

"There are discrepancies between your data and studies conducted by the Okrug hospital", notes Yu. Bulgakov, for example, chief physician of the Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug, in his response to the institute.

"How could there not be discrepancies," says Candidate of Medical Sciences A. Volfson, head of the Laboratory for the Ecology of Northern Peoples, which is under the Institute of Biological Problems of the North (IBPN). "The Leningrad scientists, and then the authors of this sensational publication, have cited results of my studies dating from the period 1959-1975."

Since that time, however, there has been a substantial improvement in the situation. In particular, according to data from the Laboratory of Human Genetics of IBPN, the average life span of northern peoples is now approaching 55 years. This leaves much to be desired, of course, but it is certainly not the 45 years mentioned in the article. The level of childhood mortality has also dropped significantly in recent years, but neither E. Gaer nor V. Lupandin contacted the Magadan scientists. They apparently only requested data which would confirm the article's main thesis, namely, that northern peoples are paying with their health and their very lives for the nuclear weapons tests carried out in our country.

It appears that even the Leningrad researchers themselves did not expect such a strong conclusion. Doctor of Medical Sciences P. Ramzaev, director of LenNIIRG, writes: "While supporting the concern expressed in the article regarding the state