

this still does not mean that the railway workers' housing program will be carried out more efficiently. Today, at least, there are no grounds for optimism. Well, of course, in terms of good intentions, in terms of an understanding that we need to live and work together, that no one should be overlooked - in these terms, which soften somewhat the bureaucratic rigidity - the railway workers of Vorkuta are already receiving assistance from "Pechorshakhtstroi": its collective has erected one residential building in the transport micro-region and is starting on another. But we need to have things more definite. All the more so since there still needs to be a great deal of construction for railway workers in Vorkuta: the housing situation for them is different than in the city - almost 80% of the residential buildings are run down!

Construction in the south was another clear case of bureaucratic inefficiency. In March, 1982, the government adopted resolution no. 179 "On Measures to Develop the Pechora Coal Basin for the Years 1982-1985." In this resolution the councils of ministers of Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia were instructed to begin construction of cooperative housing for workers of the coal basin. Unfortunately, railway workers for some reason were not classed as "workers of the basin." Good, bad or indifferent, and four years behind schedule, the "Vorkutaugol" Corporation will build 19 residential buildings in various parts of the country for the miners and thereby fulfill this resolution. A provision in the Council of Ministers' document simplified the negotiations with the local soviets and enabled them to erect a few buildings more than called for in the program.

During these years, however, none of the railway workers (apart from those who managed to "squeeze in" among the miners by way of relatives) succeeded in getting into the southern cooperatives.