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Senator Jackson Sees Pressing Need For Expanded U.S.-Soviet Hot Line

By PHIL GAILEY

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WASHINGTON, April 25 — Senator Henry M. Jackson urged the United States and the Soviet Union today to establish a jointly manned communications center to ease what he called a growing concern that a nuclear war might be touched off by accident.

"It's the missing institution when we talk about nuclear arms control," said Mr. Jackson, Democrat of Washington. "I think it goes to the heart of the nuclear fear in the world, the fear that a war might be started accidentally."

Mr. Jackson said in an interview that the proposal was still in "a conceptual stage," but he added that he intended to send letters to both President Reagan and Soviet leaders asking for their reaction to "this expanded hot line." President Reagan has already expressed his interest in the idea, according to White House sources.

Falkland Crisis Mentioned

The Senator said the current hot line between the White House and the Kremlin is "a step in the right direction" but does not go far enough. "What we need is some kind of institutionalized mechanism to avoid miscalculation or misjudgment by either side," Mr. Jackson said. "I'm going to start fleshing out the idea and follow through with a letter to President Reagan. I'm also interested in seeing what the Russians think of it."

Mr. Jackson, who is a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the permanent communications center he envisions would be located in a neutral country, perhaps Switzerland, and would be manned around the clock by Soviet and American officials, both



Associated Press
Senator Henry M. Jackson

military and civilian, with direct access to the highest levels of their Governments.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Jackson said during an appearance on the CBS New

television program "Face the Nation" that rising world tensions, including the military confrontation between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands, dramatized the need for better communications between the United States and the Soviet Union.

He said he did not believe that Moscow, which has been providing intelligence information to Argentina on the movements of the British naval forces, would become actively involved in the showdown on the side of Argentina. The Senator added, however, that even passive roles by the Americans and the Russians in the Falkland Islands situation heightened concerns that the two superpowers might accidentally be drawn into the conflict.

"That can always be a real danger," he said. "World War I was not premeditated and designed. It was by accident and miscalculation."

Mr. Jackson said the recent talk about Soviet nuclear superiority by the Reagan Administration had also increased anxieties about the possibility of nuclear war. As long as both sides have nuclear arsenals, he added, there is an urgent need for channels of communication between them "to ease this growing uncertainty" about the adequacy of existing safeguards.

He continued: "I think that is what's really worrying people, because it doesn't do any good to freeze the balance of terror, you want to eliminate it. And you want to be sure that you have the institutions in place that can avoid war by accident and miscalculation. I think that is what's really worrying the American people, that some trigger-happy episode will lead to a nuclear showdown and a nuclear conflict."