

One and a half months will be spent in the USSR and an equal amount of time in Canada, on Baffin Island. I had occasion to visit a tiny place called Ikalyuit on the southern portion of this huge arctic island. The landscape was impressive: treeless expanses, sombre cliffs, ice. Similar to the "upper" part of our Taimyr - the northernmost part. This Arctic harshness is due to the proximity of the Labrador Current and the glaciers covering Greenland and Ellesmere Island.

Now here is a curious fact: the itinerary of our combined team will pass through the northern part of Baffin Island, more than a 1000 kilometers north of Akalyuit. In kayaks, the students will cross Admiralty Inlet, and I think their route will not be an easy one by any means. A national park is planned for this region in the future, and the students will be asked to do some advance work describing the area. Next, they will be called on to build what may be the world's northernmost hockey rink in the village of Arctic Bay.

In January 1988, when the Soviet-Canadian North Polar expedition was still in preparation, I was in Toronto in the home of George Cohon, a well-known businessman and president of the firm "McDonald's Canada", and met his son Mark, then a university student in Chicago. This young man shared with me his dream of Soviet-Canadian youth action. We thought about it together and individually...

Mark, who has now completed his studies, is the project leader on the Canadian side and represents the world renowned youth organization "Operation Raleigh Canada", which is involved in various educational and cultural programs. On the Soviet side the leader of the project is the self-financed club "Priklyuchenie" (Adventure), of the Bureau of International Youth Tourism. There will be time later to talk about its goals and plans.