

The NP-31 collective is headed by Yu. Tikhonov, a frequent participant in polar drifts, and NP-30 by V. Sokolov, who has a wealth of experience working in aerial expeditions on drifting ice.

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## ENVIRONMENT

### Novaya Zemlya Nuclear Weapons Testing Range: Press Interview Given

For a long time now it has been public knowledge that there is a nuclear testing range on Novaya Zemlya, even though very little information about it is leaked to our press. What things are like there, how atomic weapons tests are affecting ecological conditions in the Far North as well as the health of the people living there--these and other questions from our correspondent are answered by Vice-Admiral G. Zolotukhin, head of one of the departments of the Navy and USSR State Prize laureate.

Q. "Gennady Evpat'evich, what is the country's northernmost testing range like and what is the story behind its establishment? No reference book contains such information..."

A. "Until recently, information of that sort was a state and military secret. Its publication was not foreseen, to put it mildly... The testing range was created by a decision of the Council of Ministers of the