

TRANSPORT - AIR

Purveyor to the Arctic

A joint expedition of the USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology (Goskomgidromet SSSR) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MGA) has spent five days working in the Arctic. On a special flight from Moscow, an Il-76TD aircraft of the State Scientific Research Institute of Civil Aviation (GosNII GA) took on board approximately 25 tonnes of fresh vegetables and produce in Leningrad and Arkhangelsk on order for polar workers.

From its base on Srednii Island in the Sedova Archipelago (Severnaya Zemlya), the aircraft completed three flights. The first two flights supplied seven polar stations and one hydrometeorological observatory situated on islands and on the coast in the western region of the Arctic. In the dead of the polar night, the vitamin-rich cargo so important to polar workers was airdropped by parachute at remote locations. The successful drop was prepared and carried out by professional parachutists under the direction of P. Zadirov from the Centre for Aeroparachute Expeditionary Operations. The centre, recently established by the initiative of Hero of the Soviet Union A. Chilingarov, is attached to the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology.

SP-30 and SP-31 were used for the third flight, the principal cargo for which were 29 platforms weighing almost 16 tons.

Of course, not all elements of the expedition worked promptly, and it was only several hours later that the results of the operations were known: the airdrop of all cargo was 100 percent on target.

Vozdushnyi transport
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Page 1 (full text)