

Back then he had told me about the necessity of carefully preparing for such an expedition and about the fact that "an ice desert is not a place to be strolled by romanticists, dreamers or adventurers." I recall the time when, upon returning to Paris, he immediately began considering a trek by foot across the Sahara, but then a new idea came up - that of organizing an international cross-Antarctica expedition with the participation of representatives from leading states.

It was decided to dedicate the expedition to the 30th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty, which established that the antarctic was to be used solely for peaceful purposes and for the unbridled pursuance of scientific research. Jean-Louis Etienne and his colleagues in the expedition want to stress the necessity of preserving the peaceful nature of the antarctic, which should be off limits to military uses and open only to international scientific cooperation.

J.-L. Etienne: "Our expedition, the headquarters of which is located in Paris, will set out August 1, 1989 from the Soviet Bellingshausen Station on King George Island near the coast of Western Antarctica. The ship "Akademik Fedorov" will transport materiel and equipment, which we loaded into its holds at the port of Le Havre, to this station in mid-November. There are 6 men in our team. Besides myself, they include V. Boyarskii (scientist working at the Leningrad Institute of Arctic Research), Will Stieger [suggested transliteration - tr.] (well-known American polar research worker), in addition to an Englishman, a Japanese and a Chinaman. Our expedition across Antarctica should take 7 months to complete. After reaching the South pole, we will head for the Soviet station "Vostok," and then on to "Mirnyi."