

"When I joined this expedition," responds Somers, "my motives at first were purely egoistic. But as our scheme began to draw more press attention and as I began to sense the enthusiasm of the expedition members and its numerous supporters, I began to realize more and more its true importance. For example, take the educational aspect: thanks to our journey, millions of children have learned many new things about the Antarctic. In American schools special courses were held on this journey, and hundreds of geography teachers came to the city of Minneapolis to see us off. Today, I feel that this expedition is not simply our achievement but belongs to millions of people."

"An expedition like this provides an opportunity to see the world differently and to see yourself differently," Steiger adds. "For many months you do not see your loved ones, your family and friends, you are cut off from the entire world. When you find yourself constantly in extreme circumstances, you become wiser. You come to understand many things that were unclear before. I can't say that I've changed radically - my values have remained as before, but they have been somehow strengthened."

"At the end of the trip, when I lost my way in a snowstorm, there in the snow I thought about my family, about my friends and about my own place in their life, and in life in general. I realized," Funatsu adds, "just how important it was to others that I remain alive."

"Since I am a glaciologist and had visited the Antarctic many times before this expedition," says Dakho, "my life has not undergone any particular changes. I have returned to normal life. I have completed another book, and I expect I may write others over the next year to year and a half. This year I will put together my research data and publish it in articles."

Q. "We would like to know why it is exactly that Kathy de Molle became the head of this arduous male endeavor? We noticed her charming smile, does this mean that she is glad that this is over?"