

includes many outstanding pilots, with years of flying experience in the Arctic. One of these is Evgenii Ivanovich Solomchenko, captain of our Il-14.

- And who has the main say in the process of looking for a place to land on an SP? - I asked Sidorov.

- The main work is done by the hydrologist, for he is the expert specialist on ice. The Pevek hydro-meteorology centre has seconded Il'ii Mikhailovich Yakubov for the search. Of course, I will have the last word, because I bear full responsibility for the station. Naturally one also needs excellent pilots. But there is another aspect of the search: it is not only important to choose a good ice-floe, but even more important not to lose it. Just last year a good floe was found for SP-30, but when the ship reached the area and the time came to land, they could not locate it. They had to use whatever was on hand, and that has caused many problems. First the station was carried southward, and now it is headed straight for Jeannette. This is why I insisted, in my negotiations with the Kolymo-indigirskii aviation enterprise, that the crew's navigator be Arslanov. Vladimir Yakubovich Arslanov is a master at his work. With him navigating, not only will we find an ice-floe in the Arctic, like a needle in a haystack, but we will not lose it. As we approach the landing location on the "Vladimir Arsen'ev", Arslanov will be out on ice patrol every day to monitor the ice-floe and its drift.

The ice patrol plane will hug the Arctic Ocean, at an altitude of one hundred metres, for many hours to come. And tomorrow again. And the day