

the ship approached the landing point, which had been selected with the help of aerial reconnaissance, we saw continuous cracks in the ice floes and open water, in which sea mammals were splashing about. We had the definite impression that the closer we came to the centre of the ocean, the easier our progress became.

I compared my amateurish conclusion with the data provided by S. Rogozin, hydrologist on the ice-breaker Yermak. He was the most experienced person on the expedition, having been involved with Arctic ice-floes for more than 30 years. Rogozin confirmed my opinion in detail, illustrating it with maps of the ice conditions all along our route. So there was one more argument in Kupetskiy's "cash box" confirming his hypothesis.

Kupetskiy considered that as final proof, it would be necessary for a transport ship, assisted by an ice-breaker, to sail from Siberian open water to Canadian open water. This would demonstrate that the shortest water route from Europe to America actually passes over the Pole.

#### Vozdushnyi Transport

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#### "Khachapuri Above The Pole"

I admit, it was a bit terrifying to stand on a little folding bridge, leaning from the Tsiklon that was travelling at five hundred kilometres an hour. But then what a fantastic spectacle was opened before my eyes!