

"I must emphasize again the great stress that expedition members endured. Already during the first stage of the journey we decided to send back two of our members and an individual who was accompanying us, for whom the extreme cold and physical stress had been too much. Suffice to say that at the beginning of the journey each member of the expedition was responsible for carrying a load of almost 80 kg. I should also note that expedition members did not have even a single day of rest during the entire journey but moved continuously towards their goal.

As planned, for almost two months the expedition received no assistance from outside -- no fuel, supplies, or food. Never before in the annals of history has there been such an expedition. Was it all merely for the sake of adventure? Apparently only partly. The expedition performed tasks and scientific work for a number of organizations -- medical and biological research, as well as observations for Goskompriroda (USSR State Committee on the Environment). Experimental models of new primus stoves produced by the Orgeyevskiy Machine-Building Factory, quartz wrist watches manufactured by the "Zarya" Research and Production Association in Penzenskiy, domestic cine and still cameras, and new types of Arctic equipment, were tested, and food rations for high latitudes were developed.

Apart from sport and scientific goals, the expedition, organized by the Moscow branch of the Geographical Society of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the weekly Ekonomicheskaya gazeta, also had peace-making intentions. This too was what motivated the "Arktika" expedition to take the flag of our famous painter and fellow-countryman with it to the