

Council of Ministers: "This project had been declared to be of national significance and an exemplary project for Communist youth. We have here a stable, skilled, multicultural, cohesive group of people - amounting to thirteen thousand along with family members. Already, some 450 million rubles in investments have been appropriated. We request permission for continued preferential financing for the construction of this railroad line ..."

But who gave the permission to invite people to come here, and who authorized the opening of financing before the project has been approved in terms of its technical and economic soundness?

We have followed with great interest the work of the Congress of People's Deputies, and then of the first session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. It turned out that there were numerous financial flaws in our economy. And it is hard to find an extra rouble for many more important, high priority programs. Various charities open accounts in our banks in uninterrupted succession. What can we do? In difficult moments for our Fatherland we have always counted on the patriotism, good citizenship, and goodwill of our fellow countrymen. Against this background, what must we think of multimillion rouble preferential financing of illegally developed projects?

I don't know whether the Bovanenkovo deposits should be exploited and whether a railroad should be built to Yamal. But I am profoundly convinced that the decisions concerning such large projects should be made in the open after a detailed discussion by experts of their technical and economic feasibility. Moreover, the opinion and the interests of the native population must be taken into account in all cases.