

TRANSPORT AIR

Soviet Crew Leases Aircraft To Earn Profit

The Magadan Aviation Authority has leased an AN-12 transport plane to a flight crew team. The agreement was signed a few days ago. Since this is no ordinary event (a first in the air freight business), our correspondent spoke briefly with the team's leader, Mr. V. Brainin.

"How did this idea come about"?

"About a year ago, I was taking the heads of the authority's leading services, led by their boss, to Pevek. During the flight, I said half-jokingly, "If you lease me an aircraft, you won't be sorry". And we jotted down the first calculations right there and then on a paper napkin. When I got home, I did the sums again and felt sure it had to work. I started to test the water. In August even our specialists had started doing the calculations. Then we started working out the conditions of the agreement, and now it has finally been signed".

"Taking everything into account, it couldn't have been easy to get this boulder rolling?"

"No, it certainly wasn't. But I must say that I didn't come across any particular opposition anywhere amongst the authority's administration. On the contrary, they tried to find compromises which would enable us to conclude this sort of agreement. However, there was a certain amount of antagonism. It was embodied in the form of the system under which Aeroflot works".