

drift in a southwesterly direction at a speed of 15-20 kilometers per day. The ice is in good condition, perennial, wind force 8-9. True, fissures and fractures have already made their appearance. Everything is all right at the unit. Personnel are in good condition. The program is being fully implemented. It's not a question of salvaging the unit, but of evacuating it before the ice has a chance to melt as it drifts into warmer waters in the next few weeks.

"The expedition is headed by N. Kornilov, experienced polar research worker, assistant director of the Arctic and Antarctic [Scientific Research] Institute and Hero of Socialist Labour. His closest assistant on the nuclear-powered icebreaker is P. Vlasenko, deputy head of the Main Hydrometeorological Service Administration's Murmansk Directorate. He is responsible for the aquatory in which "Rossiya" works.

"There are still several tens of miles before "Rossiya" reaches the edge of SP-28's ice floe. The icebreaker will get into the ice at 60-70 miles. According to our calculations, "Rossiya" will approach the edge on January 19. Evacuation will take 2 days, with 4 days spent on the return journey. The entire operation will take 10-12 days. On board the icebreaker is equipment for receiving satellite data on ice-cover conditions; the crew includes a group responsible for processing this and other hydrometeorological information. The Mi-8 helicopter is used for ice reconnaissance. It will assist in the selection of an optimum routing for the icebreaker and will more quickly and efficiently execute the evacuation of small shelters, equipment, engines and apparatus.