

"How Is Your Health, Northerners? "The Arctic Consultation"

In its recent publications, Sovetskaya Rossiya has more than once touched upon the alarming situation which has arisen in public health care of indigenous northerners. The integrated program "The Health of Northern Peoples for the years 1988-1995", adopted by the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR⁴, was called in to change the situation. How can an effective implementation of the program be achieved? This question was discussed at a special meeting in Anadyr', whose participants comprised representatives of Party and economic agencies, physicians, scientists from the Yakutskaya ASSR¹, the Khabarovskii, and Primorskii Territories, and the Magadanskaya, Amurskaya, Sakhalinskaya, and Kamchatskaya Regions. Dozens of specialists visited public health care enterprises and agencies of the region. A Sovetskaya Rossiya correspondent also took part in the meeting.

"Queuing for... an Operation"

It is nearing the end of the shift, but the line-up in the Chukotskaya District Clinic is long. The number of those wishing to see the surgeon V. Bityukov is especially large. Outside his office there is a real babel. The norm requires that six minutes be spent on each patient. But the amount of time actually spent is twice that: examination, treatments, dressings, filling out forms testifying incapacity for work, referrals to the hospital, writing out prescriptions. The number of patients seen is already over forty. Consultation began at eight in the morning and is threatening to last until evening. So, in order to speed up the process, patients are seen into the office two and three at a