

We have to rehabilitate the BAM line and to study the expertise developed during the project, expertise in labour and inter-ethnic relations acquired by young people working on the project. We should analyze the lessons which have been learned from this giant project, so that the same mistakes won't be repeated again in the future. This experience will prove useful when the long-term state programme for the development of the productive forces of the Far Eastern region is being carried out. At the moment this development is "skidding" because it has been drawn into the framework of a Five-Year Plan, which was already drawn up, without extensive discussion. Moreover, under the new economic conditions, the Ministries, which should be participating in the development of the BAM zone, have shown themselves to be uninterested in the construction of costly projects in the eastern regions of the country. For this reason it has been suggested that the state take on part of the cost of carrying out the programme. The interests of people, of the enterprise and of the state all have to be taken into account. Only then will things be successfully dealt with.

Basin also wants to reply to the USSR Ministry of Health, E. Chazov, who at the Conference criticized the builders of the project: they say they built the Tynda station out of marble, but the only hospital in the town is housed in a tumble-down barrack. He ought to be asking why the Ministry of Health will not allocate funds for the construction of the hospital. So far, the Ministry has been all promises and criticisms, with no action at all.

He also thought to raise yet another serious problem at the Conference, and that is, the question of the construction of the Amur-Yakutsk Main Line.