

ANTARCTIC

On Skis Across the South Pole

For over 150 days six members of an international expedition have been crossing the Antarctic on skis. The expedition consists of representatives from the USSR, the USA, Britain, France, Japan and China. The Soviet Union is represented by Senior Research Associate Viktor Ilich Boyarskii of the Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute.

The expedition started out with three dog teams of 12 dogs each.

The journey began on June 26, 1989. The route of the expedition crosses the South Pole via the Soviet Antarctic research station Vostok, which the "wayfarers" intend to reach in January, 1990, and then on to Mirnyi Observatory. The journey is due to cover 6800 kilometers of the frozen continent. This is the longest crossing by humans in the entire history of Antarctic exploration. The trek is scheduled to end on March 1, 1990.

It should be pointed out that the Antarctic is not pampering our brave souls with good weather. The mercury has occasionally dropped to below minus 40°C, and the wind speed has reached 150 km/hour at times. Thick fog along the route is not uncommon.

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