

California Space Institute
University of California, San Diego

October 7, 1994

Dear Admiral Kramek:

This letter is to express my appreciation to the U.S. Coast Guard for the outstanding support rendered to the research team from the California Space Institute during the 1994 Arctic Ocean Section (AOS '94).

As part of AOS '94, the California Space Institute carried out a climate and radiation measurement program involving the simultaneous operation of a satellite tracking system (TeraScan) and state-of-the-art atmospheric remote sensors deployed aboard ship. These delicate electronic and optical devices could not have been operated successfully throughout the cruise without considerable logistical and technical support from the Polar Sea personnel. Both Dan Lubin and Robert Whitner from our research team report that the officers and crew of the Polar Sea, commanded by Capt. Lawson W. Brigham, were able to meet the project's requirements with a high degree of professionalism.

The result is a unique data set that will improve our understanding of how Arctic climate works, and which furthers the CalSpace mission in global change research. The Coast Guard has a valuable scientific resource in the icebreaker fleet. Thank you again.

Sally K. Ride, Ph.D.
Director, California Space Institute

RV POLARSTERN
75.39° North, 22.11° West

August 24, 1994

Dear Sir,

Captain and Chief Scientist on board POLARSTERN want to congratulate the USCGC POLAR SEA as well as the CCGS LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT to their arrival at the North Pole.

Please inform us, when both ships arrived at the Pole and how to get in direct contact to them on short wave.

Our present position 240900UTC 75.39North 22.11West.

With Best Regards,

P. Greve,
Master

H. W. Hubberten,
Chief Scientist

Commandant, United States Coast Guard
Washington, District of Columbia

August 22, 1994

CGC POLAR SEA REACHES THE NORTH POLE
ALCOAST

To the men and women of the entire Coast Guard family. At precisely 1200Z 22 AUG 94, a significant milestone was achieved in the Coast Guard's traditional mission area of ice operations. That was the moment in which the Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA reached position 90.00 degrees North, making it the first United States surface vessel to successfully reach the North Pole.

The POLAR SEA departed Nome, Alaska on 24 July in company with the Canadian Coast Guard Icebreaker LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT on an unprecedented U. S./Canada multidisciplinary scientific study. The expedition will end in late September in Barrow, Alaska, culminating four years of planning by U. S. and Canadian government agencies. The LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT became the first Canadian surface vessel to reach the North Pole. Icebreakers from Russia, Germany and Sweden had previously achieved this feat.

Of even more far-reaching significance than the celebration of reaching the North Pole is the vast amount of research information obtained by the icebreakers during the expedition. Comprehensive studies on polar ice, oceanographic and atmospheric chemistry, ocean circulation, and even the migration patterns of polar bears are but some of the scientific endeavors accomplished on the voyage. Using the accumulated data, researchers from more than 20 institutions will now participate in studies that promise to produce several scientific firsts.

This is a proud moment for the Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu to the POLAR SEA, its officers and crew. Their accomplishments testify to the ongoing dedication of our entire service to our broad range of scientific and humanitarian missions.

Admiral Robert E. Kramek