

ANTARCTIC

Into the Antarctic, Again

The marine stage of the 34th Soviet Antarctic Expedition, involving 6 ships from the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet and the USSR State Committee for Hydrology and Meteorology, has begun. The flotilla's flagship, the Akademik Fyodorov, was the first to leave Leningrad for the southern seas. Its second Antarctic voyage will last 7 months.

Almost 250 marine personnel, scientists, aircraft personnel, and specialists, including 2 Polish arctic specialists, are on board the ship. The scientific operations headquarters of the latest expedition, headed by oceanographer S. Pryamikov, a highly-trained physicist and mathematician, is located on the ship. The work will be conducted in a number of areas in the bitterly cold south Polar region.

Four more vessels will leave Leningrad after the Akademik Fyodorov: the Vitus Bering, a multi-purpose dry cargo ship able to navigate in ice; the Mikhail Somov, an electrically-driven motor-ship; and the Professor Zubov and Professor Vize, two research ships. A tanker, BAM, will sail from the Far Eastern port of Nakhodka. The ships will carry large numbers of arctic specialists, thousands of tonnes of freight needed by them, plus airplanes and helicopters. While this will be the second such voyage for the Vitus Bering, the other ships have sailed many times to the Antarctic shores.

The An-74: On a Mercy Flight in the Antarctic

The telegrams and radiotelephone conversations that Molodezhnaya Station, Moscow and Leningrad exchanged in recent days were anxious: the subject was the saving of a human life.