

Wojciech K. E. Krzemiński
June 22, 1926 — April 9, 1981

Dr. Wojciech K. E. Krzemiński, leader of expeditions of the Polish Academy of Sciences to Antarctica, head of the Polar Research Laboratory of the Institute of Geophysics, member of the Polar Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, member of the Polar Club Council, member of the Working Group for Geodesy and Cartography SCAR, died on April 9, 1981. For 21 years he was engaged in the Polish polar research.

Wojciech Krzemiński led the First Polish Expedition to Antarctica in the years 1958/59, organized in the framework of the International Geophysical Year. Being head of this historic expedition Wojciech Krzemiński, at that time 32-year old scientific worker, took over the polar station „Oasis” from the Third Soviet Antarctic Expedition.

On January 21, 1959, there was a celebration of hoisting the Polish flag at the sixth continent. It was Wojciech Krzemiński, head of the expedition, who hoisted the flag. The station, named the A. B. Dobrowolski station, is located at the edge of Bunger Hills in the Knox Coast, Queen Mary Land.

In later years, in addition to his professional work in the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, he devoted much time to organizational work in the Geophysical Expeditions Commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences and in the Polar Club.

The possibility to resume the investigation on the Antarctic continent appeared again in the late seventies. In 1978 Wojciech Krzemiński joined the Institute of Geophysics, and became leader of the new expedition to the A. B. Dobrowolski station. The expedition left Poland in November 1978 aboard ship *Zawichost* belonging to Polish Ocean Lines. On the twentieth anniversary of the first Polish landing in the Bunger Oasis, the expedition resumed work in the A. B. Dobrowolski Polar Station of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Upon his return from the expedition, Wojciech Krzemiński became head of the Polar Research Laboratory of the Institute of Geophysics, beginning the laborous work on processing the data from his Antarctic expeditions. At the same time, he devoted much time to the work in the Polar Research Committee. Through the last months of his life, Wojciech Krzemiński was making preparations to his next expedition, this time to Spitsbergen in the Arctic region. He was to lead the expedition to the polar station of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Hornsund in the years 1981/82.

We will all remember him as a man of integrity and a hearty, very popular friend. His death is a great loss in the community of polar explorers.

S. Maciej Zalewski