

"This ship just made it out of the Arctic by the skin of its teeth," remarked A. Chilingarov, deputy chairman of the USSR Goskomgidromet (State Committee on Hydrometeorology) who was coordinating Soviet support for the expedition."

Q. "A question for Jeff Somers: What did the dogs think of this journey?"

A. "For a dog, a one-hour walk each day with its master is a joy, but here their walk together lasted for days on end."

Q. "Viktor Boyarskii spoke about fear. What form did that take?"

A. "When you are in the Antarctic," Somers replied, "fear of some kind is always present. Sometimes this is merely a recognition of the dangers you face, and sometimes it is something quite different, often an indefinable fear accompanied by a powerful beating of the heart. It really hit me hard in September, for example, when we lost contact with the world for a half a month."

Q. "Keizo, you are the youngest member of the expedition. Do you expect to undertake a new journey?"

A. "Since I have spent all of the last five years travelling with dog teams I intend to continue doing this in the future. I would love to make a trip across Canada."

Q. "And how did this journey affect the personal lives of the expedition members?"

A. "I suppose that I, the eternal wanderer, have the most experience in family life and so the problem of separation and the joy of reuniting is a basic part of my life. But this expedition," says Boyarskii, "was unusual even for me. There were many risks, many more than before. The prize that greeted me at the finish at 'Mirnyi' - meeting my wife - was deeply moving."