

after tomorrow. In order to find, in that boundless icy expanse, the single ice-floe that will then become a stronghold for forty people.

The plane will be at work for a long time yet. But the polar explorers will live on that ice-floe for even longer.

- How long, in fact?

- That is a secret, - laughs Sidorov. - My wife has let me go for just six months, and if she finds out the truth, I will not get the time of day.

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Polar Watch

The "Vladimir Arsen'ev", a Diesel-electric ship, sailed today from Pevek for the location of a new drifting station, the "Severnyi polyus-31".

Led by the ice-breaker "Admiral Makarov", this powerful ship, specially designed for work along unequipped Arctic shores, will have to cross the icy expanses of the Central Arctic. It is the first time that Far Eastern sailors have set their course for such high latitudes.

After passing Vrangeli Island, and to the north-east of it, they will unload personnel and equipment on drifting ice-floe SP-31 for yet another winter's scientific watch. These polar explorers