

driven out of their native regions along with other northern ethnic minorities such as the Vepsy and the Izhortsy. For a long time, speaking in one's native tongue even in the family was condemned. At census time most northern ethnic peoples preferred to call themselves Russian. There were fewer problems that way.

Today, much is returning to normal. Many nationalities are breathing easier and are turning back to their roots and origins. Lena Suvorova from the Kola boarding School not far from Murmansk happily wears her national costume - the "shamshur". It already comes naturally to her and to the young people of her age.

In 1986 when Moscow, Kiev and other centres had not decided on organizing celebrations honouring Slavonic culture and writing, Murmansk took the initiative. To commemorate this event a statue of Cyril and Methodius, the founders of Slavonic writing, now stands in the city.

Inspired by Murmansk's example, other celebrations followed. In the remote settlement of Lovozero there were festivals of the Komi and Saami languages. A Saami language primer has already been published to aid future teachers of Saami villages who are currently being trained at the Murmansk Pedagogical Institute.

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## TRANSPORT-AIR

### Lack of Fuel Disrupts Flights at Northern Airports

The northern airports of the Tyumen Oblast have been in a state of near paralysis for five days. On the morning of December 3, for example, 36 flights were cancelled at noyabrsk and 12 at the airport of Novyi Urengoi. There were substantial delays in flights at Surgut and Nizhnevartovsk. The main reason is the shortage of aviation kerosene. The "Permnefteorgsintez" Corporation is ready to make up for all of the fuel not delivered and even to do extra shipments, but the distribution of fuel is being delayed by an acute shortage of railroad tank cars.

Gudok  
5 December 1990  
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