

stationed on the icebound mainland. The high-speed An, as we have already reported, is undergoing tests on the southern continent (Antarctica), where it arrived in the autumn on a course across the Atlantic, Brazil and Argentina. Now the aircraft and the crew, headed by Test Pilot V. Lysenko, had to repeat the same trip in reverse direction, - a mercy flight".

Next, came a conversation with Kiev. On the telephone was A. Bulanenko, Deputy Chief Designer of the O. Antonov Experimental/Special Design Bureau.

"In the little more than a month during which our An-74 was in the Antarctic, it managed to fly around almost the whole continent. When the order came to remove the patient, the aviators threw on board the remaining fuel supply for the aircraft's jet engines. There had to be enough for the 6,000-kilometer flight from Molodezhnaya to Novolazarevskaya, from there to Bellingshausen Station and further on to Tierra del Fuego and the Argentinian city of Rio Grande.

The flight was a matter of hours, and on the evening of 29 December A. Romanyuk, the leader of the group of test personnel, promptly reported to us from Rio Grande that Maintenance Engineer Vinogradov was in a local hospital, where a medical consultation was held. If necessary, a Soviet aircraft would deliver the patient to Buenos Aires, where treatment would continue."

In another two or three days, the An-74 will return to the Antarctic and will again begin its test flights. By this time a Soviet ship will arrive at