

"The conditions this year are exceptionally difficult. The landing strip survived for only three days. At the moment incredible efforts are being made to restore the airstrip, but the ice continues to break up. What we succeed in doing today is swept away tomorrow under a crush of hummocks."

In this altogether critical situation, Sorokin, who weighs his words carefully, asked that we tell the directors of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of the Aviation Industry, who have been playing bureaucratic games with the An-74 aircraft for a number of years, that they should finally put it into series production, that there was an acute need for it.

On March 14, 1986 (four years ago!) at the SP-27 station I saw a jet aircraft land successfully on drifting ice for the first time in the world. This magnificent machine required only 300 meters of landing strip. Clearly, the An-74 could be of assistance to the geologists today.

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