

When it has removed the SP personnel and equipment from the ice floe, the nuclear-powered ship, will deliver them to Murmansk.

As reported by N. Kornilov, Deputy Director of AANII, on 12 January SP-28 was in the region of 81 degrees north latitude and the zero meridian. The average drift speed was about 10 kilometers a day. Headed by Vladimir Stepanov, an experienced polar research worker, station personnel are preparing for evacuation and have already packed up part of the equipment, mainly the aerological gear. At the same time, mindful of the unique zone of the drift (only the members of the Papanin expedition managed to work here in January 1938), the staff are continuing their oceanographic and meteorological observations. The work, incidentally, will be conducted until virtually the last minute, when the nuclear-powered ship approaches. Regular ice drift observations are also still in progress.

Two years and eight months have now elapsed since SP-28 began operating. This station was the first to use automated observations and to process the derived data on a computer bank, enabling specialists to control scientific experiments on the ice floe. Briefly, SP-28 has contributed greatly to the study and opening up of the northern polar region of our planet.

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