

All the countries in the arctic region are calling for an expansion of international cooperation in the arctic. Doctor O. Rogne, director of the Norwegian Polar Institute, and his Canadian and Danish colleagues in the working group examining the future prospects of collaboration in the high latitudes, have listed at least a dozen basic problems that can only be solved jointly. Some of the more important problems include: the creation of new technologies and their consequences; the development of industry in the north; the use of labour and material resources; acid rain; radioactive and pesticide fallout; ultra long-range transfer of contaminants; and changes in the climate.

The conclusion of the scientists are in line with the views of political activists: immediate joint action is required. This action demands careful organization and concrete, solidly financed programs. The Soviet Union took an important step when it created a special committee to coordinate scientific and economic activity within the Soviet sector, and to organize and bring about scientific and technical cooperation with other states within the arctic region.

The new approach is blazing a trail through the icy hummocks of mistrust that prevail throughout the world. The arctic is also on the threshold of a thaw. All that remains is to step over it...

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