

Polar Ice Stations Receive Cargo

Once again, the airport of Srednii Island (Sedov Archipelago, Severnaya Zemlya) has been selected as the base for the Il-76TD airplane of GosNII GA (State Scientific Research Institute of Civil Aviation). The airplane is scheduled to land cargo for geologists and Arctic specialists of the two Soviet drifting stations SP-30 and SP-31.

The first flight was to the drifting stations, one of which - the SP-31 - is currently located 200 kilometres off the shores of Alaska. The SP-30 is due to receive general cargo, including barrels of solar oil - twenty-four platforms in all, each holding four barrels. In addition, parachutes were used to drop fresh vegetables, parcels from home and mail to the polar specialists of both drifting stations, including six months worth of newspapers and magazines.

It should be emphasized that the cargo drop was carried out by means of parachutes in Arctic night condition onto sites marked out by fires lit by station team members, and all of the drops were successful.

On its second flight, the Il-76TD landed cargo on Bolshevik Island requested by geologists. Four parachutists were also landed here, and their job for the next month and a half is to build a landing strip to accommodate heavy cargo planes, which will be bringing in heavy bulldozers for the geologists on the island.

Preparation and dropping of the cargo was successfully handled, as always, by associates of the "Polyus" Centre for Aeroparachute Expeditionary Operations, of the USSR Goskomgidromet (State Committee on Hydrometeorology), under the leadership of Petr Zadirov. The night jumps were done by associates of the same centre: S. Raikhin, S. Khamidulin, S. Antonov and A. Kachan. According to the latest radiograms received, P. Zadirov reported that the work on Bolshevik Island was proceeding according to schedule and that the airstrip would be ready to receive aircraft by the middle of December.

It should also be said that if this measure is successful, the joint stock company "Geko" will have the opportunity, along with its partners, to conduct similar research in so-called third countries as well where the demand for such operations is great.