

"This is a total of 6,300 kilometers. We will ride on 3 sleighs, each one pulled by 13-14 dogs. We will naturally be unable to supply ourselves with food and fuel during such a long journey. Aircraft will therefore be used to make several cargo drops along our route. In addition, a 36-m-long sailing ship, with which we will be maintaining constant radio communication, is being constructed in France and will be docked at Mirnyi. This is the ship that will collect us at the end of our expedition.

"We have been preparing for this expedition for a year-and-a-half now. Last spring, 5 of the 6 members of our team (the Chinese representative didn't show up) completed a 2.5-month, 2,100-km practice expedition across Greenland. We are planning a new cross-Canada expedition for February 1989. This will be the final practice expedition, during which time all our equipment will be tested. We usually meet once every two months to discuss various problems; I myself have been to the Soviet Union twice. We are on excellent terms with V. Boyarskii. He is a competent, extremely well-prepared person, an experienced polar research worker and, what is of no small importance, a good-natured and sociable person. I am certain that our expedition will be a success and that it will serve the cause of peace. At the same time, we are not taking too much for granted. Serious difficulties lie ahead: dangerous ice fissures, temperatures as low as -60° C, and strong winds."

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