

Normally they travel about 25 miles in a day, although they move all the time over difficult sastrugi. I think that to some extent all the adversities that they reported while en route were smoothed out by friendship.

"This was the main thing otherwise they would not have survived," a participant in the 2nd Soviet Antarctic Expedition, Yu. Azarskiy, told me yesterday. "Thirty-three years have gone by since I was in Antarctica, but we former polar explorers have met since then. It was there that we found more than friendship - we found kinship."

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The AN-28 at Station Vostok

How did this aircraft come to be on the sixth continent? It had delivered fresh vegetables and potatoes and also mail to Vostok station. Everything turned out as opportunely as possible. Yesterday the Soviet polar explorers, who were carrying out a special scientific stint, encountered the Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Its participants will rest for three days under conditions close to domestic ones, following which they will make preparations for the subsequent journey.

At this time Vostok will be connected by telephone via space with Moscow, Washington and Paris. It will enable the editorial staff to receive information about the courageous six at first hand - from Viktor Boyarskiy, representing the Soviet Union in the Trans-Antarctica. Besides him, an American, a Japanese, a Chinaman, a Frenchman and an Englishman participated in the crossing of the Anarctica.