

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

The "Sibir'" Off On Northern Voyage

This morning an expedition mounted by the Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute left on a special flight from Leningrad to Dikson. This group of specialists will be responsible for the scientific and operational organization of the Far North voyage of the nuclear-powered icebreaker "Sibir'", which will be evacuating the drifting station "Severnyi Polyus-29".

In June of last year, the "Sibir'" was also responsible for setting up this station in the Laptev Sea. The scientific research programme, which was calculated to run for a year, included oceanological, hydrochemical, meteorological and ice-physics observations. The floating island on which eleven polarmen have been serving their tour of duty has drifted from its starting point for more than one thousand, five hundred kilometres since it was established and is now located at eighty five degrees north latitude, four hundred kilometres north of Franz Josef Land.

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