

The "Sovetskii Soyuz" has begun its first ice duty. Its assignment is to escort transport ships carrying domestic freight on the year-round route Murmansk - Dudinka. Icebreaker crews know this route well, and still, the maiden voyage is always exciting for crew members: How will the new ship perform in heavy ice? Especially since conditions on the northern sea route are extremely difficult this year. Thus, the first voyage of the "Sovetskii Soyuz" was in fact a test for all of the ships' systems and machinery. They demonstrated that highest degree of reliability and compliance with the strictest requirements of maritime inspection imposed on ships of this type.

Special criteria are used in selecting personnel for the atomic fleet. Most of the crew members on the "Sovetskii Soyuz" have sailed before on the nuclear-powered icebreakers, and they have not only received specialized training but have also gained experience working on these new ships. Anatolii Grigorevich Gorshkovski has been appointed Captain. He considers his real teacher to be the experienced icebreaker captain of the "Arktika" - Vasilii Aleksandrovich Golokhvastov.

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