



Shown above is a chart of the Kara Sea and the route EDISTO and EASTWIND followed in an attempt to round Severnaya Zemlya, north of western Siberia, and continue onward with the challenge of circumnavigating the Arctic Basin. Encountering heavily-rafterd thick winter ice under great pressure in our first attempt to round the island, we withdrew at 78° 55' N for our second assault to the west of our original track. Progress was steady in less severe ice conditions, though on 27 August at 81° 27' N we could proceed no further as helicopter reconnaissance revealed that we were at the edge of the permanent polar pack to the north and east. Dis-

appointedly, we headed south enroute the Vilkitskogo Straits when on 29 August we were instructed by the Commandant to abort the mission.

The circumnavigation mission was to have followed the route outlined on the chart on pages eight and nine. Slow, steady progress of two to five knots per hour was anticipated through most of the Siberian Arctic with improved ice conditions as we forged ahead into Canadian waters. With severe weather conditions anticipated and rapidly decreasing daylight hours, the challenge was formidable and remains unconquered.