

temporary group to elaborate and introduce 'direct' exploration methods. With very little expenditure of time and effort it would be possible to locate huge new oil and gas fields within 3 years. Unfortunately, there was no response to my proposal. A group of this type would 'undermine' the established metre-index. It would become a real obstacle blocking multi-billion rouble expenditures. If a careful, rational approach to wells and oil seams existed, if new exploration methods were introduced, and if drilling from one 'level' to another was well-planned, there would be no need for the enormous funds being spent in Western Siberia to maintain output level, and moreover, output could be increased. At least one-third of the projected funds could be confidently redirected to the exploitation of Eastern Siberia. This region must be exploited, and I will continue to press for this. It is needed above all for our country's own requirements, although given new Soviet initiatives, end-products of intensive oil and gas refining could be exported to countries around the Pacific rim.

If Eastern Siberia began to furnish gas and oil, it would be possible to solve a number of ecological problems in the cities in Krasnoyarsk district, Irkutsk oblast, and the Yakutsk Autonomous Republic, many of which already require urgent attention. In its time the creation of gas-supply system at the Norilsk ore mining and smelting complex increased the basic production volume by almost 30% and greatly improved the condition of the air and water. Eight thousand miners were released from heavy manual labour in the coal mines. Between 1970-1983 the use of gas in Norilsk led to the saving of 8.2 billion roubles. You can imagine the impact this had on Krasnoyarsk. To point up the significance of these figures, I will say that the