

Q. "The question I asked was somewhat different..."

A. "The ozone, you understand... The air here is extremely clean, and in great open expanses you can see very far off, as far the eye can see," Steiger responds.

Q. "A question for you all. A person undertaking such a long journey would need to be in good physical condition. But still, what is it that requires the most attention - the eyes, teeth, feet, psyche? During a long stay in the Antarctic how does constant motion affect the human organism?"

A. "None of us, as far as I know, underwent any special training," Boyarskii says. "None of us is a professional athlete. I think it is enough to be physically healthy to dare such a journey. All of us had a fear of the possibility of becoming ill, such as appendicitis or something even more serious. In our circumstances this would almost certainly have meant death."

Speaking next is M. Moammar, an oceanologist from Saudi Arabia who, together with his colleague and fellow countryman I. Alam, supported the expedition from the sea:

"We were aboard a yacht but we also went to the South Pole. We flew there. Since I am a person from a hot climate I was worried that the seemingly lightweight clothing manufactured by the American firm 'Gortex' might not protect me from the cold. Five minutes after I climbed into my sleeping bag I became hotter than anything I have ever experienced in our Arabian desert."

Q. "We were expecting your ship at 'Mirnyi' but we never saw it."

A. "A telegram came in from our Soviet friends saying that the ship which was supposed to accompany us in the ice could not get through to us."