

established in March, these regions appealed to us for help. Our work is aimed at carrying out social mandates that come 'from below'. We see this as the basis of our efforts. Experience has shown that only decisive actions and the uniting of forces brings success."

For the first time the demands of the trade unions are advancing the sober findings of scientists rather than merely confirming the sad facts and appealing to reason. Taking part in the work of the conference was Doctor of Economic Sciences G. Luzin, director of the Institute of Economic Research of the Kola Research Centre; A. Tkachev, laboratory head at the Arkhangelsk Medical Institute; and Professor S. Kaznacheev, department head of the Novosibirsk Institute of Clinical Experimental Surgery. Their analytical and scientifically well-founded papers, which were prepared at the request of trade union bodies, formed the basis of the conference's final documents. At times the scientists were brutal in their characterization of the problems, but how could it be otherwise? On the subject of the North, with its incredibly difficult conditions, one mustn't speak glibly, as has frequently been done in the past.

"A special issue is that of payment for adaptation, in the biomedical context. This is essential," said A. Tkachev. "Real life has shown that the existing material compensation is largely symbolic and absolutely demands a re-examination.

"And it was precisely the word 'demand' rather than the former 'request' which was heard so often in the speeches and final documents. One of these is entitled 'Plan of Action for Trade Unions in the Upcoming Period'. This document contains, in particular, certain points which some trade union activists are not accustomed to. Namely: developing new forms of action for trade union organizations and carrying out certain measures aimed at fulfilling the demands of the workers, including strikes as