

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Soviet sovereignty is an issue raised by two articles in this number of *Polar Record*. William Barr illustrates how, as a by-product of their searches for the crew of the crashed airship *Italia*, the Soviet vessels *Krasin*, *Malygin*, and *Sedov* made the first essential moves towards the establishment of a permanent Soviet presence in the region today referred to as the Soviet Arctic. William Butler traces the history of Soviet fishery jurisdiction in the Arctic, which has recently culminated in the creation of a 200-nautical mile fishing zone for Soviet Arctic waters, in December 1976. The map which accompanies his article illustrates just how vast a proportion of the Arctic Ocean is embraced by the limit. Establishment of a 200-mile marine resources zone by all countries will leave little of the Arctic Ocean for the non-riparians.

The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry is over and its recommendations published. The next issue of *Polar Record* will present a summary of these recommendations, together with those of the National Energy Board of Canada, the Alaska Highway Pipeline Inquiry and, most importantly of course, the decision of the Canadian government itself concerning the fate of the pipeline. In this issue of the journal we publish a second article by Hugh Brody based on evidence given by him to the Inquiry. He discusses the pressures on the Eskimo and other native languages in Canada caused by the omnipresence of the English language, in the schools, at the work-place. Revealing comparison is made with Soviet attempts to maintain the languages of the native peoples of the northern USSR and establish an effective bilingualism.

Neil Macpherson writes on a rather neglected subject, that of social relations between men during isolation in Antarctica. Based on his research thesis on the psychology of isolation for the Scott Polar Research Institute's Diploma in Polar Studies, the article stresses the importance of the informal, as opposed to the formal, relations structure and questions the validity of the traditional notion that it is possible to define a 'suitable' personality for the rigours of Antarctic isolation. Research efforts in this field should concentrate, the author believes, on an understanding of group adjustment, rather than the adjustment of the individual.

Good news. Despite rising printing bills and postal costs, we are charging the same price for next year's copies of *Polar Record* as we have been doing for the last two years. Increased numbers of subscribers and advertising revenue have helped to keep the *Polar Record* coffers at a healthy level. So for the time being, read on and be merry.