

TRANSPORT LAND

The "Yamal" Can Carry 70 Tonnes

The Soviet and Canadian flags are crossed under the picture showing the snow/swamp-buggy "Yamal". The sub-assemblies and the units of two samples of this huge machine - creation of a joint venture of the All-Union industrial complex Soyuztransprogress and the Canadian firm Foremost - have been delivered to our country from the Olympic city of Calgary.

The first "Yamal" will be assembled in the North, in the area of Labytnangi, the second one will be subjected to exhaustive tests on the complex's testing grounds in the vicinity of Moscow.

We have been in close contact with Foremost - says E. Kovalev, director of the special design office of Gazstroimashina, since the early seventies, when we bought the first snow/swamp buggies in Canada. A few years ago, that firm suggested a joint venture in developing an unusual machine with a cargo capacity of 70 tonnes for the swampy tundra. The Soviet side accepted the offer, and three years after the signing of the contract the "Yamal" took its "first steps". It happened on Canadian soil last summer.

The partners had divided the work as follows: Soviet engineers designed the running mechanism - caterpillars, tracks and supporting wheels, whereas the "top" i.e. the platform with the cabin, the power unit, and the hinge-joints tying the front and rear trains of the all-terrain vehicle were designed by Canadians.