

warmth and survival. There were days when the radio and air support were useless and nothing distinguished their situation from that of the Amundsen and Scott expeditions. Today, the expedition intends to set forth on the return journey. Its goal is the Soviet stations Vostok and Mirnyi. Plans call for setting up depots along the way with the aid of air support. The fuel, it seems, was donated from the reserves of the Soviet Antarctic Expedition. And so, we are now expecting the Trans-Antarctic team to reach the eastern part of the Sixth Continent on March 1. After that, the temperature here could be minus 80 degrees.

The attention of many is now riveted on the Antarctic. This is the only corner of Nature still unspoiled by humans, and it is time to turn it into an international reserve. All of our activity here must be ecologically safe since the life of the Antarctic reveals one truth: whether or not we survive, we're in this together. And in this connection the members of the expedition addressed an appeal to the heads of six governments to do everything possible to preserve this last vestige of untamed nature: "If together we succeed in mastering and protecting this remarkable region of the Earth, in using it only as a testing ground for scientific research and international cooperation, we will be accomplishing something worthy of the calling of civilization."

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Pravda

15 December 1989

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