

hasn't been touched by civilization. I believe that the time has come for us to learn to build stations on the ice. Soviet polarmen have some experience in this field. In fact, we had one such station, Lazarevskaya. It lasted two years and was then moved. Novolazarevskaya was then established."

Is environmental protection obligatory for researchers working in Antarctica, or is it a policy adopted by individual polarmen?"

"Environmental protection requirements are written into the Agreement on Antarctica, as one of the basic principles to be applied during the opening up of the continent. And it should also be noted that all the countries involved, pay a considerable amount of attention to the ecology of Antarctica. You know, the specialists comprehend how valuable this unique continent is. There is no longer such an unspoiled area anywhere else in the world. This natural laboratory has already enriched world science with many discoveries in the field of geophysics, glaciology and research on the atmosphere. Not only that, but there will be many more discoveries in the future. In order that these discoveries can be made, we need to show the maximum amount of care in the Antarctic towards nature, which, unfortunately is highly vulnerable. From time to time one sector or another of the continent is declared to be a nature preserve and that means that all work there must be halted. Environmental protection measures have become standard practice in the work of the Soviet Antarctic stations."

"What specifically is being done at our stations?"

"First of all it should be noted that no scientific programme for future work is adopted