

More On the Polar Cruise

1977, 1987... A ten-year interval separated journeys by the Soviet nuclear powered ships "Arktika" and "Sibir" through the ice to the North Pole. And now a new voyage: on the night of July 30 the nuclear-powered icebreaker "Rossiya" set off for the Pole. The tasks which the Soviet seamen are scheduled to tackle on this occasion differ markedly from the earlier ones. Essentially, a new international tourist line is being opened in the Arctic inasmuch as foreign passengers are taking part in the voyage.

Of course, the commercial aspect is far from the ultimate purpose in this instance. Given the new economic realities, the steamship line is looking for non-traditional ways of earning hard currency.

In response to a request from our correspondent, the director of the cruise to the North Pole, A. Lazutkin, spoke about the preparations for this unusual arctic voyage:

"The nuclear powered 'Rossiya' has successfully completed sea trials following pre-voyage maintenance. A great deal has been done to create comfortable conditions for the passengers. To this end, the crew gave up 36 cabins, the interiors of which were redone. Our people are being assisted in taking care of the tourists by associates of the West German company 'Polar Schiffahrts Consulting'. Together we are attempting to take account of all of the demands of our foreign guests. For example, we are taking along Swedish and German cooks who are experts in western cuisine."

It is hoped that those taking part in the voyage will remember not only their visit to the North Pole but also the interesting program while on board the ship. A. Lamekhov, the Captain, and N. Khvoshchinskii, expedition leader and head of the Icebreaker Fleet and Arctic Operations Service, will be speaking on the conquest of the Arctic in the course of the trip. Gunther Herber, a