

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NAOMI UEMURA AND KNUD RASMUSSEN

Madam, Naomi Uemura is a very remarkable man and I was pleased to see in the last issue of the *Polar Record* a brief reference to his latest and most impressive achievement—his 12 000 km sledging journey from Jakobshavn on the west coast of Greenland to Kotzebue in Alaska.

But what a shame that the writer of that note was so obviously self-conscious about paying a mere 'adventurer' the compliment of a mention in the *Polar Record* and had to qualify the statement that Naomi Uemura's sledge journey was the longest recorded solo dog-sledging journey with the remark that 'solo' was the key word for 'alert readers will recall that Knud Rasmussen made the same journey some 50 years ago, but he was not alone'.

The fact is, Rasmussen did *not* make a dog sledging journey from Greenland to Alaska. He went from Greenland to Hudson Bay by boat, and spent a year and a half in the Hudson Bay region before setting out on his journey to Alaska. As for the journey itself, he made this with two Eskimos and (for part of the way) a cameraman by the name of Leo Hansen, and that journey from Southampton Island in Hudson Bay to Kotzebue in Alaska was a journey of only 5 840 km against the 12 000 km covered by Naomi Uemura.

So although Rasmussen's journey was one of the truly great ones, as a feat Uemura's was far greater, and this needs to be said.

Yours faithfully,  
WALLY HERBERT  
24 February 1977

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR  
BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY STATIONS

Station	Air temperature °C								
	South Georgia (88903)			Argentine Islands (88952)			Halley Bay (89022)		
	Mean	Max	Min	Mean	Max	Min	Mean	Max	Min
Year 1976									
May	0.6	11.9	-7.2	-5.0	7.6	-20.9	-24.5	-2.5	-42.5
June	-2.5	10.7	-11.1	-9.7	0.8	-26.6	-25.8	-7.5	-52.5
July	-1.2	8.3	-8.5	-11.9	2.4	-29.5	-26.4	-5.9	-47.0
Aug	-1.1	11.6	-7.4	-16.5	0.1	-36.5	-23.6	-9.0	-43.6