

Winter storm

A winter day in February. As a representative of The Self Governance, I have participated in a meeting with local authorities in the North Greenlandic town Aasiaat. Now the meeting is over, and the journey home to Nuuk can begin.

But again the nature is the determining power in the Arctic. A storm is moving from Newfoundland to the north, and right now the weather shows power. The small airport in Aasiaat is located right at the sea. We can't do otherwise than to wait until the storm has blown itself out.

The snow clearing of the runway continues steadily, while we wait. Suddenly, one of Air Greenland's helicopters appears out of the blizzard. It has been on an urgent mission in a small settlement or has helped distressed fishermen in small boats in the stormy sea.

This is everyday life in Greenland. It takes a while before you really understand that no modern technology can overcome the enormous forces which the weather conditions represent in the Arctic.

Perhaps we have to return to the Seamen's Home for the night? We keep an eye on the monitor that tells about arrivals and departures. "New informations in an hour".

The Greenlandic language expresses it with a shrug of the shoulders, and the word for "everything will be OK": Ajunngilaq!



A Bell 222 helicopter arriving to the Aasiaat Airport, February 2007