

"Are you having a busy time in the Arctic now?" I asked Chilingarov.

"That's for sure. Besides our supplying the polar stations, another operation begins today. The nuclear-powered ship Rossiya is leaving Murmansk for the North Atlantic in order to evacuate SP-28. It's a very critical operation, and it's obviously going to bring us quite a bit of excitement".

As our correspondent V. Chertkov reported, the ice floe holding the SP-28 Station has ended up in a strong current which is swiftly carrying it out of the central Arctic region. It is already in the Spitsbergen area, exactly on the same route along which ships, drifting in high latitudes in ancient times, moved together with the ice towards Greenland, in the direction of the open Atlantic. But if for the former explorations this meant escape - the navigators emerged into open water - for the men on the ice floe, it would be a disaster. This was why Goskomgidromet SSSR promptly leased the nuclear ship and sent it to rescue the personnel from Station "North Pole-28". N. Kornilov, Deputy Director of the Arctic and Antarctic Institute and an experienced polar explorer, headed the rescue operation.

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