

## TRANSPORT WATER

### Lessons From A Polar Experiment

The critical ice situation in the Anadyr estuary [Anadyrskii liman], which was previously reported by Izvestiya (No. 60, 1988), turned into an experiment in co-operation involving three departments: the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, Gosagroprom [the State Committee for Agriculture and Related Industries], and the USSR Ministry of Energy and Electrification. The exceedingly early passage of a convoy of ships to Anadyr was unsuccessful, but it was not just the natural elements that interfered and prevented the delivery of an urgently required cargo to Chukotka.

The ice breaker-transport Aleksei Chirikov was being unloaded at the moorage of Magadan Marine Port. Six thousand tonnes of high-quality cement were unloaded on the shore of Nagaeva Bay in the Sea of Okhotsk, further south and west of where originally intended. This maritime operation, which lasted a number of days, cost a million rubles according to the preliminary estimate...

Let us recall the crux of the matter. The powerful ice breaker Ermak and the Aleksei Chirikov, a diesel-electric, upgraded Arctic-class ship, had been incapable of breaking a passage through to their destination on the eastern seaboard of Chukotka. They literally got stuck in the ice on the approach to Cape Nikolai [Kosa Nikolaya] in the Anadyr estuary. A straight line of some three hundred and fifty kilometers separated the vessel from its destined point of unloading. They began to put down an ice road from the shore to the ship convoy, but this venture came to a sudden end rather dramatically: one of the bulldozers on a clearing assignment fell through the ice.