

"The Minister of Civil Aviation indicated that while he shared our concern for the problems of air service for the North, his department had repeatedly reported on this to the Council of Ministers and the RSFSR State Planning Commission. Despite the fact that the problems of providing modern and inexpensive aviation equipment to northern aviation enterprises had been brought to the attention of the Ministry of the Aviation Industry, no decisions have been taken up to now. Plans call for putting the new An-28 airplane into service in the Tura Air Enterprise of Evenkiya only in 1993, as the region's air service becomes ready.

"But it is not altogether clear that the air service is being made ready. The ski landing gear for the An-28 has only just begun to be tested, and production of a hydroaviation variant of this airplane is not even planned.

"What's more, the Minister of the Aviation Industry reported that a number of large cargo helicopters are planned for use in the North, and that all of them, as is the case with the new polar airplane An-74, will go into service "as early as" the 13th Five-Year Plan. But for some reason one hears nothing about the new helicopters. It's the same with the dirigibles which are undergoing theoretical and experimental studies. And so it goes, at a snail's pace..."

"In other words, everyone is pointing to everyone else..."

"Things are scarcely moving. But move We must - and in step with 'perestroika'! That is why we wrote a letter to 'Pravda'. And why we've taken this matter under consideration as a Deputy, since one has the clear impression that neither ministry has a clear program for development of aviation in the North."