

# Church sees hope fading for SALT approval

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U. S. Sen. Frank Church, D-  
Idaho said that in view of the  
Soviet aggression in Afghanistan,  
rejection of the SALT Treaty at this time "would be  
certainty."

In a telephone interview from  
his Boise home where he  
is spending the holidays, Church  
told The Post-Register "the ac-  
tion by President Carter to  
postpone SALT II considera-  
tion by the Senate is in line with  
my own position."

"If the treaty were to be taken  
up at this time, the senators  
would not judge it on its own  
merits. Moreover, the Soviets  
need to know that they cannot  
expect to do business as usual  
with the United States while  
they are engaging in aggression  
that could threaten our vital  
interest."

Although the treaty now has  
been put on the back burner,  
Church said he still thinks it is a

good one, and could protect the  
United States' security.

"Although I have said that  
since the commencement of the  
Iranian crisis that its considera-  
tion by the Senate should  
be postponed, I feel strongly  
that the president signed the  
treaty, believing it to be in the  
best interest of the United  
States."

## Good treaty

"I concur with the judgment  
of the military chief of state that  
this country is better off with  
the treaty than it is without it."

"We didn't enter into the  
treaty as a favor to the USSR  
or because we trusted the Russians,  
or because the Russians approved,  
or because we approved of the Soviets  
behavior."

"The treaty rests upon our  
recognition that we must slow  
down the nuclear competition  
between the two nations. If the  
nuclear race is not checked it  
will ultimately lead to oblivion."

Church said the "treaty never  
depended in any degree on the  
trust of the Russians," adding  
"our nation has its own means  
of verifying the Russian  
compliance."

He pointed out that his sup-  
port of the treaty is contingent  
on the withdrawal of Russian  
combat troops from Cuba and  
the assurance that they are not  
a threat in the Western  
Hemisphere.

## Hostage problem

In the interview, Church said  
he also approves of the manner  
in which President Carter is  
seeking release of the American  
hostages in Iran.

He pointed out that "any res-  
cue operations could only result  
in the massacre of the hostages."

Church pointed out that with  
the Soviet army in Afghanistan,  
the Iranians now are aware that  
the real enemy is not the United  
States but the USSR.

"They realize there is a need  
to settle their problems with us,  
and that can be done by release  
of the hostages," he said.

Church observed "it is sig-  
nificant that mobs are now  
taking to the streets in Tehran  
to shout against the defeat not  
only of the United States but also

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the USSR."

He pictured the Russian inva-  
sion of Afghanistan as a  
serious threat to world peace  
but asserted that the "United  
States stands ready to protect  
its resources and interest in the  
oil rich Persian Gulf.

Church has speaking en-  
gagements in the Boise Valley,  
Twin Falls and Lewiston this  
week, and plans to leave Jan. 11  
for Washington. Congress is to  
convene the week of Jan. 31. His  
wife, Bethine, is accompanying  
him.