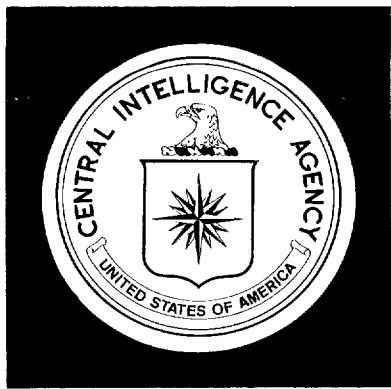


~~TOP SECRET~~



The National Intelligence Daily

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

Copy No. 1

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1975

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 268

NR Record
TCS 699/15

NR Record

The Daily Summary

(b)(3)

USSR: The Soviets have launched another Antarctic expedition. This time, in addition to the usual scientific research and exploration, the Soviets will begin building a research

NR Record (Page 2)

IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED
JOB 997905 283 2278331

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3)

EASTERN EUROPE

Annual Antarctic Expedition

Soviets Plan to Build Temporary Research Base on Weddell Sea

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The Soviets have launched another Antarctic expedition. This year, the expedition, in addition to its normal scientific research and exploration, will begin construction of a temporary research base on the Weddell Sea.

Russian interest in the Antarctic is of long standing. Russian captains Bellingshausen and Lazarev led an expedition in 1819. The first Soviet expedition was in 1955; this year's is the 21st. Probably the most significant measure of this growing Soviet interest is the number of scientists on each expedition who stay through the austral winter (April through November).

The number has grown steadily over the past 14 years, with 255 scheduled to do so next year—three times the winter population at US bases.

Since the expedition in 1955, the Soviets annually have sent expeditions to the Antarctic during the austral summer. The Soviets have established six permanent stations that circle the continent; a seventh was under construction, but the Soviets have been unable to reach it for the last few years.

In addition, temporary bases were set up, and the new one on the Weddell Sea will be in operation during the summer for

about five years.

Recent negotiations between the 12 signatories to the Antarctic treaty have focused on how to control future exploitation of the continent's fuel and mineral resources. The only agreement reached so far is to continue to seek an international arrangement and to restrain commercial exploration.

A Soviet announcement that the new base would be used for geological and mineral exploration was interpreted by some as a breach of the agreement. Soviet officials were quick to stress that the exploration will be scientific rather than commercial in intent.

A wide range of meteorological and geophysical observations regularly have been conducted at all stations. Meteorological research is facilitated by the use of small sounding rockets launched from the Molodezhnaya station.

This year, in addition to glaciological research, the expedition will focus on studies of the sea and atmosphere in the Drake Passage.

The monitoring of Soviet activity has become more difficult, even though the 12-nation Antarctic treaty requires annual written reports on all Antarctic explorations.

In recent years, the Soviet reports have provided incomplete information on their activities and have been submitted late.

Signatory nations have the right to visit



Soviet Antarctic station Leningradskaya

each other's research stations. The US has sent one scientist to work at a Soviet station each year, and the Soviets have reciprocated. The US supplements these exchanges by inspections of one or two Soviet stations every three or four years.

Five ships will participate in the Soviet expedition now en route. The flagship is the newly constructed research ship Mikhail Somov, which has a strengthened hull for ice operations. The Somov's predecessor, the Ob, was stuck in the ice for four months in 1973 after trying to reach the Russkaya station.

The four other ships are the research ship Vize, the cargo ships Markov and

Feodoseyev, and the passenger ship Kalinin. Three of these ships—Somov, Vize and Markov—left Leningrad during the past month and are heading south. One of them probably will stop at Australia to pick up about a third of the Soviet party for transport to Antarctica. This has been standard Soviet procedure on the last seven or eight expeditions.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

