

TRANSPORT AIR

The North Needs An Airplane

A TASS and Goskomgidromet SSSR promotional demonstration flight was made on the eve of the New Year. The flight was made on the aircraft developed at the Antonov OKB (Special/Experimental Design Bureau). It was demonstrated again that such aircraft are very much needed in the North.

As early as June 1983, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of the Aviation Industry of USSR came to a decision regarding work on the production and testing of the An-74 aircraft. The entire programme was scheduled to be completed in 1987. This, however, was not accomplished.

Responsible personnel at the Ministry of the Aviation Industry of USSR first flatly refused to make any comments. Later, they offered us the explanation that, as the level of requirements for the aircraft at delivery was raised, corresponding new tests became necessary.

But here is the opinion of I. Mulkidzhanov, Vice-Chairman of Gosavianadzor SSSR (State Aviation Inspectorate of USSR) and chief of Gasaviaregistr SSSR (State Aviation Registry of USSR); - "The higher, so-called third-level standards of airworthiness are applicable to only some of the features of the aircraft. This could not have been the reason for the extension of deadlines". The chief designer at OKB, P. Balabuev, stated: - "It is necessary to shorten the interval between the production of experimental models and assembly-line production".