



PETRONAS
TEAM DE ROOY
 IVECO

Gerard again 2nd in a very ponderous stage to Iquique

“Unbelievable how Andrey Karginov carried on. It was an all or nothing attempt which I couldn’t follow. I think I saw 6 or 7 times his tracks going straight ahead in a bend. Anyhow, today he had an angel on his shoulder. The stage was very nasty, during the first 360 km’s only holes and stones. At the end some dunes, that was fun but at that moment we were already too far behind. In one dune I came over the top and hit the ground with my bumper. When I arrived at the finish I saw some missing parts, including the bumper. I must have left it in the desert as a souvenir,” Gerard sounds relaxed but knows exactly how close the Russians are behind him.

It was a heavy 9th stage, the special of 422 km’s from Calama to Iquique. Today Karginov amazed friend and foe with his overwhelming one-man-show. He pushed from the 1st Way Point onwards and took quite some time on Gerard de Rooy.

We also had the first stop during the Special today; the fast service truck from Pep Vila (516) suffered from problems with his clutch after 140 km’s. It took Peter van Eerd, Pep’s mechanic, almost 1,5 hour to remedy the defect after which Pep could go on, only with a bit reticence. Also Hans (507) had problems after 365 km’s and had to stop for 50 minutes.

At the finish it was Karginov who took the first place; he did the special in 4:58:09 hours. The only one near him was Gerard de Rooy, who finished 19:07 minutes behind Karginov, followed by the Kamaz-pilots Nikolaev and Sotnikov at 28:47 and 28:48 minutes. Loprais is driving very steady this year and took the 5th place at 40:05 minutes.

The green IVECO Powerstar from Gerard de Rooy still takes the first place in the general rankings but he’s only 13:28 minutes ahead of his rival Karginov. The remaining competitors are farther behind and if both trucks won’t suffer from any breakdown, these two pilots will go for the victory.

Tomorrow’s stage goes from Iquique to Antofagasta; the 10th stage has a total length of 689 km’s. They start with a liaison of 53 km’s, followed by the 1st part of the Special with a length of 231 km’s. After the 1st part, again a liaison of 185 kilometres and at the end another Special of 215 km’s and only 5 km’s to the bivouac.

Quite a lot of sand in the first part of the Special so enough possibilities to increase the lead. The second part of the Special contains long tracks with the famous fesh-fesh, sand that looks good but as soon as you get in it, it sucks like a morass. So, enough dangers are waiting in ambush and everything is possible to turn the rankings upside down.

It will be a sunny, dry day again with a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius and hardly any wind.

Time schedule – Day 10 (GMT +1)

Start of the cars and trucks	09:39 hours	(13:39 hours)
Gerard [501]	09:55 hours	(13:55 hours)
Jo [520]	10:03 hours	(14:03 hours)
Hans [507]	10:05 hours	(14:05 hours)
Pep [516]	10:05 hours	(14:06 hours)

To be continued

