

ECOLOGY

From Siberia on Business

Boris Ivanovich Kolesnikov, director of the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine, is the direct opposite of Arkadii Filimonovich. Outwardly calm, he appears to glow with an inner fire. We might call him a modern-day warrior. And what is he fighting for? For human beings.

The paradox of this Arctic city is that the Polar Circle hasn't got the best of it: housing construction and the installation of social and cultural amenities are flourishing. And the reason is that, otherwise, it wouldn't work -- no one could last up here. And so you have to be pleased that people here manage to live and work in a very human way, unlike those places where the inhabitants use "remoteness" and "the strangeness of the North" in an attempt to cloak their own negligence, irresponsibility and inability to get on with the job. Norilsk's accomplishments in providing services and amenities to its population recently won the approval of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

But the problem of ecology has become extremely acute: Norilsk is in smog. It is worse off in this respect than more central areas of the Kray.

Speaking now is delegate V. Bykov, a metallurgist from a copper-smelting plant, who, together with Kolesnikov, is representing Arctic regions: