

Q. "The demands of rapid industrial development require that we move from predictions and exploration of water deposits to developing them. As you see it, when will industrial development of deposits in the Soviet section of the Arctic begin?"

"As we know, the Soviet Union is now extracting oil in the Caspian and on the shelves of the Baltic Sea. The exploration and extraction of oil and gas on the Arctic shelf is difficult because of the shifting ice cover. Even so, I think that the mining of minerals on the Arctic shelf will begin in the near future."

"And just how profitable will it be?"

"Obviously, getting minerals from the ocean deeps is not easy, but it does have its advantages. You don't need to build railway and motor access routes. You can use water transport, the cheapest form of transportation. And we don't have to worry about the losses to the national economy that result when large areas of arable land and pastures are taken up with quarries and rock piles. Economic projections indicate that development of offshore deposits can be quite profitable."

Q. "Two large countries are engaged in studies of the Arctic Ocean - the USSR and Canada. How is cooperation between the scientists of these two countries developing?"

"Quite successfully. We have, by the way, a comprehensive program of Arctic research which was agreed to a number of years ago. It calls for conducting not only geologic research but also archaeological work and studies aimed at protecting the environment. A major focus in this program is the problem of building in the Arctic. We assist each other in paleontological research and are working on a joint mapping project. Cooperation between our two countries will undoubtedly make a major contribution to the study of the Arctic."