

travelled more than a third of the distance to its goal -the North Pole. Behind them lies the 84th parallel.

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During a regular radio communication, the expedition's leader, Vladimir Chukov, passed this information on specially for Ekonomicheskaya gazeta:

"The voyage has met with great difficulties. At the beginning we encountered solid hummock fields, crevasses and patches of ice-free water. Temperatures reached minus 45 degrees. Because there was no time to get acclimatized, expedition members suffered from minor frostbite. The group's doctor, Vladimir Petlakh, had his hands full. Incidentally, the sea-buckthorn oil and OLAZOL', made in Biysk by the Agro-Industrial Association's "Altayvitamina" Company, came in handy. These preparations are helpful in cases of frost-bite.

"I think that our experience in the extreme conditions of the Arctic might be of use to people in very different professions- polar explorers, geologists, hunters and oil workers. The Arctic is also subjecting our equipment to impartial testing. On the first day our plastic sleds broke down. The inflatable ones also did not withstand the cold. Only the metal ones survived. The group has two cine-cameras (the KVARTS-3 and the KRASNOGORSK-3), and two still cameras (the SMENA and the KIYEV-19). In spite of the severe cold, our cameramen, Aleksandr Vykhristyuk and Andrey Podryadchikov, are keeping a cine and photo diary of the expedition. All the data on the operation of our apparatus and equipment is recorded in the diary. We will give a more detailed report on them after we return.