

What can the "Vaigach" Do?

Sea trials are beginning in the Gulf of Finland for a new Soviet nuclear-powered icebreaker. It takes its name from Vaigach island, which is situated on the boundary of the Barents and Kara Seas. This also happens to have been the name of the Russian steam-powered icebreaker aboard which a Russian hydrogeographic expedition discovered the Severnaya Zemlya archipelago in 1913.

As already reported in Pravda, the world's first nuclear-powered ship "Lenin", which led transport convoys on the Northern Sea Route, is now at permanent anchor. Now the Murmansk Maritime Steamship Line has four nuclear-powered icebreakers of the "Arktika" type, the "Taimyr" that can operate in shallow water and in the mouth of rivers, and now the "Vaigach".

The "Vaigach" was built on the slips of the Finnish shipyard "Vyartsilya Marin", and the finishing work - the installation and start-up of the power plant - were carried out at the Leningrad "Baltiiskii zavod" Association.

There are 116 members of the crew. They are quartered in one and two-berth cabins containing comfortable bunks and a divan, a writing table and cabinet, a shower, refrigerator, television...

The satellite system installed on the ship makes it possible for the sailors to receive television transmissions from Moscow at any point on the Northern Sea Route.

To be sure, the Finns have provided first-class accommodations on the icebreaker. The seamen have the use of a psychophysiological relaxation centre, solitude lounges, and an excellent sauna with a swimming pool.