

We were advised at the USSR Ministry for the Construction of Oil and Gas Production Industry Installations [Minneftegazstroi] and the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry [Mingazprom] that a planned preparation was under way for a decisive assault. The immense resources of two construction departments, and a powerful contingent of drillers from the "Severgazprom" Association from Komi ASSR have been sent to open up Yamal. Their first contingents have already set foot on the peninsula. And, judging from operations summaries, work is proceeding on an even keel.

...Our helicopter fought its way with difficulty through the breaking snowstorm en route to the coastal settlement of Sabetta. The lights of human habitation seemed a real marvel amidst the blizzardy tundra. Also akin to a marvel was what the collective of construction administration no. 33 of the "Urengoigazpromstroi" Trust accomplished here in a few months time.

"The best work brigades which have gained experience from arctic construction projects have been sent here," explains V. Bart, the trust's deputy manager. "We learned to work here in freezing weather and squalls; and we mastered a reliable construction strategy, i.e., that of beginning not with industrial projects, as used to be the case, but with well-equipped living quarters which have paid for themselves many times over. The well-organized daily life of shift teams has ensured a high work pace at major projects. We were to have used up about a million rubles in 1987 as planned; we fulfilled the program by a factor of more than 5. In addition to a housing estate, we are building an industrial base, and we are in the process of building a winter road to the Bovanenkovo gas field..."