

NEWS FROM THE STATIONS

CASEY SPRING TRAVERSE MEET UP WITH RUSSIAN MIRNY TO VOSTOK PARTY

On 7 November, 1983, the Soviet Union's National day, the Casey Spring traverse party met a Soviet party at point (69°S 95°E) some 1,000 km from Casey and 300 km south-south-east of Mirny.

The Casey party, which was conducting glaciological research of the ice sheet far to the west of the station, had set out on 2 September, and the meeting was arranged following Ham radio contact between the two parties. The Russian party had departed Mirny on 1 November, and was carrying building materials, stores and fuel for Vostok station, 1440 km inland of Mirny.

The Casey men were invited to have a meal and drinks in one of the large Russian vehicles, and

information was exchanged on the equipment of the two groups. The Soviet party of twenty men (sixteen mechanic-drivers, medical officer, navigator, radio operator and cook) had sixteen vehicles, while the Australian party of six had three D5 prime movers and some ten sledges.

We hear that the meeting was a very happy occasion, and no doubt when the two groups parted, the Casey men were wearing Russian fur caps, and the Russians sported Australian issue headgear. On arrival back in Casey the team was reported to resemble "an Antarctic version of Hells Angels. They were all dressed in brown leather jackets, hats and boots as a result of exchanging clothing with the Russians".



Members of the Casey Spring traverse party pose with one of their vehicles during preparations for their journey. They are: at back from left, Tim Medhurst (Glaciologist), Peter James (Surveyor). At front from left, George Hedanek (Plant Inspector), Bob Yost (Diesel Mechanic), Brian Harvey (Diesel Mechanic), and Lex Harris (Electronics Engineer).