

days, while the work brigades stood around with nothing to do. Finally, the sanitary engineers from Cherskii, who during the first, most difficult days, bore the brunt of the work, couldn't stand such disorganization and left for home.

The experts will evidently be able to work out what technical shortcomings led to such depressing results. However, something else disturbs me and that is the system which is used to manage the local economy, where the upper echelons manage in many stages, spreading responsibility among many of officials which results in the collective disowning of all responsibility.

I am a militant person and perhaps am too straightforward in my thinking, but in my opinion, without a single centre of economic management, one can no longer go on living under the difficult conditions which prevail in the Arctic regions. At the moment, however, responsibility for the region is divided between the Soviet government and the regional Party committee and if the chairman and secretary don't get on together, then the result is chaos. Today the situation has been made worse by the anarchy which has developed, since the regional committees no longer get involved in economic questions, while at the same time, the Soviet authorities do not yet have the authority among the economic planners. All of this became very evident during the time when they were trying to deal with the consequences of the accident.

Perhaps my letter is a little confusing, but everything I saw at Chokurdakh is disturbing my sleep. A concern for the people who ended up in the