

SPUTNIK's New Section

## THE TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES OF JACEK PALKIEWIEZ



While the country is going through a period of dramatic events in its history, SPUTNIK is introducing what may appear at first glance to be a frivolous heading and invites its faithful readers to take part in the captivating travels and head-spinning adventures of the famous Italian traveller, Jacek Palkiewicz. It's not that we have gone mad or have forgotten what country we live in. What is important is who will take you, dear reader, through the pages of our magazine from one publication to the next.

Palkiewicz was born in a German labour camp during the Second World War. All his subsequent life was a struggle for survival. Not only did he survive but he gave meaning to his life thus demonstrating that the fate of each one of us to a significant degree, is a matter of both free will and courage, that is to say, how much one wishes to survive. In Palkiewicz's words, "Life gives one what one dares to take."

These are not the boastful words of a snob. In 1975, Jacek single-handedly crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a life-saving boat. He spent 44 days and 44 nights one to one with the ocean without any radio contact or navigational equipment. Since that time, Palkiewicz has not stopped putting himself on the line. He has been in the most inaccessible corner of the globe, has climbed the highest peaks, has chopped his way through tropical jungles, has ploughed his way across snow-covered expanses in sledges pulled by deer and has taken a canoe down unexplored waters.

In 1983, he decided that it was time to put others on the line as well. This is how the idea of a School of

Survival which he founded in Italy came to be. Later he came to the Soviet Union in order to offer his experience to our cosmonauts. According to Palkiewicz the methods that his School of Survival teaches can assist in improving the training of our cosmic researchers.

He is perhaps the true adventurer of our century — a century which is inundated with electronic and other various devices aimed to make our lives easier.

Everything that Palkiewicz does seems to be illogical: he goes on foot when he could travel by car or instead of taking the bridge across a turbulent river he will swim across it. He is not one to take a book on mysterious, vanishing civilizations down from the book-shelf, but instead will do everything in his power to take himself off to these unknown parts. He will not entrust the feeling of discovery to anyone else — the smells of the savanna, the sounds of the selva, the roar of the ocean.

"Everything has its price in life. One simply has to know how much one has to pay. For me, the price is never too high because the price of fear is death. Death not of flesh but rather of spirit."

Such is Palkiewicz's logic. Without a doubt he will find few supporters let alone disciples. Nevertheless we should learn about his philosophy, especially in a period when our country is going through turmoil and when it seems that each individual is a helpless pawn involuntarily buffeted by storms in unknown directions.

And so, let's be on our way! SPUTNIK's first 1992 and subsequent issues will be your reliable guide and fascinating companion.



Jacek Palkiewicz has been almost everywhere: South-East Asia and the Amazon, the Sahara desert and the island of Borneo, Siberia, Nepal, Canada, Mongolia, Turkmenia, Namibia ... If you travel with him you will find yourself in a world of constant movement, a world of new ideas, new people and new cultures.

