

Press Release

Qml2000/gcom002/ 29 11 00

The Advance Party Heads for the Base Camp

At the beginning of November, Alain Hubert and Ronald Ross arrived in Cape Town, with the express intention of sending on ahead a good part of the expedition supplies, all 980 kilos of them: sledges, tents, foodstuffs (soup, crisp bread, biscuits, chocolate, dried meat, etc.) cooking utensils, clothing, mattresses, and the scientific equipment brought by Ronald Ross from the United States. In short, all the necessities for life in the Antarctic, for the 11 members of the **"The Wall 2000"** Expedition Team, for the 6 weeks that they will be out on the ice.

During their short stay in Cape Town, Alain and Ronald visited the University of Stellenbosch. It was there that 200 students participated in the construction of the SUNSAT satellite, the first built by South Africa. It was launched from the *Vandenberg Air Force Base* in February 1999 and has been in operation since then. The SUNSAT will be the satellite that the expedition will use for relaying the weather information from the Base Camp at Holtanna.

Around the middle of November, this Polar "baggage" was transported by Ilyushin to Blue One, on the Antarctic Continent. (The Ilyushin is a larger plane than the C-130, and has a freight capacity load almost three times greater). It remains now for Alain Hubert and the rest of the team to join Ronald at Blue One. The arrival in Cape Town is foreseen for the beginning of December and, weather permitting, they should be in Antarctica, shortly afterwards.

The Wall in Antarctica
From 30 november
Queen Maud Land
www.antarctica.org

Please inform! Thank you.
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