

Meanwhile, back at the North Pole

Thirty-eight polar research workers stood their tour of duty on the new drifting station "North Pole-31 in the darkness of the New Year's Arctic night. An extensive scientific research program is under way at the station and, at the same time, a scientific settlement is being established. Ekspark parachutists dropped New Year's gifts and mail from relatives and friends to the polar workers: the ice floe does not as yet have a runway.

The station is drifting beyond the 76th degree of north latitude.

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Page 2 (full text)

We Rush To The Aid Of SP-28

From news reports we already know that on the night of January 16/17 the nuclear-powered icebreaker "Rossiya" departed Murmansk for the north Atlantic in an effort to evacuate drift-ice research unit SP-28 [North Pole-28].

Our correspondent paid a visit to the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and met with Yu. Belyayev, deputy head of the Arctic and Antarctic Directorate, who was asked to provide details about the expedition and its tasks.

"The research unit's current coordinates are lat. 80°48'N. and long. 1°03' W. It continues to