

territorial-industrial complexes, while effective in moderate latitudes, cannot, in principle, be justified in the North. Decentralization is needed.

G. Agranat: Following M.S. Gorbachev's Murmansk speech, the North is looking towards Moscow. Everyone understands that the key positions of the USSR are to be found here. They are waiting for us to open up the Northern sea route for world trade - with great profit for the Soviet Union of course. Ways of exchanging scientific information are being discussed. Without this, both Soviet and world science is hindered. Great changes are drawing near in world policies regarding the North. An age of resource conservation is upon us and at the same time, prices for resources from free territories and an ecologically clean environment are going up sharply.

V. Kotlyakov: I would state my position in the following way. The global role of the North is changing before our very eyes. At the same time there is the growing threat of losing this last ecological and territorial reserve forever. We are in need of a new concept vis-à-vis the use of Northern lands. Until such a concept does come into existence, it would be better to concentrate on revitalizing the Center, the non-chernozem, while keeping bureaucratic activity in the North at a moderate level. No doubt such an approach will provide objections from many of the Ministers. For them the North represents one of the last possibilities for billion-dollar investments and new mega-constructions.

A broader perspective is needed here, however. A foundation must be prepared for coping with progress, roads and housing must be built,