

## ARCTIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### A Route Across the Pole

Half a century ago, Soviet aviators laid out a course to America over the North Pole. Today, this route has received unanticipated development.

A good deal of human effort has been associated with the inaccessible pole, as with other difficult undertakings. It was only in the middle of the 1930s that it was reached by Soviet aviators. It has been conquered several times since, but much less frequently than the Geographical Pole. It is considerable further from the coast and is appropriately named inaccessible!

Where do you think the ice floes of the Northern Ocean are strongest? Elementary logic suggests that this condition would be found in the centre of the basin. However, truth does not always lie on the surface. Often the instrument that leads science to uncover the truth is a paradox. And this is what happened at the Pole of Inaccessibility. It was Valeriy Nikolayevich Kupetskiy, chief engineer of the Pevek Hydro- Meteorological Center, who made use of the paradox.

"Above the Arctic Ocean", says Valeriy Kupetskiy, four climatic, warming systems operate throughout the whole winter: two anti-cyclones over Asia and Canada move the atmosphere in a clockwise direction; and two cyclones over the Atlantic and the northern part of the Pacific Ocean move the air masses in the opposite direction. These forces, come together in pairs over the western Soviet Arctic. Further away from the coast they drive away the ice