

"In a recent communication", B. Khimich, Directorate Chief, Goskomgidromet (State Committee for Hydrology and Meteorology), USSR, told us, "Yu. Khabarov, Director of the Soviet Antarctic Expedition, noted that an emergency appendicitis operation had been completed aboard the Akademik Fedorov, the new flagship of the expeditionary fleet. The patient was a maintenance engineer named Vinogradov, who had been on his way to spend the winter at the Mirnyi Polar Station. The ship was located in the Weddell Sea and was unloading near Druzhnaya Station.

The Akademik Fedorov is superbly outfitted with everything needed for long-range navigation and servicing Antarctic expeditions. The skill of the surgeon and the good operating room equipment made it possible to successfully perform a comparatively simple operation. Then, however, the patient's condition worsened, and symptoms of side effects appeared. In short, medical treatment had to be continued at a hospital, and for this reason the decision was made to evacuate Vinogradov immediately by air.

On the morning of 30 December an Izvestiya correspondent telephoned E. Korotkevich, Director of the Arctic and Antarctic Institute at Leningrad, who continued the story of the rescue operation:

"Druzhnaya Station is located in the northwestern Antarctic, and the only aircraft that can land there is an Il-14 on skis. The people in charge worked out the following scenario for moving the patient. First, they would transport him on an Il-14 to Novolazarevskaya, which has an airport that can take both an aircraft on skis and an An-74 turbojet with wheeled landing gear, an aircraft now