

done as much flying in our native regions as any pilot. And we have personal experience of the standard of aviation serving northern peoples.

"Light aviation in the North is a crucially important form of transportation. Given the complete absence of roads and the small number of official airfields, which serve only administrative centres and a few large settlements, it is precisely light aviation that helps northern peoples live. It brings medical assistance and mobile entertainment to the remote corners of the taiga and tundra, supplies fuel and foodstuffs, mail and essential provisions to distant reindeer farming, fishing and hunting brigades. We could extend the list."

"What, in your view, is the special difficulty involved in solving the problem of aviation service for northern peoples?"

"Light aviation in the North drags out a miserable existence. There are no new fixed winged aircraft or helicopters, and the old ones are being taken out of service one by one. Ground equipment is extremely undeveloped. The housing and socio-cultural conditions among northern aviators are at the lowest level. And as for the standard of passenger services and conveniences at airports, I won't even talk about that... People are forced to fly in unheated aircraft at minus 40 degrees, languish in endless lines waiting for tickets, and wait interminably for their mail and periodicals. At a recent session of the Evenk Okrug Council of People's Deputies it was noted that civilian air transport is still being handled predominantly by a generalized bureaucratic approach which does not take the actual passenger into account.