

ANTARCTIC

The First in Antarctic Waters

The diesel-electric motorship "Vitus Bering", which belongs to the Far Eastern Marine Steamship Line, was the first of six vessels participating in the Thirty third Soviet Antarctic Expedition to return to the Soviet Union. The crew, led by Captain S. Sakhnov and his First Mate V. Asaulenko, successfully carried out their first voyage among the ice floes and icebergs. Almost twenty five hundred tonnes of miscellaneous freight and aircraft equipment and machinery were taken on board at Archangel and Leningrad. A group of men newly assigned to Antarctica also set off on their long journey.

At the approaches to Antarctica a large group of men who are to be stationed at the seasonal geological-geophysical Station, Druzhnaya-3, transferred from the science ship "Professor Zubov" to the diesel electric motorship. Then the "Vitus Bering" reached the western sector of Queen Maud Land, where last year the field base was set up at the seventy first parallel. The ship cut her way into the off-shore ice of Nursel' Bay and began to unload.

When the diesel-electric motorship resumed her voyage, marine geophysical studies were carried out in a sector which extends three thousand kilometres. The crew proved to be resourceful and at Molodezhnaya Station took on board diesel fuel destined for the men who are participating in the expedition which is working on the coast of Prydz Bay. Once arrived at her destination, the "Vitus