



BARROW SUPPLIES—Alaska Airlines Hercules aircraft is being loaded with bundles of Barrow supplies that North Star III was not able to

unload at Barrow due to unseasonal heavy ice formations. Note partial icefog conditions.

—MADELYN SHULMAN Photograph

Barrow Supply Airlift Completed

Unfavorable weather conditions in Fairbanks which kept its planes grounded for days at a time delayed Alaska Airlines' completion of the massive airlift to Barrow till Tuesday morning.

The company obtained a four day extension from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on its two week contract to deliver the supplies the BIA supply ship North Star III was unable to deliver to the far north community last fall.

Days of heavy snowfall, followed by two days of high wind which closed the airport and drifted four feet of snow over cargo piled in the loading area delayed the airlift.

By last week, however, the airlift had resumed its round-the-clock operations—with three massive Hercules 4 engine turbo-prop cargo planes making three round trips each to the village on the top of the world.

Then ice fog again closed the Fairbanks airport, causing further delays.

In a massive hangar at Fairbanks International, foodstuffs which would suffer by freezing were unloaded from trucks which brought them from the railroad and loaded on sleds which could be moved quickly into the planes.

Other goods, which could survive freezing were loaded and waiting in the yard outside. Two days of snowfall and high winds buried many of the supplies under drifts, which had to be dug out before the aircraft could finish. Cargo crews loaded

each plane in 20 to 40 minutes. Unloading at Barrow and Wainwright took less time.

"I was on one of the flights to Barrow," said Jack Pierce, sales representative for Alaska Airlines who is in Fairbanks

from Seattle to work on the airlift. "We were on the ground in Barrow for 11 minutes."

At the end, airline officials expected 60 trips to be made to the isolated towns of Barrow and Wainwright.