

According to the briefer, the interview clearly shows that there are no permanent burial sites for nuclear wastes on the Kola Peninsula. Nor is there any contradiction regarding our statement on this matter. Our goal was to clear up a specific issue. In his interview, Mr. Mikhailov touched on a whole series of questions. These included the problem of temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel and the need to create an on-shore site for wastes from nuclear power plants, the storage of spent radioisotope sources used in medical devices, and the possible effects of a nuclear waste burial site on the environment and the health of the local population. This shows that Soviet authorities do not find it necessary to conceal the problems and issues of nuclear power generation from public opinion.

Izvestiya

3 November 1990

Page 4 (full text)

Environmental Degradation on the
Kola Peninsula - Some Details

What's your opinion? Is there a single unspoiled spot in our country which we haven't reached and become the master of, where we have not as yet displayed our valiant labour - to the point where both ourselves and mother earth are utterly exhausted...?

It wasn't so long ago that people started talking about the Kola Peninsula - this "strategic" region which had always been shrouded in secrecy. When the vigilant "Greens" came upon the local secrets, they discovered some terrible facts. Under the cover of secrecy, government agencies had transformed the peninsula into an environmental septic tank. According to the most modest calculations,