

We are carrying out this flight on a commercial basis, which means that we will be taking on cargo all along the route, and from the USA we will be flying an expedition led by Jean-Lou(is) Etienne to its starting point. Plans call for this expedition to use dog teams to traverse the south polar ice cap in a single season following the so-called long axis - from King George Island to the Soviet station Mirnyi, a distance of approximately 7,000 kilometers.

... We will be telling the readers of "Pravda" more in detail about this trip, in which 37-year old Soviet scientist Viktor Boyarskii is a participant. For now, I will introduce the captain of our airplane. Stanislav Bliznyuk, Meritorious Test Pilot of the USSR, head of the air service of the Ilyushin Special Design Bureau, has flown at northern latitudes a number of times and participated in the "Ekspark" expeditions.

And so, it's farewell to the heat of Moscow! We should be arriving at the icy continent in a week. The total span of our "air bridge" is 47,000 kilometers, and we are due to spend 60 hours in the air.

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