

members to solve such urgent social and everyday issues as, for example, providing housing and medical services, supplying fresh fruit and vegetables the year-round, and organizing normal healthful vacations. Priority will be given to ecology. The Association plans to develop international ties and to organize effective cooperation with foreign colleagues.

The Association of Soviet Polar Workers has already officially registered and has been granted the rights of juridical person. Preparations are now underway for the first meeting of polar workers, which is set to take place at the beginning of the new year. An organizational committee has been set up, headed by A. N. Chilingarov, Hero of the Soviet Union and Deputy Chairman of Goskomgidromet. Representatives of the Far Eastern, Murmansk, and Northern maritime steamship lines, and the Yakutsk Production Corporation of Maritime Transport are also participating actively in the work of the organizing committee.

Registration of the association's institutional members continues. Any enterprise, organization or institution located in the Arctic or Antarctic may join. The charter also provides for individual membership. Branches of the Association are being established at various locations, including Leningrad, Murmansk and Tiksi.

A Polar Commerce Bank, which will subsidize the solution of institutional tasks, is also being created under the Association. Plans call for issuing shares and commercial papers.