

Also befitting these heroes are the transports, without which it would have been difficult to master year-round navigation in the high latitudes. What sorts of pennants - those representing ports in Asia, Africa, America, Europe - will one see on some ships? The steamship line's boundaries now extend thousands of miles - as far as the Taimyr.

Qualitative improvement of the fleet has gone ahead together with an increase in traffic volume and an expansion of forms of service. As before, the main accent is on work in the Arctic, however international maritime traffic is growing as well, and the appearance of new and comfortable motor ships has meant a major improvement in the servicing of our coastline. All these factors, to which I would also add our specialists' increased skill, accumulated experience and creative approach to work, have made it possible, in my opinion, for enterprises to make a fairly painless transition to cost accounting in January 1987 and to effect substantial change. For the achievement of outstanding results in All-Union socialist competition the Murmansk Marine Steamship Line was twice - in 1987 and 1988 - awarded the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Trade Union Council and the Central Committee of the Leninist Young Communist League. In 1989 its name was put on the All-Union Board of Honour at the Exhibition of Soviet National Economic Achievements.

The target for increased labour productivity, for example in relation to the 1987 plan, was exceeded by a little over 5%. Last year we received over 21 million rubles in extra-plan profit and since the beginning of the current year all indices appear healthy.