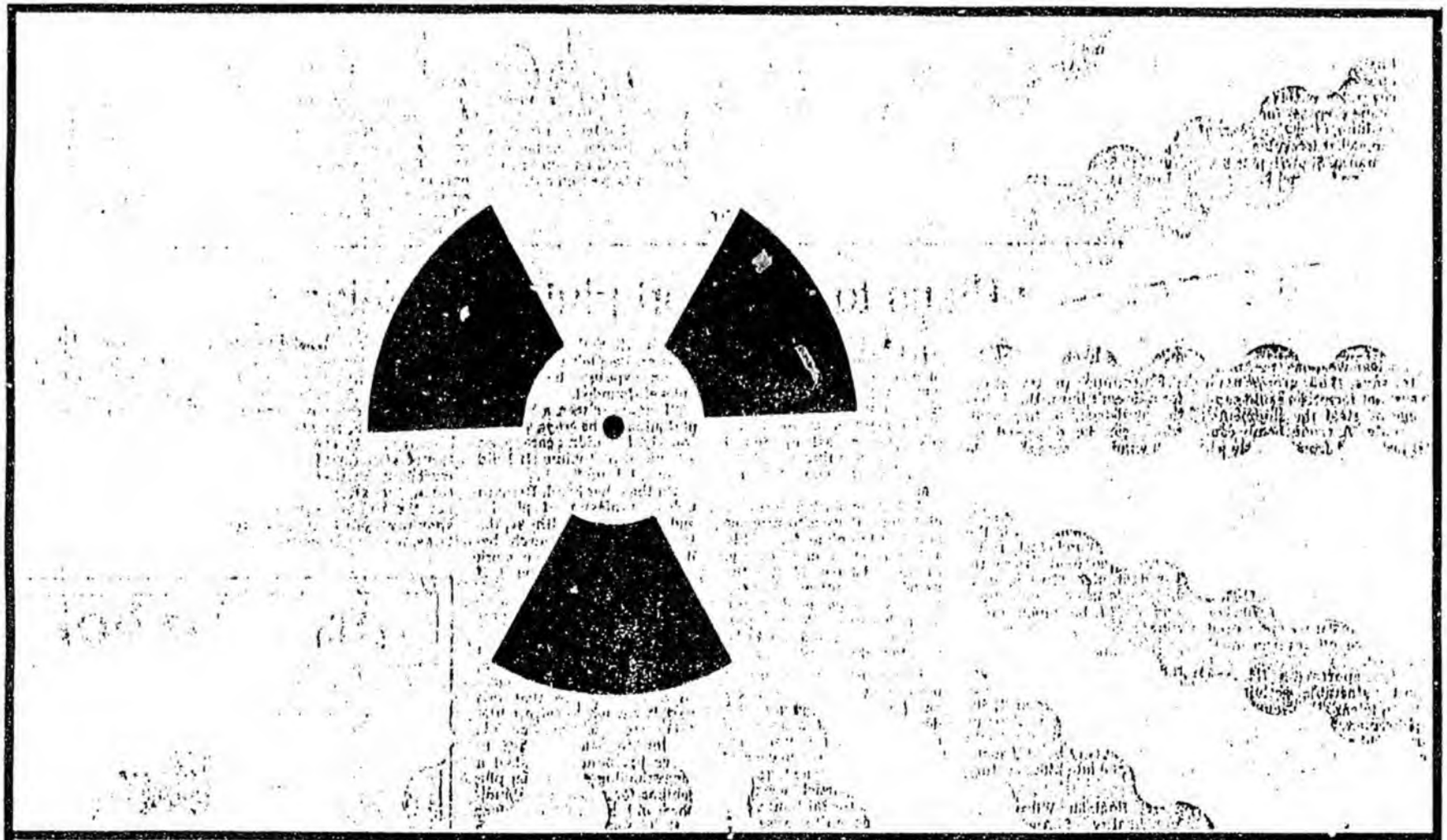

DEADLY CARGO

How safe would it be to fly plutonium over Anchorage skies?

How safe would it be to fly plutonium over Anchorage skies?

By DEBBIE McKINNEY
Daily News reporter

Alaskans go about their day, oblivious to the rumble of a Boeing 747 approaching from the north, 38,000 feet over their heads. Inside the jet, quarantined deep within 6,000-pound steel cylinders, is a substance that looks as innocuous as sand.

But this flight is guarded by armed men and monitored by satellite. So formidable is this cargo that public knowledge of it could threaten national security.

Inside the cylinders is one of the most powerful and deadly elements on Earth: plutonium oxide. A particle too small to see could cause terminal cancer if inhaled. And the plane roaring overhead contains 600 pounds of such particles.

The jet cruises over Elk Lake, dropping to 2,000 feet on approach to Anchorage International Airport. Then the unthinkable happens. A small plane obscured by clouds slams into the jet's side, ripping through the fuselage.

Startled by the explosion, people below squint toward the sky as fiery debris plunges toward the ground. Then it starts raining sand. Those who watch haven't a clue what it is or how it will change their lives.

□

This scenario is not beyond the realm of possibility. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, there have been 158 midair collisions in the United States in the past 6½ years. Eight of them occurred in Alaska.

What such a crash would mean is just one of many questions yet to be answered by those considering routing plutonium through the state.

An agreement being negotiated between the United States and Japan would give a 30-year blanket approval for jumbo jets carrying U.S.-supplied plutonium to fly from reprocessing plants in Europe to Japan. Although a route has yet to be chosen, "the option" being considered includes refueling stops in Alaska, most likely Anchorage.

The transporting of plutonium by air was stopped in 1975 after about a half-dozen such flights passed through Kennedy International Airport in New York. Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, at the time a physics professor at State University of New York in Buffalo and among those who urged Congress to stop the shipments, calculated that 2.8 pounds of plutonium released in a crash could cause as many as 500,000 people to develop lung cancer. If winds were high and the plutonium widely scattered, he testified, 100,000 people eventually would die.

The U.S. State Department is reluctant to discuss details of the proposed agreement. One spokesman says information is vague because details have not been worked out. But the plan, only one component of a major nuclear cooperation agreement, is expected to be signed by President Reagan within weeks. If subsequently approved by Congress, plutonium shipments could resume as soon as 1990.

Gov. Steve Cowper, late Sen. Rick Uehling and other Alaskans are finding this prospect unsettling for one main reason: Containers large enough to make these shipments economical, yet strong enough to survive a midair collision, do not exist. Although the government insists no shipments will be made until such a cask is designed, state officials want assurance before the agreement is signed.

The Nuclear Control Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based non-proliferation group, was the first to raise questions regarding the safety of the proposed flights. Its board of directors includes a former chief of naval development, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer on modern warfare, and a former member of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The group doubts that plutonium can be transported safely by air in quantities suggested by the agreement.

If the plan is approved, the institute estimates 45 metric tons of plutonium would be shipped to Japan by the year 2000, as many as two flights each month. The casks being developed weigh 5,000 pounds and hold about 15 pounds of plutonium each. According to NRC data, a 747 cargo plane could carry up to 40 such casks for a total of 600 pounds of plutonium per flight.

Among the institute's concerns is the spread of nuclear material. If Japan were to rebuild its military, it would have the plutonium to devel-

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HOW PLUTONIUM AFFECTS YOUR BODY

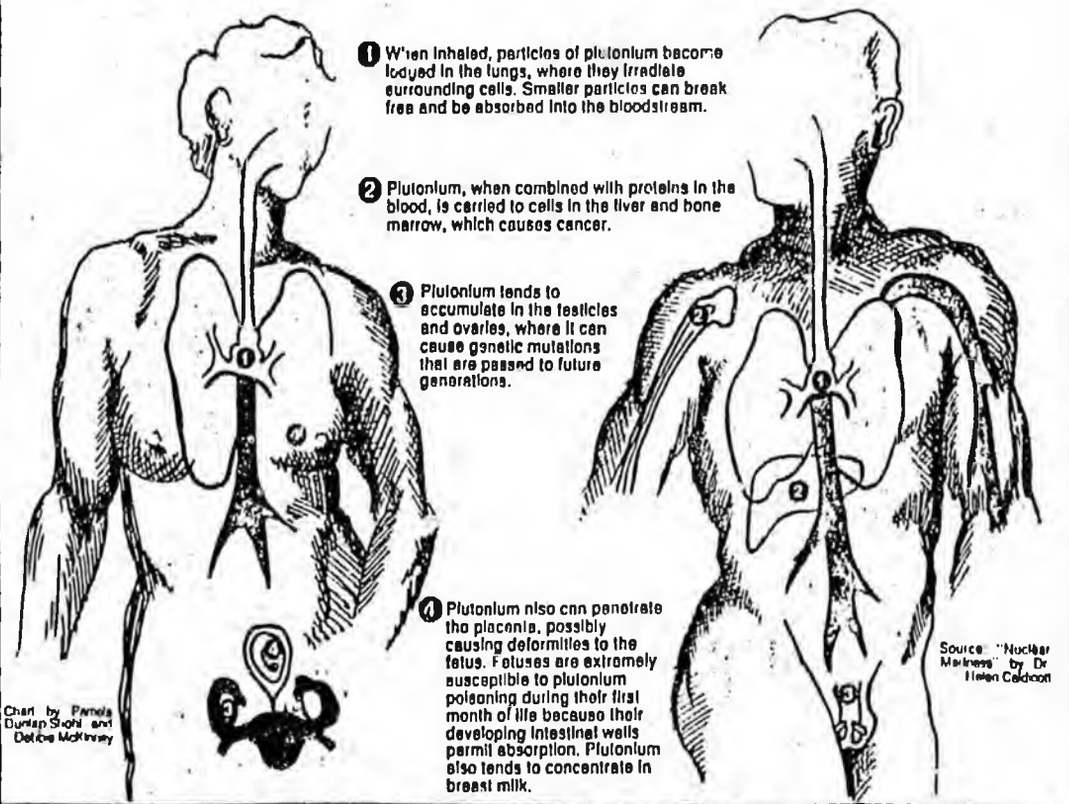

Chart by Pamela Dunlap Slight and Debbie McKinney

Element presents two-edged sword

By DEBBIE McKINNEY
Daily News reporter

Pluto, mythical god of the underworld and ruler of the dead, was worshipped by ancient Greeks and Romans. But he was also feared. Subjects turned their faces away while sacrificing black sheep upon his altar.

Like the god from which its name is derived, the element plutonium is a dichotomy, with the capacity to promote life — and destroy it. At least 1,500 Americans owe longer lives to plutonium-powered pacemakers in their chests. These heart-stimulating devices contain less than one-hundredth of an ounce of plutonium. Even so, wearers are asked to notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when they leave the country.

Dr. Helen Caldicott, in her book "Nuclear Madness," describes how plutonium affects the body.

Plutonium molecules are large and therefore not easily absorbed directly into the body through the skin or gastrointestinal tract. But when inhaled, particles become lodged in the lungs, where they bathe surrounding tissues with alpha radiation. Smaller particles may break loose and be absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream. Because plutonium has properties similar to iron, it combines with proteins in the blood and is carried to cells in the liver and bone marrow, where it irradiates surrounding cells.

The human body is made up of more than 10 trillion cells, which take in nutrients, excrete wastes, produces proteins and reproduce themselves. Radiation inflicts damage by ionizing, or altering, the electrical charge of the atoms and molecules that comprise these cells.

In controlled doses, radiation is used to kill cancerous cells, explains Dr. Darwin Zellmer, chief of medical physics at Providence Hospital. Radiation at large, however, can cause one of several things to happen. The radiation may pass through a cell without causing damage. It may cause

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DEADLY CARGO: Plans to transport plutonium raise questions

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op nuclear weapons, the institute says. The group also fears that terrorists could sabotage or steal the shipments en route. A crude bomb can be fashioned from as little as 13 pounds of plutonium oxide.

"Anyone who thinks terrorists aren't cunning and ruthless enough to pull off a nuclear attack has forgotten the Munich Olympics, the showdown at Entebbe and the shooting of the pope," Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.) told members of the Nuclear Control Institute-sponsored conference on international terrorism.

"Transportation is the most vulnerable activity in the nuclear fuel cycle," a spokesman for the State Department admits. But the government will take "extraordinary measures" to ensure the safety of these shipments, he says.

"I think the likelihood of terrorist action is very low ... and the likelihood that it would succeed is zero."

Although the form in which the plutonium would be shipped -- plutonium oxide — could reach critical mass and create an atomic explosion if huge quantities were compressed, the chance of that happening during a midair collision is extremely remote. Alan Kuperman, a researcher for the Institute, says a crash releasing plutonium into the environment is much more likely.

Plutonium in its oxide form doesn't burn. But it has the consistency of fine sand, which can be dispersed by high winds. Because the oxide is relatively heavy, the State Department says no more than 25 acres — the equivalent of six city blocks — would be contaminated in the event of a ground crash. However, if the oxide were released at high altitude in a midair collision, contamination could be much more widespread.

Since plutonium is highly radioactive, an accident could be particularly nasty. Plutonium has a half-life of 24,400 years. If a spill were to occur today, its radioactivity would be reduced only by half sometime by the late 246th century A.D.

Dr. Rodman Wilson, the Municipality of Anchorage's top health official, is greatly concerned about the proposed shipments. "I strongly disapprove of that kind of transport through Alaska," he says. "So far as I know, plutonium is the most dangerous toxic substance ever discovered or invented by man. There is no minimum safe level. Every atom is destructive. If there was a spill at Elmendorf or Anchorage International, it might close the airport forever."

Plutonium's primary use is in making nuclear bombs. It was first synthesized in America in 1940. The fission of 6 kilograms leveled Nagasaki, Japan, killing 36,000 people and injuring 40,000 others at the end of World War II.

A less explosive form of plutonium is used to produce power. Plutonium fuels only a few reactors in Germany, France and Japan. Most of the world's 374 commercial nuclear plants are powered by uranium because it's cheaper, much less toxic and cannot be used to make weapons.

Plutonium can be one of most carcinogenic substances on Earth when inhaled. A dose the size of a speck of dust can start a tumor capable of killing in a matter of months. Some scientists say an invisible particle weighing as little as one-millionth of a gram is enough to cause cancer.

Scientist Harry Daghlian is said to be plutonium's first American victim. On Aug. 21, 1945, two weeks after Nagasaki, a plutonium experiment at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico went awry, dousing Daghlian with a fierce dose of radiation. A month later he was dead.

Dr. Glenn Shaw is a professor of physics at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks who monitored radiation levels in Alaska after the Chernobyl disaster. People's fears of plutonium exposure, he believes, are well-founded.

"I've never seen a hunk of plutonium," he says. "And, frankly, I wouldn't care to see a hunk of plutonium. If I did see one, I'd run."

On the other hand, Bernard Cohen, professor of physics and radiation health at the University of Pittsburgh, believes plutonium is no more dangerous than caffeine — if swallowed.

If swallowed, only one part per 10,000 is likely to get through the gastrointestinal tract into the bloodstream, Cohen says. While some scientists would argue that one part is enough to set a mutation cycle in motion, Cohen is willing to eat the stuff to prove his point. He's had a long-standing offer to eat plutonium for a television audience and has told consumer activist Ralph Nader that he would eat as much plutonium as Nader would drink caffeine. Cohen has not, however, offered to breathe it.

"Anybody who wants to get people upset about plutonium has an ax to grind," Cohen says. "The important thing about plutonium is that it could provide all the electrical power this world would need for the next billion years. It would be the answer to our energy problems forever."

But critics say the risks of nuclear power outweigh the benefits. The disasters at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island, they say, have proven the impossible can happen.

In the 1960s, two U.S. military planes carrying nuclear warheads crashed. In both cases, the detonators — but not the bombs — blew up, spewing plutonium over large, mostly unpopulated areas.

In 1966, when a B-52 bomber and a tanker collided over Palomares, Spain, more than 1,400 tons of soil and vegetation were contaminated. Clean-up cost $500 million.

In the winter of 1968, another B-52 bomber crashed near Thule, Greenland. It took 1,400 Americans and 100

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EFFECTS: A little plutonium goes a long way

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damage, but the cell may be able to recover before it divides. The radiation may kill the cell. Or, the cell may be damaged in such a way that the damage is repeated when it divides. Such mutations, Zellmer says, result in malignancy.

The affects of radiation are cumulative. The risk of developing cancer may depend on how many other carcinogens a person is exposed to. The greater the exposure, the more difficult it is for cellular repair systems to keep damage under control.

"It's like ... playing darts," Zellmer says. "The more you're exposed — the more darts you throw — the more likely you're going to hit a bull's-eye."

Adopt a Pet

These little kittens are available for adoption! They are all 10 weeks old, 2 are female (tortoise color, and gray/white) and 2 are male (black/brown and white). Adoption fees are $70 each, with $50 refunded after shots & neutering.

To adopt a pet - Come to the Animal Control Center at 3600 Tudor Road. 12:00pm-6:30pm, M-F; 12:00pm-4:00pm, S-S. Adoption fee is $15 plus shots and neutering costs. A refundable deposit is held until animals have been licensed and spayed.

DEADLY CARGO

Continued from Page J-2

Danes four months in the arctic darkness to retrieve radioactive debris and remove 1.4 million gallons of contaminated snow, ice and water. Clean-up that time cost $300 million.

"The potential exists that aircraft would crash within our jurisdiction," says Jack Cervantes, director of emergency management for the municipality of Anchorage. "Depending on what type of containers they come up with, we could have to deal with a hazardous waste materials spill of catastrophic proportions."

In 1984, a DC-10 cargo plane crashed and burned after running into a commuter plane at Anchorage International Airport. In 1975, the fuselage of a Japan Air Lines 747 was cracked after the plane was blown off an icy runway at Anchorage International by a gust of wind.

Low-level radioactive materials, such as X-ray supplies and other pharmaceuticals, are flown through Anchorage all the time, Cervantes says. In fact, many planes carry low-level uranium as ballast in their wings and tail sections.

A city response team within the Anchorage Fire Department is trained to deal with low-level contamination. But the strongest radioactive material the team has worked with, Cervantes says, is cobalt 60, used in condensers to measure soil compaction. "(Plutonium) is something that's 100 times more powerful than what we're used to dealing with."

The municipality and the local military bases have a mutual-aid agreement, meaning they can call upon each other for help in emergencies. A spokesman for Elmendorf Air Force Base says military teams are trained to respond to high-level radioactive spills. But if the government decides to ship plutonium through Anchorage, Cervantes wants the city's response team to be prepared, as well. He says he'll request special training and equipment if and when the time comes.

Japan has been shipping its spent reactor fuel to Europe for reprocessing for years — but by sea, not by air. Spent fuel rods are literally too hot to handle and cannot be used to make weapons. It's the return trip carrying reprocessed, high-grade plutonium that's causing all the commotion.

Reprocessing is a clean-up procedure in which plutonium and uranium are separated from other highly radioactive fission by-products. Construction of the United State's only commercial reprocessing plant in Barnwell, S.C., was halted in 1984 when the government determined reprocessing for civilian use was uneconomical and unsafe. Spent fuel from domestic reactors is stored on-site instead.

The last time a large amount of plutonium was transported from reprocessing plants in Europe to Japan was in 1984. The shipment of 557 pounds of plutonium left the French port of Cherbourg at night and was escorted through the English Channel by three British warships. Once on the open sea, the Japanese ship was under constant satellite surveillance, with 10 U.S. warships and 40 armed men standing by as it crossed the Atlantic. The U.S. Coast Guard accompanied it through the Panama Canal. Then, three U.S. warships, the Coast Guard and Japanese patrol boats intermittently escorted the vessel until it reached Tokyo Bay.

The voyage took 41 days. After that, the United States and Japan agreed that future shipments would be made by air in order to reduce the amount of time the shipment would be vulnerable.

The Scheuer Amendment of 1975, sponsored by Congressman James H. Scheuer (D-N.Y.), prohibited the NRC from licensing air transport of plutonium until a cask capable of remaining intact in a midair collision could be certified.

Since then, crash-proof casks capable of carrying only small amounts of plutonium have been certified. Now, at least three companies are trying to design casks large enough to make plutonium shipments on the scale needed for overseas transport. One such cask was tested at Sandia National Laboratory last summer using standards set by the NRC. According to Alan Kuperman of the Nuclear Control Institute, the cask was propelled by rocket into a concrete and steel wall at 288 mph — the maximum cruising speed for airplanes flying under 10,000 feet. The cask failed.

Some engineers doubt a large, crash-proof cask can ever be built. Since Japan must import about 90 percent of its energy needs, the institute and others are worried that economic and diplomatic pressures may whittle away at loopholes in the Scheuer Amendment, allowing the casks to slip by NRC certification, and instead be approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations-related agency created in 1956 that sets minimum safety standards for international transport. IAEA standards are dramatically lower; the casks need only survive a 30-mph impact.

A State Department spokesman says the suggestion that casks would have to satisfy only IAEA standards "is absolutely false." If the

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DEADLY CARGO

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casks did not meet NRC standards, he says, "the shipments would not be made."

The issue of shipping plutonium, in some ways, parallels the issue of nuclear waste. The problem of how to dispose of high-level nuclear waste was unsolved at the time a commitment was made to develop a nuclear power industry.

The first large-scale nuclear power plant in the United States was built outside of Pittsburgh in 1957. Since then, the industry has proposed injecting nuclear waste into the sea floor, depositing it on polar ice caps and shooting it into outer space. All methods have serious environmental complications. As nuclear wastes pile up in temporary dump sites across the country, the search continues for a state willing to open the first permanent dump for high-level nuclear waste.

To those who oppose the shipments, it makes more sense to address all the issues before the agreement is signed. But the agreement, a State Department official explains, amounts to two or three pages of a 200-page document covering a wide range of foreign policy topics.

Although the agreement says nothing specific about the proposed flights stopping in Alaska, the tremendous weight of the casks would make refueling necessary. The polar route offers the shortest distance between Europe and Japan. If this route is chosen, Canada, the Soviet Union and Alaska are the only possible pit stops along the way. According to the State Department spokesman, if refueling is necessary, Alaska is the most logical place to do it.

Nobody can or will say whether plutonium shipments eventually will pass through Alaska. At a press conference earlier this month, Sen. Frank Murkowski said government officials are considering alternative routes and ways to avoid refueling stops altogether.

Murkowski answered reporters' questions regarding the shipments while fondling a paperweight-sized cylinder of deactivated, vitrified nuclear waste — a souvenir from the nuclear reprocessing plants he recently toured in Europe. The cylinder represented the waste produced after supplying an average French family with power from 1956 to the year 2000, he noted.

In the meantime, state Sen. Rick Uehling has introduced a resolution opposing shipments being routed through the state. Copies have been sent to President Reagan, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In addition, Gov. Steve Cowper has asked the federal government to prepare an environmental impact statement before proceeding any further in negotiations with Japan. The National Environmental Policy Act requires preparation of an EIS for major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

"This agreement could have tremendous consequences for the health and safety of Alaskans, as well as for the state environment," Cowper wrote in his letter to Secretary of State George Shultz. "... I have concluded that there are a number of critical unanswered questions regarding this agreement."

As far as Cowper is concerned, preparing an EIS after the fact just won't do. Once the president and Congress have approved the 30-year agreement, "it is difficult to perceive how a truly objective analysis of possible airport sites, safety measures and other relevant considerations could occur."

Cowper has yet to hear from the State Department regarding his request.

Plutonium flight foes face tough fight

By DAVID WHITNEY
Daily News reporter

WASHINGTON — Strong reservations, if not outright opposition, are emerging in the Congress to a proposed agreement that would grant U.S. approval for flying large quantities of deadly weapons-grade plutonium across U.S. territory from European reprocessing plants to nuclear power stations in Japan.

The opposition comes as two congressional committees prepare for hearings next week on a controversial 30-year agreement between the United States and Japan.

But congressional aides freely acknowledge that the fact that the treaty will take effect unless Congress specifically disapproves it — and the fact Congress has only 90 days to do so — will make it difficult to derail.

"We have very serious concerns," said Randy Rydell, an aide to U.S. Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, "but I must say, it is going to be very hard to stop this agreement."

The agreement, sent to Congress late last month, would result in as much as 500 pounds of plutonium being flown every other week to Japan.

The Japanese plan to follow a polar route, with a refueling stop in Alaska. But because of growing Canadian opposition to the overflights, refueling stops in Washington state or California also are a possibility.

The possibility of a Washington stopover has alarmed Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., chairman of the international trade subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Bonker's committee will hold a hearing on the proposal next Wednesday. "I have strong reservations about the proposed agreement," Bonker said Tuesday. "There are disturbing issues associated with air transportation over the continental United States."

Leading the opposition on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will hold a hearing next Tuesday, will be Senate Majority Whip Alan Cranston of California.

According to aide Gerald Warburg, Cranston believes the proposed agreement flatly violates the 1978 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act.

"This is a major policy departure — the use of tons of plutonium by a non-nuclear weapons state as a routine practice of commerce and energy production," Warburg said. "The

See Page C-3, PLUTONIUM

PLUTONIUM: Congressional flight foes face a difficult battle

Continued from Page C-1

senator believes it should — and will — be challenged."

Of primary concern is a "timely warning" provision in the non-proliferation act. The provision was intended to ensure that the United States be given adequate warning to respond militarily in the event that any "extractable nuclear material" was intercepted by terrorists.

Warburg said the proposed agreement makes that provision meaningless because, given the right technical skills that are easily attainable, anyone seizing a shipment of the reprocessed plutonium can "plug it in" to a bomb.

"There is no time if it is pure plutonium," said Worburg, who worked with former Rep. Jack Bingham, D-N.Y., in writing that provision. "All you need is imminently useable weapons-grade plutonium to make a bomb.

"That 'timely warning' provision was written specifically to prevent commercial use of pure plutonium for this reason," the Cranston aide said.

Under the original proposal, the plutonium would fly over a polar route with a stopover in Alaska.

However, such a flight would require an aircraft to fly through Canadian airspace. Canada's Transport Minister, John Crosbie, said last month that his country would bar such flights — at least temporarily.

Another likely option, according to several sources, including Warburg and the Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute, is a route over the northern tier of the continental United States, with a refueling stop in the Seattle area.

Bonker said such a possibility has piqued his interest.

"It's clear that they can't fly over Canada," Bonker said. "We ought to have a better view of the transportation corridor."

Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also has been alarmed about the flights. He has offered amendments to two bills requiring that the as-yet undeveloped casks that would carry the deadly material be subjected to actual crash tests.

The Republican lawmaker said he would be pressing to modify the proposed agreement to require that the plutonium be moved by U.S. military aircraft — at Japan's expense — that will be refueled in midair.

Murkowski ran into problems of his own Tuesday when the Nuclear Control Institute, which is concerned about non-proliferation issues, claimed that his amendments to a veterans bill approved by the Senate last week weakened his previous efforts on a spending bill to toughen requirements for developing a transportation cask.

Murkowski aide Tom Roberts said the newly passed amendments do not require crash-testing an aircraft carrying a full cadre of transportation casks at cruising speed, as did the earlier bill.

Roberts said the amendments require that the tests be conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after its plan has been submitted for public comment and review — an idea intended to give more technical credence to the testing standards.

According to Alan Kuperman of the institute, however, the latest Murkowski amendment "is greatly weakened from its predecessor on the energy and water appropriations bill and may not adequately guarantee the health and safety of Americans experiencing these overflights."

98 percent pure.

Assemblyman Paul Barry said the state should have mentioned the limestone deposits in its letter to Davidge announcing the proposed closure.

The Nov. 20 letter was signed

lowlands region and 21,803 acres in the Mt. Susitna region to mineral entry received the assembly's endorsement Tuesday night. The regions are part of the Susitna Area Plan.

Times photo by Al Grillo

Holiday notes

Becky Bartholomew of Dimond High School plays viola during the Anchorage Youth Symphony Christmas concert at the Egan Center Tuesday night.

Senators blast plutonium flight proposal

By Jack Dolan
States News Service

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration's proposal to allow plutonium-carrying flights from Europe to Japan that cross American airspace received a cool reception on Capitol Hill Tuesday.

In addition to the potential danger posed by the transportation of the highly toxic material, which might require a refueling stop in Alaska, Democratic senators blasted the treaty because it would expand nuclear power use in Japan.

"I am absolutely outraged that something like this would be proposed," said Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on a proposed U.S.-Japan treaty to allow the plutonium shipments. "What we are about to establish is another plutonium regime."

Adams' state, and other northern tier U.S. states, also could have the plutonium-carrying airplanes cross their airspace if a polar route that would cross Canadian airspace is barred.

Under the most logical scenarios for the Europe-to-Japan flights, either Alaska or Washington would be the refueling point. Whether military or commercial airports would be used has not been established.

Critics of the accord say it will be difficult to get Congress to reject the treaty. It has until early next year to disapprove it.

Signed by the United States and Japan in November, the 30-year agreement would allow Japan to ship by air large amounts of bomb-grade plutonium from Europe, with refueling stops possibly to take place in Alaska. It would alter the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in that it would no longer require case-by-case U.S. approval of plutonium shipments.

Japan, a nation short on natural resources, wants the plutonium to run nuclear plants that generate electricity. Under the accord, Japan could not use the plutonium for nuclear weapons production.

Plutonium is considered more dangerous than other radioactive materials because only about 15 kilograms (30 pounds) are needed to make a bomb. Plutonium has a long life and is among the most toxic materials on earth.

Gaston Sigur, assistant secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, praised the treaty, saying it keeps the United States as a reliable nuclear exporter.

"Japan is relying more and more on nuclear energy," Sigur said. "That is good for Japan's security and in the long run, it is good for our own security." He said Japan's record on safeguards "is excellent."

See Treaty, page B-2

Assembly approves '89 Juneau wish list

The Anchorage Assembly approved Tuesday a list of capital projects totaling about $87 million that they would like Juneau to pay for during the 1989 state budget year. Assembly members hope the projects will find a place in a pared-down state capital projects budget unveiled Monday by Gov. Steve Cowper.

Cowper unveiled a $70 million capital projects budget, down $28 million from this year, that does not include much construction in Anchorage. Cowper may ask the legislature for a supplemental $150 million jobs bill for more public works projects.

Funding for the jobs bill could come from a $230 million fund for Railbelt energy projects, but Anchorage and Fairbanks legislators may resist spending that fund.

The assembly's priority list was worked out among assembly members, Mayor-elect Tom Fink and state legislators. It includes several major ongoing road projects. The Anchorage School District will prepare a separate list.

See Projects, page B-2

City buys park lot

The Anchorage Assembly approved an agreement Tuesday to buy out the Burger King restaurant on the Town Square, clearing the way for its demolition.

Assemblyman Larry Baker, owner of the Burger King chain in Alaska, will receive $910,000 for the business. City officials said this clears the way for completion of the long-delayed downtown park.

Inauguration activit
Mayor-elect Fink's s

Anchorage Mayor-elect Tom Fink has planned an action-packed day of festivities for his inauguration on Jan. 2, beginning with a breakfast at an Eagle River restaurant, then the 11 a.m. swearing-in ceremony at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center, according to Fink spokesman Bill Blessington.

Retired Superior Court Judge Ralph Moody will conduct the swearing-in ceremony. Theda Comstock, described as a "well-known television personality," will act as mistress of ceremonies. "Holding the family's heirloom Bible for the mayor-elect will be his wife, Patricia Israelson Fink," according to the press release.

A public reception featuring lots of entertainment "for families and especially for kids" will follow at 3:30 at

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Mat-Su assembly sends 3 to Finland

By Dirk Miller
Times Valley Bureau

WASILLA — The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly solved an impasse Tuesday night over who to send to a weeklong forestry symposium in Helsinki, Finland by increasing the assembly contingent from two to three members.

The increase will cost the borough about $1,500 in additional plane fares and hotel costs, officials said. In addition to the three assembly members, the borough is sending a member of the administration and local forester Mike McCrary. Those representatives will accompany two state officials on the January trip.

The assembly earmarked $14,000 in funds to pay for the trip, which includes a contract with Terry Brady of Alaska Husky Wood, who will act as a facilitator for the borough.

The three assembly members who are to attend the symposium are Doyle Holmes of Willow, Rose Palmquist of Wasilla and Norm Levesque of Wasilla.

A Finnish wood products firm, Oywihl Schaumanab, sent representatives to the borough this fall to examine the area's timber. The firm is particularly interested in a proposed state timber sale that would open up roughly 215,000 acres in the Susitna Valley to long-term contracts.

Another Finnish firm has shown interest in the timber sales, said Ric Davidge, the borough's director of development services.

"It would strengthen the borough's contingent to have a third member," said Davidge.

Brady said the borough would be able to meet with a number of Finnish firms, government officials and others at the symposium.

The debate Tuesday night wasn't over how much money the trip was to cost, but who to send.

Holmes was the first to speak up, nominating himself and Palmquist for the trip. Palmquist, though, spoke in favor of sending herself and Levesque.

"We should consider who on assembly has been involved and put their time in," said Palmquist, a member of the borough's agriculture and forestry board. Levesque has been involved with a Wasilla group that promotes economic development in the Valley and that played host to the Finnish group during their tour here.

"I don't have any problems with Mr. Levesque going," Holmes responded. "But 90 percent of the forests involved are in my district."

Holmes said he has flown over most of the lands included in the sale and was familiar with the territory. He said he would entertain a friendly amendment that would replace Palmquist with Levesque.

Levesque's only comment in the discussion was simply, "I have no problem with who goes, as long as we're represented there."

That's about when Davidge stepped in and suggested all three members attend.

"We have the capacity, within this amount ($14,000) to do it," he said.

In a related matter, the assembly also voted, 5-2, to move ahead on a $25,000 environmental assessment of the state's timber sale, after area forester Bill Beebe told the body that the state had no immediate plans to do one itself.

Treaty: 'Plutonium regime' opposed

Continued from page B-1

Another administration official who testified before the panel said that whether or not the United States is involved in Japan's nuclear program, the country will legally acquire plutonium for civil use only.

"Our only realistic option has been to try to create a basis for working closely with Japan to ensure the application of state-of-the-art safeguards," said Richard Kennedy, a State Department ambassador-at-large who is responsible for non-proliferation issues.

Under the agreement, he said by the year 2000, Japan could accumulate 11.3 metric tons of plutonium not subject to U.S. control.

For Alaska to be a refueling stop on the Europe-to-Japan route, Canada must agree to allow its airspace to be crossed. If Canada bars the flights, it could mean airplanes carrying plutonium will cross the U.S. northern tier and make a refueling stop in the state of Washington.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, suggested that military aircraft that can be refueled in midair should be examined for possibly carrying the plutonium. Another suggestion was for it to be carried by nuclear submarine.

Expressing the concern of many who fear that the plutonium might be diverted for non-peaceful uses, Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, asked the committee: "How can one reasonably estimate the capabilities and intentions of terrorist groups that may exist in Japan in the year 2017, when we know so little about today's terrorist groups in Japan?"

And in a stinging comment that drew groans from several Japanese people attending the hearing, Glenn added, "I don't think we would give a 30-year approval for Toshiba sales."

Toshiba admitted recently to having sold to the Soviet Union high-tech equipment that can be used for military purposes.

Paul Leventhal of the Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute, said in addition to "making a mockery of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, this commerce, over time, could create dangers to the security of the United States at least as great as those posed today by the nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union."

The House and Senate already have passed legislation that would require actual testing of the security of casks that would carry plutonium. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been ordered to administer a midair crash and a drop of casks from maximum cruising altitude to the ground to ensure that on impact the toxic material does not leak.

Japan at present is working to build a cask to carry large amounts of plutonium and is expected to be developed in about one year. The Europe to Japan flights apparently would occur about once monthly.

Cowper

Continued from page B-1

Hogan, the Railbelt Energy Fund

Projects

Continued from page B-1

Plutonium plan faces more fire

House panel criticizes proposal

AOL 1217-89

By DAVID WHITNEY
Daily News reporter

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration found itself in hostile territory again Wednesday when it tried to defend a proposed agreement that would authorize large air shipments of plutonium through U.S airspace. The U.S.-Japan nuclear cooperation agreement would allow the shipment of plutonium from Europe for use in new Japanese nuclear power generation and reprocessing plants.

If the shipments occur, they could involve a refueling stop in Alaska or, if Canada prohibits overflights of its territory, Washington state.

Opposition Wednesday came from the House Foreign Affairs Committee which, like the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a day earlier, was critical of the agreement's policy impact on the potential spread of bomb-grade nuclear materials.

"I am deeply troubled by the prospect of air transportation of plutonium without the most rigorous safeguards," said Rep. Don Bonker, a Washington Democrat who is chairman of the panel's international trade subcommittee.

"It is obvious that many of us in Congress have serious concerns about this agreement and that there may be strong sentiment to send our negotiators back to Japan to hammer out an agreement with stronger non-proliferation and transportation provisions," Bonker said.

Democratic Reps. Mel Levine of California and Howard Wolpe of Michigan also called

See Page C-3, **PLUTONIUM**

PLUTONIUM: Plan criticized

Continued from Page C-1

for early committee rejection of the agreement, which either the House or the Senate committee can do within the first 30 days of congressional consideration.

The Senate committee has scheduled a meeting for this morning — the 24th day of review — at which it is expected to vote on sending the agreement back to the White House with instructions to renegotiate it.

Former Washington Rep. Lloyd Meeds, now a lobbyist for Alaska, said that Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., one of the chamber's most experienced vote counters, believes he has the votes to reject the agreement.

Ambassador Richard T. Kennedy, who helped negotiate the proposed agreement, in testimony Wednesday tried to derail growing criticism of the pact's safety implications.

"The administration has taken all prudent steps to ensure that the agreement will be implemented with the utmost regard for safety as well as physical security," he said.

CORRECTION

THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY

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ADL 12-17-89

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Nuclear cooperation agreement may bring plutonium through Anchorage

By DAVID HULEN
Daily News reporter

Jumbo jets carrying highly toxic, bomb-grade plutonium may regularly fly in and out of Anchorage within several years under a nuclear cooperation agreement being negotiated by the United States and Japan, according to a Washington, D.C., group following the talks.

If approved by both governments, the agreement would permit shipments of nuclear fuel between European reprocessing factories and Japanese nuclear plants. The possibility of refueling stops in Alaska is causing concern among members of Alaska's congressional delegation and officials in state government.

Officials in the U.S. State Department are reluctant to discuss what would happen under the agreement until it is approved by President Ronald Reagan. Once signed, the deal will be sent to Congress for consideration.

But a report last week by the Nuclear Control Institute, a group concerned with nuclear weapons proliferation, said the agreement, if ratified, would mean flights as often as twice a month from France and Great Britain to Japan, with refueling stops in An-

See Back Page, PLUTONIUM

PLUTONIUM: Anchorage may one day be on flight plan

Continued from Page A-1

chorage. The group predicts that as much as 40 metric tons of plutonium would be shipped from Europe to Japan over several years, starting in the early 1990s.

The institute argues that the agreement is premature because neither the U.S. nor Japan has developed a safe way to transport large amounts of the material.

Plutonium is a by-product of uranium fuel used in nuclear power plants. It is considered one of the most long-lived and toxic materials on Earth, and is the primary ingredient in nuclear explosives. Microscopic amounts of plutonium have been found to cause cancer and other health problems when ingested, and a bomb can be made from as little as 33 pounds of it.

Japan now sends much of the spent fuel from its electric-generating nuclear plants to a reprocessing factory in France, where plutonium is extracted from other wastes. Japan would like to ship the plutonium — oxidized into a powder — from France back to Japan, where it would be combined with uranium oxide to produce fresh fuel, officials have said. Great Britain also is building a plant expected to reprocess spent Japanese reactor fuel into plutonium.

Currently, the U.S. must separately approve each Japanese shipment of plutonium made from U.S.-supplied fuel or fuel from U.S.-made plants. Because of security and safety concerns, there has only been one large-scale plutonium delivery from Europe to Japan, aboard a ship in 1984. The vessel, carrying 557 pounds of plutonium, had a crew of more than 40 armed guards and was accompanied by U.S. warships and tracked by spy satellites as it made its way across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, according to news reports at the time.

The new agreement would give a 30-year, blanket U.S. approval of certain plutonium shipments, with stipulations over how the material can be moved, according to officials involved in the discussions. The idea is to give Japan a more predictable supply of plutonium. European countries already can ship U.S.-originated plutonium without U.S. approval.

John Moseman, legislative director for Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, said officials from the State Department told him Thursday that specifics about how the material would be shipped will not be finalized until after the agreement is ratified. But they said the plutonium likely would be shipped "by the shortest route possible away from populated areas," which would apparently be over Canada and Alaska, he said.

Paul Leventhal, director of the nuclear institute, said his group understands that tentative plans call for the material to be shipped in Boeing 747 cargo jets, with refueling stops in Anchorage. It has not been decided whether Anchorage International Airport or Elmendorf Air Force Base would be used, he said. The institute learned of the plans from officials involved in the negotiations and others familiar with the proposal, Leventhal said.

Some flights travel nonstop between Europe and Japan using polar routes, but the weight of the heavy metal casks used to ship the material would make refueling necessary, Leventhal said. There are few, if any, other airports on the route capable of handling refueling of a jumbo jet aside from those in Alaska, he said.

In its report, Leventhal's group raises questions about the safety of the casks now available, and it contends there is little evidence that safe containers can be developed that could survive a plane crash without releasing high levels of radioactivity into the environment. The group also says the shipments would boost the chance of terrorists getting control of materials to make nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has certified a cask capable of carrying about five pounds of plutonium, but only on single-cask flights. The report says at least three countries are working to develop larger casks to make shipments of plutonium more economical. The only such cask tested under the NRC crash standards failed a test last summer, although it is unclear whether the shipments would have to meet U.S. standards or less-stringent international guidelines, the report says.

The new casks being developed would weigh about 5,000 pounds each and hold about 16 pounds of plutonium oxide, citing NRC data, the report says a 747 cargo plane would be capable of holding about 40 casks containing a total of between 500 and 600 pounds of plutonium — the same amount that was carried under such tight security on the ocean freighter three years ago.

The material would be shipped as a powder, which is far less flammable than when plutonium is in its metallic form, and also is more difficult to use in a nuclear explosive device, according to the report. But plutonium oxide also may present a greater health risk when being transported because it could be more easily dispersed into the air if it left its casks, the group contends.

Officials in the State Department, and an official in the Japanese embassy in Washington, all of whom declined to be identified, disputed that detailed plans for plutonium shipments have been developed, and stressed in telephone interviews that it would be years after the agreement is approved before the flights would occur.

Murkowski's aide, Moseman, said the State Department officials assured him that a series of safeguards would have to be met for the flights to ever occur.

Once submitted to Congress by the president, the agreement can be blocked only if rejected by Congress within 90 days, and Leventhal conceded that's not likely. He suggested that an environmental impact statement on the project be required before the agreement is sent to Congress.

Nadine Winters, an aide to Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper, said state officials were trying to learn more about the agreement and were scheduled to speak with State Department officials within the next several days. But she said it was unclear what jurisdiction, if any, state government would have over such shipments. U.S. Rep. Don Young and Sen. Ted Stevens also have asked for more information after learning of the agreement this week, aides said.

"This is nasty stuff," said Winters. "The state hasn't been consulted. It is a few years in the future, apparently, but we're definitely concerned." Young's spokesman, Chuck Davis, said the congressman "would certainly oppose" the flights landing in Alaska if casks fell short of NRC safety standards.

Plutonium may go through state under nuclear pact

By Jack Dolan
States News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with the Japanese government Tuesday night that apparently will pave the way for shipments of weapons-grade plutonium through Alaska.

The agreement, five years in the making, does not specify Alaska as a pit stop on the anticipated polar route that would carry spent nuclear fuel from Europe to Japan. However, "It is the likely route," a State Department official said.

U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield signed the agreement in Japan on behalf of the United States.

Transport of plutonium is only one aspect of the agreement, which will expire 30 years after enactment. Under the proposed accord, the Japanese would be required to adhere to U.S. nuclear non-proliferation laws but would not need U.S. approval for routine shipments of the highly toxic materials within Japan. Under the agreement, the plutonium could be used only for Japanese energy needs.

Congress has 90 working days to disapprove the agreement. If no action is taken, the agreement will become effective. The Japanese Diet also must approve the compact.

Shipments of small amounts of plutonium at a rate of one per month could begin within a year, although the Japanese are looking to develop a new cask that would carry more plutonium. Development of the cask is two or three years from completion. The agreement mandates that the materials be carried in crash-proof casks.

Despite the safeguards contained in the agreement, it will be opposed by anti-nuclear groups that fear "a can of worms will be opened" if Congress does not block the accord, said Alan Kuperman of the Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute.

"You run into a whole slew of problems when you start up a plutonium-fueled economy," Kuperman said. "There is the environmental situation and the potential of nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation to beware of.

"And if the political situation in Japan changes, they have plutonium which could be diverted to third countries," Kuperman said, saying that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi has expressed an interest in obtaining plutonium.

According to Kuperman, plutonium is an essential ingredient for nuclear weapons, and Japan will possess about 200 tons by the year 2000. The current U.S. supply for military purposes is 100 tons, he said.

But a State Department official said, "There has been no problem with the Japanese in this area. They are very sensi-

See Flights, page A-8

Flights

Continued from page A-1

tive to issues like this, given their history."

The state of Alaska tried and failed in federal court to block the approval of the agreement by Energy Secretary John Herrington pending an environmental impact review on the transportation of the toxic materials through the state. However, while the agreement may be enacted soon, the federal government still is expected to assess the potential environmental hazards of the shipments, an aide to Gov. Steve Cowper said.

"I sympathize with Japan's need to have reliable and secure sources of energy for her nuclear reactors," Cowper said in a prepared statement. However, the safeguards in the agreement "must include assurances that the plutonium is shipped in crash-proof containers and that a thorough examination of the health and safety implications" of flights that pass through Alaska.